



## Department of Sociology

### THE POWER

Michigan's Department of Sociology is one of the nation's oldest and most distinguished programs. Consistently rated as one of the very top departments, we have played a key role in defining the discipline. Our distinguished faculty pursues research covering all the continents, putting our department and our students at the forefront of global issues. The department is known for its methodological breadth, from training in survey, demographic, network-analytical, "big data" and other quantitative methods, to rigorous archival and historical work, to cutting edge, deep ethnographic research, and other fieldwork methodologies. We offer first-rate, rigorous methodological training to study the social world around the globe.

### THE OPPORTUNITIES

The study of sociology provides fascinating and distinctive perspectives on the social world, generating new ideas while critiquing the old. The field offers a range of research techniques that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life. We study urban and suburban communities, social inequality and social stratification, culture, nationalism, organizations and corporations, the economy, families and family change, poverty, immigration, health, education, and more.

Because sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time, it is a rapidly expanding, intellectually dynamic field with broad policy implications. Indeed, sociologists are increasingly involved in crafting the policies and programs that shape our world. Students develop strong writing, analytical, statistical, and methodological skills. Michigan sociology students have developed successful careers in a variety of fields, including architecture, business, education, criminal justice, international relations, law, medicine, public administration, social research, and social work.

## THE IMPACT

To maintain the stature and national respect that the department enjoys, we must continue to attract the best faculty and students and support them in their efforts to conduct cutting-edge research. Gifts will provide the resources to aggressively build the most promising of our current areas of scholarly and pedagogical strength, as well as to develop new areas of research and teaching that, when leveraged with our current strengths, would position the Department as a leader in the discipline.

### **Named Professorship**

*\$2.5M endowed*

Endowed professorships have long been recognized as both a hallmark of academic quality and a means by which a university honors its most esteemed scholars and teachers. Professorships are reserved for scholars of national or international stature with highly distinguished records of teaching, research, and publication. They constitute a time-honored way to recruit or retain scholars with exceptional records of achievement and, thereby, strengthen the position of the department among peer institutions.

### **Graduate Fellowships and Research Support**

*\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually*

To compete for the most outstanding graduate students, who will work closely with faculty on research and teach undergraduate students, we must offer competitive support. One of our greatest needs is support for our most promising students from developing countries. Collaborating with a faculty member is one of the most educationally rewarding experiences a student can have during his or her academic career and often takes place in the summer when students leave Ann Arbor to conduct archival research and fieldwork. Our goal is to ensure that every student is able to take advantage of these rich collaborative opportunities regardless of financial need. A graduate student support initiative focusing on international research—funding to access and reside in field sites, and collect and transport data back to Ann Arbor—would greatly enhance a department intellectual culture that consists of a strong research orientation among the faculty in international sociology.

## **Public Sociology Initiative**

*\$50,000 to \$100,000 annually*

The department seeks to establish a formal conduit through which we can help translate scholarship to the public, especially the local region and the state of Michigan. Gifts will make possible initiatives that address public concerns and issues in Detroit and Michigan, and will provide opportunities for our undergraduates to engage directly with the community by connecting scholarship to practice. Funds could be used to enrich the Project Community courses, thereby enabling more students to have the opportunity to gain service-learning experiences in education, criminal justice, public health, education, or community development settings. In this way, students will be able to get acquainted with the “real-life” applications of sociology by developing and honing communication skills to make meaningful connections and contributions to communities in metro-Detroit, as well as in other parts of Michigan.

## **Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program**

*\$15,000 annually*

The department has a popular Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity program (SURO), whereby undergraduates work with faculty on their research projects. Opportunities for scholarship support will greatly expand the number of students who can participate, especially for those who are most financially challenged.

## **Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders**

*\$10,000 annually*

In sociology, we recognize that first-generation college students at the University of Michigan face unusual social, academic, and financial challenges. But we also find that such students possess a unique set of qualifications and capabilities: curiosity, conscientiousness, persistence, risk-taking – in a word, grit. These are the characteristics of leaders. In order to nurture those characteristics, the Department of Sociology has created a program designed to cultivate and support our first-generation leaders in Sociology-Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders, or SOUL. Students in the program get paid Research Assistantships and faculty mentorship, attend the Barger Leadership Institute (BLI) Leadership Lab, take a class only open to SOUL students, receive mentoring and tutoring from graduate students, have a peer mentor, and more. Scholarship support for SOUL will help the program continue to grow and ensure that a greater number of first-generation students are afforded the tools and opportunities to flourish.

## Department Strategic Fund

*\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually*

Expendable, undesignated gifts are vital to the continuing success and growth of the department. Contributions to the Strategic Fund make it possible to meet unexpected needs and challenges such as:

- Seed funding for faculty research projects: **\$5,000 expendable, \$100,000 endowed**
- Library and computer lab maintenance and upgrades: **\$25,000 per year**
- Graduate student conferences: **\$15,000 per conference**
- Creating venues for intellectual engagement: **\$5,000 per year**

### **WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT**

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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### CONTACT INFO

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