

The teaching and research interests of faculty members in the Department of Sociology includes diverse areas such as immigration, crime and criminal justice, gender, inequality, religion, and others. To help you get more acquainted with our faculty, each member of the department has provided a brief biographical sketch. Our faculty would be happy to discuss with you the many careers open to sociology graduates. The bulletin board on the second floor of Fernald Hall often has announcements of job opportunities and graduate school information.

## **Steven Barkan, Professor**

- B.A. (1973) Trinity College, Connecticut
- M.A. (1976) State University of New York at Stony Brook
- Ph.D. (1980) State University of New York at Stony Brook

Steve's areas of interest in teaching and research are: criminology; deviant behavior; law and society; collective behavior and social movements; and research methods. Among other topics, his research has concerned: (1) racial prejudice and public opinion about crime and criminal justice; (2) the determinants of commitment, participation, and success in and by social movements; (3) religiosity and adults' well-being; (4) differences in state suicide rates; and (5) gender, race, and obesity stigma. He has published more than 35 journal articles, book chapters, and textbooks in his areas of interest. He is a past president of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and president-elect of the Text and Academic Authors Association.

## **Amy Blackstone, Professor**

- B.A. (1994) Luther College
- Ph.D. (2003) University of Minnesota

Amy's teaching and research interests include the sociology of gender, work, food, and families. She has served as a consultant on workplace sexual harassment cases, and her research on this topic has been cited in the New York Times, USA Today, BuzzFeed, TIME, NBC News, and other outlets. Her book *Childfree by Choice* (Dutton, 2019) explores the history and growing movement of adults choosing to forgo parenthood. Dr. Blackstone has shared her research on the childfree choice in *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, on the *Katie* show, and other venues. She is passionate about food and has taught the Sociology of Food at UMaine and in Italy.

## **Kyriacos Markides, Professor**

- B.S. (1964) Youngstown University (Business Administration)
- M.A. (1966) Bowling Green State University
- Ph.D. (1970) Wayne State University

Kyriacos' areas of interest in teaching and research are: sociology of religion; sociology of mental illness; sociology of violence and international terrorism; and sociological theory. Kyriacos' research over the last thirty five years has ranged between projects related to political sociology, nationalist movements, and the sociology of religion, non-medical healing, and shamanism. His many books in these areas have been published in twelve foreign languages. Professor Markides has lectured widely in the US, Canada and overseas and represented Cyprus in Budapest for the European Literature Award, 2011. He was the 2002 recipient of the Best Professor Award of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Maine as well as the recipient of the University of Maine 2006 Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award.

## **Karyn Sporer, Assistant Professor**

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| B.A.  | (2005) | St. Michael's College         |
| M.S.  | (2008) | Northeastern University       |
| Ph.D. | (2016) | University of Nebraska, Omaha |

Dr. Sporer's main research interests are in the areas of family violence and victimization, mental illness and violence, and violent extremism and terrorism. Her work has been published in various journals, like the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict: Pathways toward Terrorism and Violent Extremism, the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Southern Communication Journal, and the Journal of Family Violence. Her most recent work focuses on justifications for mass casualty violence used by Islamic State members and sympathizers with the hopes that we can appropriately confront the threat of jihadi-based and lone wolf violence in the west. Aside from this, Dr. Sporer's primary research agenda addresses violence and victimization among persons with severe mental illness. She was the recipient of both the 2018 Rose B. Johnson Southern Communication Journal Article of the Year Award and the 2016 Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award from Division of Victimology of the American Society of Criminology for her extensive research on family members of violent persons with mental illness.

## **Amber Tierney, Assistant Professor**

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| B.A.   | (2000) | University of California, Santa Cruz                    |
| M.P.P. | (2007) | California Polytechnic State University (Public Policy) |
| M.A.   | (2010) | University of California, Riverside (Political Science) |
| Ph.D.  | (2017) | University of California, Irvine (Sociology)            |

Amber Tierney, PhD, is our newest sociology professor. She comes to us from Hartwick College, a liberal arts institution located in upstate New York. Amber's main research interests are in the areas of social & criminal justice, (cr)immigration, social movements, race/ethnicity, citizenship, media, and public policy. Amber is committed to work that connects theory to justice in academia and the nonprofit and technology sectors. Her work has been published in Mobilization, Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change, Sociology Compass, and in edited volumes, such as Players and Arenas: The Interactive Dynamics of Protest and in The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Social Policy. As a native Northern Californian, Amber has fallen in love with the beautiful Maine landscape and unique opportunities afforded by UMaine. Amber is enthusiastic to learn more about the community and to continue to cultivate a civically engaged pedagogy, scholarship, and community service in this new frontier.

**We also have some wonderful adjunct faculty:** Glenn Eichel, Adjunct Lecturer; Mary Okin, Adjunct Lecturer

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