

SPEL-SOC-ANTHRO NEWS



Words From The Chair

Dear Sociology and Anthropology majors and minors,

The Spring semester always seems to fly by! It is hard to believe that midterms are already here. On March 4th and 6th we witnessed twenty of our majors present their senior thesis research-in-progress. Congratulations to all of them, as they are making progress toward completion of their senior thesis. Mid-semester thesis presentations happen every semester, and are open to the department. Even if senior year seems far away, we encourage you to come and see what your fellow majors are working on, and see what you have to look forward to when it is your turn!

Please keep in mind that advisement for the Fall 2025 begins on March 24. Since Dr. Bailey Brown and Dr. Celeste Lee are on research leave, their advisees will be reassigned to other faculty members this semester. Keep an eye out for the email from Ms. Temetria Harrison about the updated advisor/advisee list.

Also, be sure to join us on Monday, April 7 at 4:30pm in Laura Spelman Multipurpose Room, where we will have the opportunity to learn from the wisdom of Dr. Andrew Billingsley, preeminent Black sociologist, prolific author, and institution builder. Stay tuned!

We wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable Spring Break!

Warm Regards,

Erica L. Williams



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IMPORTANT DATES...

March 10th - 14th

Spring Break

College Open - No Classes

March 21

Mid-Semester Grades Due

March 24

Last Day to Withdraw from a Course

March 24

Advisement for Fall Begins

April 7th

A Live Chat with Renowned Sociologist, Andrew Billingsley



www.linkedin.com/company/spelsocanthro

HONORING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

Professor Jackie Barrett Washington

FROM SHERIFF TO SCHOLAR

Jackie Barrett Washington’s life and career have been defined by a commitment to service, justice, and empowerment. As the first Black female sheriff in the United States, she shattered barriers in law enforcement, paving the way for future generations. She continued to inspire as an educator at Spelman College, where she imparted her knowledge and experience to the next wave of changemakers.

In 1992, Jackie Barrett Washington made history when she was elected sheriff of Fulton County, Georgia. In doing so, she became the first Black woman in the country to hold the position of sheriff. Her tenure was marked by her dedication to reforming the criminal justice system, advocating for inmates’ rights, and implementing progressive policies that emphasized rehabilitation and education over punitive measures.

Throughout her career in law enforcement, Washington worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between communities and policing. She was instrumental in launching programs aimed at reducing recidivism, improving conditions within correctional facilities, and increasing opportunities for incarcerated individuals to rebuild their lives.

After years of breaking new ground in law enforcement, Washington transitioned into academia, bringing her wealth of experience to the classroom at Spelman College. She educated students on criminal justice, public policy, and leadership while equipping them with the tools to effect meaningful change in society.

During her time at Spelman, Washington emphasized the importance of civic engagement and social responsibility, inspiring young women—particularly Black women—to pursue careers in criminal justice, law, and public service. Her real-world experience provided students with invaluable insights into the complexities of law enforcement, the challenges of leadership, and the impact of policy on marginalized communities.



Jackie Barrett Washington’s history-making journey from pioneering law enforcement official to esteemed educator exemplifies resilience, determination, and the power of breaking barriers. Her work continues to shape the future of criminal justice and inspire young minds to lead with integrity and purpose.

Ms. Jackie Barrett Washington was an integral part of the Spelman College Sociology and Anthropology Department for 16 years. In December of 2024 we celebrated her retirement.

We thank you and we applaud your greatness, Ms. Professor Sheriff Jackie Barrett Washington!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nailah Saint-Louis On Domestic Exchange



I'm Nailah, a junior sociology major from Maryland, and I'm spending this academic year on exchange at Wellesley College! Wellesley is a historically women's college in Wellesley, MA, just a little under an hour outside Boston. Going on domestic exchange has allowed me to experience a new campus culture with just as rich a history as Spelman's.

Wellesley's strong social science and Africana Studies programs have allowed me to grow as a student through classes like *Modern Families & Social Inequalities* and *Afro-Latinas in the U.S.* Currently, I'm taking a course on Anthropological Theory, and I've loved starting the semester by reading Haitian scholars such as *Trouillot* and *Firmin*, who dedicated their scholarship to questioning how the discipline is central to the western imperialist project and how we can theorize anthropology beyond this notion.

If you want to challenge yourself academically and socially in a new environment, take the leap and apply for domestic exchange in the fall semester of your sophomore year! I've learned so much about myself through this experience and made so many connections. Many institutions are excited to host Spelmanites whenever possible, especially Wellesley!

ALUMNISPOTLIGHT

Kimya Loder C' 2018



Kimya Loder, a 2018 graduate of Spelman College with a double major in Sociology and International Studies, joined Georgia Tech this Fall as Assistant Professor in the School of History and Sociology. She completed her PhD in Sociology at Stanford University in 2024. Her current work centers the organizing efforts of Black transgender led organizations in the U.S. South and the strategies that they adopt to survive in volatile, contentious political environments.

[More about Kimya Loder](#)

FACULTY NEWS

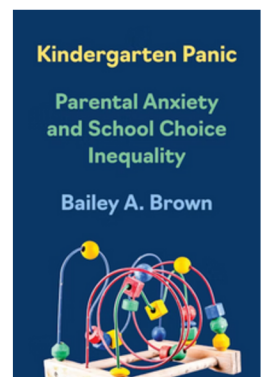
Kindergarten Panic: Parental Anxiety and School Choice Inequality



This book, by Dr. Bailey Brown, looks at the challenges families go through when choosing schools, based on interviews with 102 parents of young children and watching how school sign-ups happen in New York City. Dr. Brown explains that today's school choice programs have changed the way parents raise their kids, shaping how they see themselves and what they think makes a "good parent." She describes picking a school as an important family job and shows how these rules make things unfair, with moms, dads, and families from different backgrounds experiencing school decisions in different ways.

[More about Dr. Bailey Brown](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BAILEY BROWN ON HER NEW BOOK
COMING AUGUST 2025!**



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Princeton University Press

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