

# Sociology on the Rock

SOCIOLOGY ON THE ROCK, Issue 20

Editor and Founder: Stephen Harold Riggins

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"Listening implies the willingness to recognize not just the speaker as legitimate, but also the fact that each account is positioned. ...In seeking to be heard, the speaking

subject must also be willing to listen to other voices. ...Only this type of voice – one that is committed to democracy – is politically legitimate, as such a voice is necessarily oriented toward finding a common ground with others." Delia Dumitrica, 2020.

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Photograph of Donald and Elizabeth Willmott and family in Newfoundland in 1957

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# The Death of Memorial University's First Sociologist

#### By Stephen Harold Riggins

Donald Willmott passed away in Owen Sound, Ontario, on May 10, 2021. Don taught sociology at MUN from 1956 to 1959 at the old downtown campus. As the university's only sociologist, he was cross-appointed as an adviser to the provincial Department of Social Welfare.

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#### **Erwin Out**

#### By Erwin J. Warkentin

By the time you read this, I will no longer be the Head of the Department of Sociology at Memorial University. In fact, more correctly, I was the Interim Head (2019-2021), if one can truly call someone "interim" who has led a department for 25 months.

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# A Meandering Life in Politics

#### By Marilyn Porter

Stephen Riggins asked me to write an article for *Sociology on the Rock* about the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB). He knew I had once been a member. This is true. I had to be very quiet about this affiliation when I applied for immigration to Canada in the early 1980s. At the time, membership was an absolute bar to entry to the US, and while such a bar was not explicit in Canada, I chose not to mention it at my immigration interview. In any case, my sojourn in the CPGB was neither long nor very significant. I will come to why I joined a little later in this meandering saga of my political life.

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# An Academic Child of the Marriage between Anthropology and Sociology

#### By John L. Steckley

I went through three majors as an undergraduate – English, because I wanted to write; sociology, because it was much more relevant than English (an important word in 1970 when I made that decision); and then anthropology, because it dealt more directly with Indigenous peoples, which was and still is my primary research and writing interest.

Both areas of study were in the same department at York University, so the shift was easy.

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## An Introduction to Classical Music for Sociology Students

An Introduction to Classical Music for Sociology Students

By Stephen Harold Riggins

WEEK 1

Max Richter (composer) – This Bitter Earth. Diana Washington (singer), Christopher Wheeldon (choreographer), Tiler Peck and Tyler Angle (dancers).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIuFucW6vgw

Length:6:59.

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### At Home in Canada: A Study of Iranian Immigrants

#### By Foroogh Mohammadi

Home – understood as a house or apartment, neighborhood, city, or region – is a potential site for investigating a range of topics beyond its physical nature: identity, place-making, belonging, mobility, and majority-minority relationships. As sociologists Paolo Boccagni and Margarethe Kusenbach (2020) argue, a refined concept of home "cannot simply refer to a location, a material artifact, and/or a background feature of everyday life." The concept must be relational and capture the complexity between "individuals or groups and … built environments, social settings and material cultures to which people attach unique meanings and functions."

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