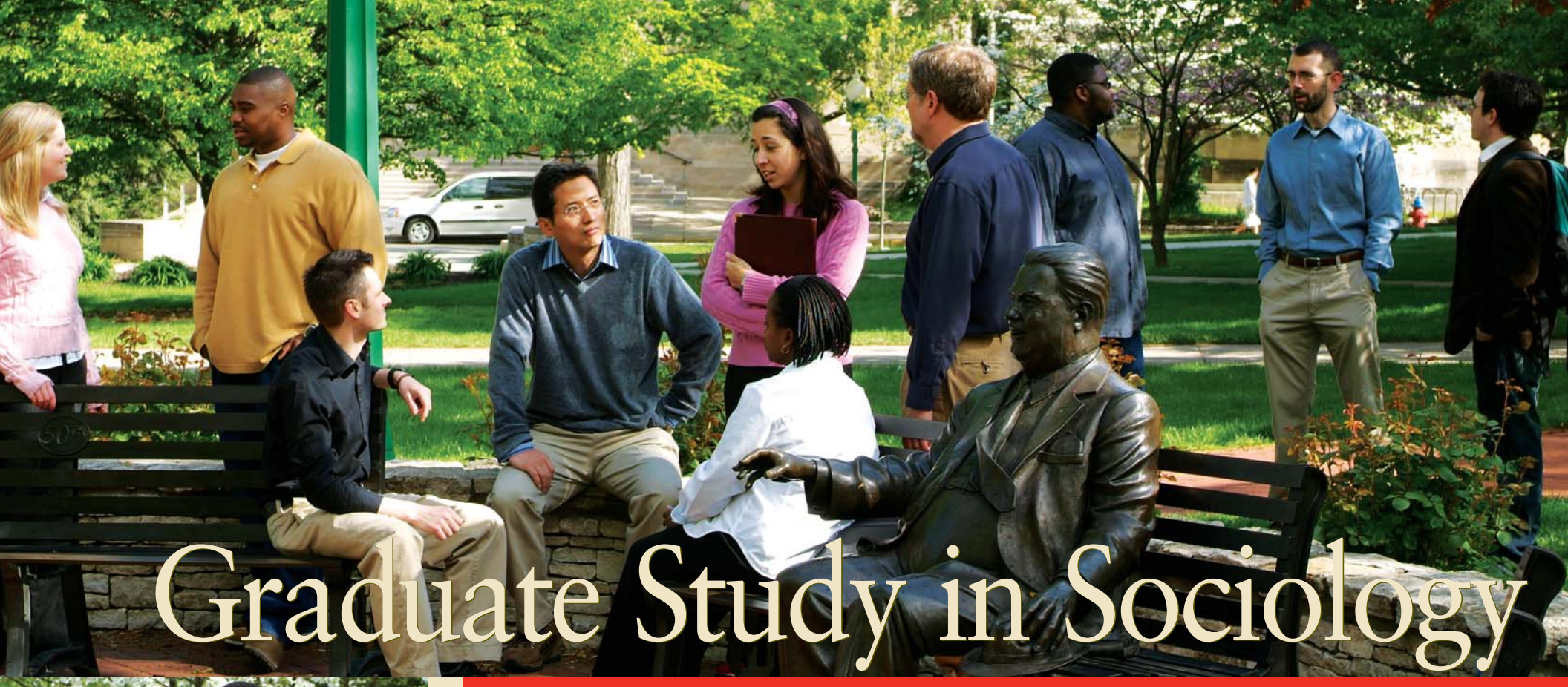

Graduate Study in Sociology

Jason Beckfield
M.A. 2000, Ph.D. 2005

IU's sociology program was the perfect choice for Jason Beckfield, because of its strong culture of mentorship and the diversity of the faculty's research interests. "One of the department's collective goals is the mentoring of graduate students as they develop as scholars, as teachers, and as sociologists. Faculty members offer broad training through coursework, but they also teach and mentor students outside of the classroom by reading their papers, publishing with them, shepherding them through the program, and giving excellent career advice."

Before receiving his doctorate, Beckfield published in several prestigious journals, with the collaboration and support of faculty and other students; garnered numerous awards in graduate paper competitions; and earned a dissertation grant from the National Science Foundation. "But the award that meant the most to me was the Outstanding Mentor Award given by my fellow graduate students.

"The department has given me the opportunity to experience three key aspects of academic life: research, teaching, and service. I've conducted research and published, taught large and small classes, and served on departmental committees. I think these experiences were invaluable in preparing me for faculty life." Beckfield is an assistant professor at the University of Chicago.

Alicia Suarez
Doctoral Student

When Alicia Suarez had her first taste of teaching during her third year in IU's sociology program, it was a turning point in her life. "To see students 'get it' and become enthusiastic about the material was exhilarating. I was no longer tentative about my career goals. The program is very strong in teaching graduate students how to teach, and gave me all the opportunities and support I needed to develop my own individual path to reaching those goals."

Her teaching skill and innovative style have netted Suarez consistently high ratings from her students, as well as the department's Edwin Sutherland Award for Outstanding Teaching, IU's Lieber Memorial Teaching Associate Award, and appointments as an instructor and predoctoral scholar at DePauw University.

"The department encourages a wide range of scholarship and career interests, which creates a diverse and exciting environment. I've had invaluable opportunities to learn, teach, and grow in the classroom and as an individual. And shadowing a professor at another university through the Preparing Future Faculty program was crucial in preparing me academically and experientially for a liberal arts faculty position."

Indiana University

Winning National Recognition

The National Research Council ranked the Indiana University Department of Sociology fifth in the nation in the quality of its graduate training. In 2001, the department won the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award.

Training Outstanding Scholars and Teachers

The Department of Sociology at Indiana University supports graduate students as they develop and achieve their own personal career goals. Our faculty serve as instructors, guides, and mentors as students acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary for success as researchers and as teachers.

Creating Opportunities for Minority Students

We are committed to recruiting underrepresented minority students as well as building a diverse faculty and supportive environment for all students.

Providing Comprehensive Training

We provide training in a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods, and our graduates are exceptional scholars and teachers.

Preparing Exceptional Researchers

We have a long tradition of close collaboration between faculty and graduate students on research projects. We also offer a course on writing for publication. As a result, many of our graduate students have already published their work in leading sociological journals by the time they complete their degrees. Our recent alumni have secured employment at research universities and liberal arts colleges, with government agencies, and in applied research settings.

Preparing Exceptional Teachers

Our Preparing Future Faculty program includes a three-course sequence in college pedagogy; opportunities to shadow faculty at liberal arts colleges; and pedagogical workshops, conferences, and fellowships. Most students begin teaching their own courses during their third year of study, under the guidance of experienced faculty mentors. Our students have won more university-wide teaching awards in recent years than students in any other department at IU, and many alumni have gone on to win teaching awards at other colleges and universities.

Encouraging Interdisciplinary and International Experiences

Our students can minor in a wide array of subjects, including African American and African Diaspora Studies, Gender Studies, Latina/Latino Studies, Advanced Methods, and one of a variety of Area Studies programs covering nearly all regions of the globe; or they can affiliate themselves with the Center for Education and Society, the Consortium for Mental Health Services Research, the Center for Survey Research, the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, or the Population Institute for Research and Training. Many students choose to conduct their dissertation research in other countries.

Providing Financial Support

We provide full tuition and living expenses to virtually all of our graduate students for the duration of their degree studies.

Faculty Research and Teaching Interests

Aging and the Life Course
Comparative and Historical Sociology
Demography
Deviance and Social Control
Economic Sociology
Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Movements
Gender
International Development
Medical Sociology
Mental Health and Illness
Organizations and Institutions
Political Economy
Political Sociology
Population Studies
Quantitative and Qualitative Methodology
Race and Ethnic Relations
Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Sexuality
Social Change
Social Movements
Social Networks
Social Psychology
Social Stratification
Sociolinguistics
Sociology of Architecture and Design
Sociology of Childhood and Adolescence
Sociology of Culture
Sociology of Education
Sociology of Family
Sociology of Knowledge
Sociology of Place
Sociology of Religion
Sociology of Science
Sociology of the Self
Sport Sociology
Theory
Urban Sociology
Work and Labor Markets

Indiana University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.

To learn more about graduate study in sociology at Indiana University, contact:

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