Congratulations 2018 SWS-ASA Minority Fellowship Program winners

Dear SWS Members,

The 2018 SWS-ASA Minority Fellowship Program winners are Brooklynn Hitchens and Katherine Maldonado.

Through the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), the American Sociological Association (ASA) supports the development and training of sociologists of color in any sub-area or specialty in the discipline. Funded by generous annual contributions from organizations including Sociologists for Women in Society, as well as membership donations, MFP seeks to attract talented doctoral students to ensure a diverse and highly trained workforce is available to assume leadership roles in research that is relevant to today's global society.

Brooklynn K. Hitchens is a PhD candidate at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Her research explores the lived experiences of low-income, urban black Americans, particularly at the intersections of race, class, and gender in shaping attitudes, identity, and behavior. Her multi-method dissertation, "Coping in MurderTown USA: How Urban Black Women Adapt to Structural Strain in a Violent, Small City," uses street participatory action research (PAR) to explore the variations in how urban black women and girls use violence and/or crime to cope with the structural strain that permeates low-income communities of color. Data for her dissertation emerge from a collaborative community-based project entitled the Wilmington Street Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project, which examines how low-income, street-identified blacks experience and understand community violence in Wilmington, Delaware—a city recently labeled "MurderTown USA" for its elevated rates of violent crime per capita. Street PAR is an unconventional research methodology that more equitably involves the people most affected by the phenomenon under study into the research project. Brooklynn has also received the Louis Bevier Dissertation Fellowship and the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Ruth D. Peterson Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity. Her work has appeared in Sociological Forum, Race & Justice, Feminist Criminology, and the Journal of Black Psychology.

Katherine Lucía Maldonado is a PhD student at the University of California, Riverside. She earned her BA in Chicana/o Studies with a minor in Labor and Workplace Studies at UCLA. Her research interests include race and class inequality and critical criminology. Her areas of specialization comprise gangs, violence, motherhood, and Latina/o survival strategies. Katherine employs visual sociology to unpack the distal consequences of gang involvement on motherhood. To date, her research has unpacked how the state perpetuates structural violence towards Latina mothers. Her dissertation will examine the violence experienced by deported, former gang-involved mothers who live in Tijuana, Mexico, an unexplored form of violence in the criminological literature. As a research assistant, Katherine explored and testified on behalf of asylum seekers, and continues to explore the impacts of the immigration regime on Latina/Chicana/Mexicana mothers. She has chapters in the forthcoming Chicana M(other)work Anthology, in Racial Profiling, Crime, Prison Reform, and Police Use of Deadly Force in Latino Communities Book, and Gringo Injustice Book, which expands upon a specific population of Latinas (gang-affiliated teen mothers) and uses a research based photo methodology to compile their stories.

Please join us in Philadelphia on August 11, 2018 as we celebrate this great honor with Brooklynn Hitchens and Katherine Maldonado at the 2018 SWS Summer Awards Banquet.