

Who We Are

Chiung Fang Chang, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Sociology and the Program Director of Sociology at Lamar University. Dr. Chang teaches courses in research methods, population studies, sociology of family, data analysis, and urban studies. In 2011, Lamar recognized Dr. Chang with the Merit Award as University Scholar. She has been elected to the American Association for Chinese Studies and the Southwest Sociological Association. In addition, she served as an Associate Editor for *International Journal for Sociological Research* since 2008. Her research interests include population studies in China, intermarriage and assimilation among minority population, racial identity, and fertility behavior of minority women. Her research has generated more than 20 papers presented at various sociological and demographic conferences. She had authored over fifteen publications in scholarly journals and books. Dr. Chang has published two books, including *Fertility, Family Planning, and Population Policy in China* (Routledge, 2006), and *Fertility Patterns among the Minority Nationalities of China* (VDM Verlag, 2009). Currently, she is working on a methodology book and a cross-cultural study on fertility behavior among minority and new immigrants in China and Taiwan.

Mary Ann Davis, LCSW, Ph.D., is an Adjunct Instructor in the Sociology at Lamar University. Dr. Davis teaches Academic Partnership courses in Marriage and the Family, Urban Sociology, Aging Studies, and Social Data Analysis. Dr. Davis' research interests in mortality and morbidity and child and family issues spring from prior profession as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Davis' research is based on theoretical focus on life course issues using demographic analyses. She has published two books, *Children for Families or Families for Children: The Demography of Adoption Behavior in the U.S.* (2011) and *Alzheimer's Disease Mortality: A Demographic Analysis of Alzheimer's Disease Deaths in the United States* (2008), and numerous articles and book chapters.

Jennifer L. Fagen, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Lamar University. Dr. Fagen conducts research in the areas of gender, sexual assault, Holocaust studies and polygamy/plural marriage. She has also conducted five years of research on Operation Rescue, once the largest and most violent pro-life activist group in the US. She is on the editorial board of the *Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality*. Her research has been published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, in the *Journal of Community Health*, and most recently in an edited volume (with Stuart Wright) by New York University Press. Dr. Fagen teaches undergraduate courses in Sociology of Gender, Introduction to Sociology, Single Women in the US: A Sociological and Historical Perspective, and Marriage and Family.

Margot Gage, Ph.D. is a social epidemiologist and assistant professor at Lamar University. She earned her PhD in social epidemiology and public health from the University of Amsterdam/Amsterdam Medical Center (UVA/AMC) from the Department of Public Health. During her PhD she visited UCLA to carry out research. Before coming to Lamar University Dr. Gage completed two post-doctoral fellowships. Her first post-doctoral fellowship was at the UVA/AMC. After being awarded a personal Norwegian career grant she went on to complete her

second post-doctoral fellowship at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in the Department of Sociology, where she also served as principal investigator (PI). During her Norwegian post-doctoral period she completed a research visit to Harvard University. Dr. Gage has written over 17 peer-reviewed journal publications and has over 100 citations. Reuters News quoted her for her co-authored research on lone motherhood. Her co-authored publication on corruption and health is cited by the United Nations. She has won a number of awards and has been invited to present her research at international conferences. Dr. Gage speaks Dutch fluently. She is a veteran advocate and is building Texas's first Women Veteran and Women First Responder Park. She teaches courses in research methods, epidemiology and global health, global health disparity, marijuana and medicine and introduction to sociology.

Jesus A. Garcia, Ph.D., is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Lamar University. Dr. Garcia's areas of research and study include Racial and Ethnic relations, Borderland Sociology, Sociological theory, Adult and Juvenile Deviance, Sociology of Crime, Latino History and Social Studies, Immigration, and Cultural sociology. Dr. Garcia also served as director for the Borderland Study Project at Univ. of Texas Pan American in Edinburg through which developed research to date has produced chapter contributions to investigations of crime along the U.S. Mexico border involving bi-national smuggling crimes and cultures, organized juvenile and adult property cross-border crime in *On the Edge of the Law* (2006) with Chad Richardson, as well as theoretical descriptions and discussion of the social historical economic evolution of borderland cultures and economies *Coopting Culture* (2009) with editors Harden and Carly. Research collaboration with scholars at the Center for the Study of Disease and Aging has produced publications addressing drug abuse and consumption patterns along the lower Rio Grande Valley Border of South Texas (*Drug Abuse Patterns & Trends in Lower Rio Grande Valley* 2003). Research into the immigration history of Latino populations was included in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* (2008). Dr. Garcia's list of courses taught includes Racial and Ethnic Studies, Consumer Culture and Society, the sociology of Education, the Sociology of Mexican Americans, Social Inequality, Social Problems, Quantitative Methods, Contemporary theory, and the Sociology of Juvenile Justice Systems.

B. Garrick Harden, Ph.D. received his Bachelor degrees from Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia and his Masters and Doctorate from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Dr. Harden defended his doctoral dissertation in 2009 and began teaching at Lamar University in the Fall of the same year. He has published an edited book entitled, *Co-opting Culture: Questions of Culture and Power in Sociology and Cultural Studies* (with Robert Carley) and "Nihilism and Cultural Cohesion: (Re)considerations of Jean Baudrillard" in *The International Journal of Baudrillard Studies*. Dr. Harden has also presented papers at multiple regional, national and international conferences. His research interests include social theory, culture, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. He has taught courses at Lamar ranging from introduction to sociology and social problems to social theory, sexuality, gender, postmodernism, pop culture, and gender and technoscience.

Kevin B. Smith, Ph.D., is a Professor of Sociology, Senior Associate Provost and Interim Vice President for Student Engagement. He has served Lamar University for more than 30 years. During the late 1980's and early 1990's, he was department chair and he returned as interim

chair in 2011---12. During his three decades at Lamar, Dr. Smith also held the positions of interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He teaches every semester and in recent years has taught social psychology and social stratification. Dr. Smith has also taught research methods, survey research, marriage and the family, statistics, social theory and principles of sociology. Though administrative duties consume most of his time today, his research interests and publications have examined cognitions that support social class identification.

Stuart A. Wright, Ph.D., is a Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at Lamar. Dr. Wright teaches courses in religion, social movements, and terrorism. He is a former NIMH Research Fellow (Yale) and Rockefeller Foundation Scholar---in---Residence (Bellagio, Italy). In 2000, Lamar recognized Dr. Wright with a career achievement award as University Scholar. He has authored over fifty publications in scholarly books and journals. He is known internationally for his research on religious and political movements, conflict and violence. He has published six books, including *Armageddon in Waco* (University of Chicago Press, 1995), *Patriots, Politics, and the Oklahoma City Bombing* (Cambridge University Press, 2007), *Saints under Siege: The Texas State Raid on the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints* (with James T. Richardson, New York University Press, 2011), and most recently, *Storming Zion: Government Raids on Religious Communities* (with Susan J. Palmer, Oxford University Press, 2016). Dr. Wright also serves as legal expert in his field. He has testified in Congressional hearings on state--sect conflict, served as an advisor to the FBI's Crisis Incident Response Group (CIRG), and worked as an expert or consultant in a number of high profile legal cases, including the Branch Davidian criminal and civil trials, the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh, the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr., and the trials of polygamists after the FLDS raid in Texas.