GRADUATE STUDIES IN LABOR MARKETS & SOCIAL POLICY

The graduate specialization in Labor Markets and Social Policy offers opportunity for training in four overlapping areas: Work & Labor Markets, Institutions & Organizations, Social Policy, and Social Inequality.

Our faculty include nationally and internationally recognized scholars engaged in research in the fields of migration, labor market inequality, family inequality, gender, and social policy. Current research projects include the effects of state and national policies on migration patterns, the effects of job quality on family stability and child well-being, the promotion of racial/ethnic minorities and women to top leadership positions and the effects of rural and agricultural out-migration on the environment. Collectively our faculty are interested in the ways that social policies, governance institutions and organizations shape economic opportunities and outcomes for diverse groups in society.

Our faculty are committed to comparative research. Current research projects are focused on the United States, Western and Central Europe, Russia and the Former Soviet Union, North Africa and Asia. Faculty and graduate students are also engaged in interdisciplinary research with colleagues in management, gender studies, political science, environment and natural resources and demography.

We offer MS and PhD degrees in Sociology, and provide strong disciplinary training in social theory, research methods and a range of substantive topics related to labor markets and social policy. Graduate training at USU also focuses on providing hands-on opportunities to collaborate with faculty on research projects. Curricular offerings in this area include courses on work and labor markets, migration and migration policy, political sociology, social change and social inequality.

The Department has a strong and supportive collegial environment, and strives to provide financial support to all qualified graduate students. Our graduate students come from across the U.S. and the world, and reflect a range of socioeconomic, cultural and academic backgrounds.

For more information or to request application materials, contact:

Dr. Richard Krannich, Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology
0730 Old Main Hill, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0730
(435) 797-1241or richard.krannich@usu.edu

Application Deadline for Fall Admission and Funding Consideration: February 1.
CORE FACULTY

CHRISTY GLASS (PhD, Yale) Associate Professor. Social Inequality, Work and Labor Markets, Social Policy.

ERIN TROUTH HOFMANN (PhD, Texas) Assistant Professor. Migration, Gender, Labor Markets, Social Inequality.

SO-JUNG LIM (PhD, Wisconsin) Assistant Professor. Social Inequality, Family, Health, Work and Labor Markets, Cross-national comparison.

AFFILIATED FACULTY

E. HELEN BERRY (PhD, Ohio State) Professor. Demography, Human Ecology, Urban Sociology.

COURTNEY FLINT (PhD, Penn State) Associate Professor. Rural and Natural Resource Sociology, Institutions and Governance, Mixed Methodology.

DOUGLAS JACKSON-SMITH (PhD, Wisconsin) Professor. Rural Sociology, Agricultural and Rural Land Use Change, Political and Economic Sociology.

PEGGY PETRZELKA (PhD, Iowa State) Associate Professor. Environmental Sociology, International Development, Community & Rural Sociology.

CORE GRADUATE COURSES

Theory & Research in Social Change  Theory & Research in Social Inequality
Work & Inequality  Political Sociology
Migration, Markets & Policy  Institutions & Social Policy

RECENT AND ONGOING FACULTY RESEARCH

- People, Power, and Conflict in the Eurasian Migration System
- Predictors and Impacts of State Immigration Policy in the U.S.
- Socioeconomic Differentials in Family Behaviors: A Cross-National Perspective
- “Bad Jobs” For Family: Job Quality and Family Outcomes in the U.S.
- Changes in Women’s Labor Force Participation in Japan
- Global Migrants, Guest Workers and Good Mothers: A Comparative Study of Gender and (Con)Temporary Labor Migration to Spain
- Impacts of Marriage Contracts on Wealth Accumulation
- Gendered Pull Factors in U.S. Immigration
- Employer Recruitment, Hiring and Promotion Practices and Outcomes
- Employer Discrimination and “Motherhood Penalties”
- Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Workplace Authority
- State Institutions, Social Movements, and Land Tenure as Drivers of Environmental Innovation in the Natural Gas Industry
- Impacts of Rural Labor Out-Migration
Examples of recent completed and ongoing dissertation project titles:

- Employer Recruitment, Hiring and Motherhood Penalties
- Decommodification and Self-Perceived Health in Major Industrialized Capitalist Countries
- Explaining Immigration Policy Outcomes in the U.S.
- Making the ‘Good’ Professor: Does Graduate Mentoring Promote Gender Equality in Academia?
- The Paradox of Uranium Development: A Polanyian Analysis of Social Movements Surrounding the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill
- Comparison of Youth Migration Patterns Across Cohorts: Evidence from Two National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth.
- Latinos in the New Credit Economy
- How the Grass Grows: The Social Dynamics of Preservation/Conservation Grassroots Environmental Organizations
- Making the Good Professor: Does Graduate Mentoring Guarantee Equality in Academia?

Examples of recent MS thesis titles:

- Private or Public Insurance? The Institutional History of Health Care in the United States and the United Kingdom
- Male Outmigration and the Women Left Behind in Southeastern Mexico
- Migration from the Rust Belt to the Mountain West: The Role of Employers
- For Love or Money? A Cross-Country Analysis of the Impact of Neoliberalism on Fertility

RECENT FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS IN LABOR MARKETS & SOCIAL POLICY

(Faculty names in bold, USU graduate students noted with *)

2013


Erin Trouth Hofmann and Cynthia J. Buckley. Forthcoming. “Global Changes and Gendered Responses: The Feminization of Migration from Georgia.” International Migration Review


Peggy Petzelka, Sandra Marquart-Pyatt, and Stephanie Malin*. 2013. “Political Trust in Utah: It’s not

2012
2011


2010


