

APPALACHIAN CENTER AND APPALACHIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Message from the Directors

All,

We had a wonderful time at the recent Appalachian Studies Association Conference. A total of 25 UK students, faculty, and staff presented at this year's conference! Check out our UK presenters [here](#). Thanks to everyone for making the conference such a success and congrats to our award winners, Dr. Zada Komara and Seth Garcia! We have a lot going on the second half of the semester. Join us on April 21st for our upcoming conversation [Shifting Power in Rural America: Conversations on Just Transitions](#). Lastly, our AppalachiaCorps student internship program is also gearing up for the summer. Be sure to share with interested students!

-Jennifer and Kathryn

Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Join us for "Shifting Power in Rural America: Conversations on Just Transitions"](#)

Shifting Power in Rural America: Conversations on Just Transitions

Tue, Apr. 21, 2026

4 - 6:30 p.m.

Jacobs Science Bldg (JSB), Rm 321

[The Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program](#) with support from the [John D. and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation](#) along with event co-sponsors including the University of Kentucky Departments of [Sociology](#) and [Geography](#), [Committee on Social Theory](#), [Food Connection](#), [Kentucky Climate Consortium](#), and [Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability](#)

and the Environment are pleased to present "Shifting Power in Rural America: Conversations on Just Transitions".

This special event includes guest panelists:

- **Loka Ashwood**, Rural Sociologist, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- **John Gaventa**, Political Sociologist, engaged scholar, and Professor at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom
- **Gabe Schwartzman**, Human Geographer who studies economic development and environmental politics
- **Shaunna Scott**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Kentucky and former University of Kentucky Appalachian Studies Program Director
- **Kathryn Engle**, University of Kentucky Appalachian Center Director and serves on the board of the Lend-A-Hand Center in Walker, KY

This event includes a panel discussion 4-5:30 PM followed by a 5:30-6:30 PM reception which includes a selection of finger foods provided by the University of Kentucky Food Connection.

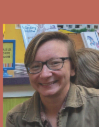




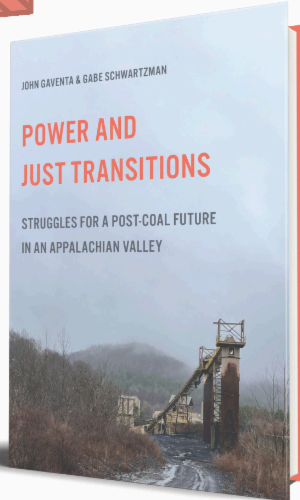
Shifting Power in Rural America: Conversations on Just Transitions

with Panelists:
**John Gaventa, Gabe Schwartzman, Loka Ashwood,
Shaunna Scott & Kathryn Engle**

Tuesday, April 21st
Jacobs Science Building, Rm 321

4:00-5:30 Panel Discussion
5:30-6:30 Reception Featuring Local Foods

Rural communities across the Appalachian region face new challenges and possibilities as a result of changing economic and political landscapes. Join MacArthur Fellows John Gaventa and Loka Ashwood in conversation with Gabe Schwartzman (UT), Shaunna Scott (UK emeritus), and Kathryn Engle (UK) for a discussion about just transitions and post-coal economies in the Appalachian region and beyond.



College of Arts and Sciences
Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program
Graduate Appalachian Research Community
Committee on Social Theory
Department of Geography
Department of Sociology

Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Research
MacArthur Foundation

Congratulations Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) Awardees!

Congratulations to University of Kentucky [Appalachian Studies Association \(ASA\)](#) attendees who received [awards](#) at the recent [Appalachian Studies Association \(ASA\) Conference](#). The following were recipients of ASA awards:

Zada Komara, Lewis Honors College, was presented with the Travis Stimeling Early Career Award for her "outstanding work and contribution to teaching in the field of Appalachian Studies" at the **2026 Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) 49th Annual Conference**

[Toward Just Transitions: Visions for Regenerative Communities in Appalachia](#), a book edited by **Kathryn Engle**, Appalachian Center Director, along with **Shaunna Scott**, professor emeritus in Sociology, was named a [finalist for the 2025 Weatherford Award in Nonfiction](#)

Seth Garcia, MA candidate in History, took the [Carl A. Ross Student Paper Award](#) for his paper, "Troubled Waters: Tourism, Slavery, and Appalachia as an Internal Colony"

Join Us for Coffee Hour at the Appalachian Center

Drop-In Coffee Hour

Thursdays, Apr. 9 and Apr. 23

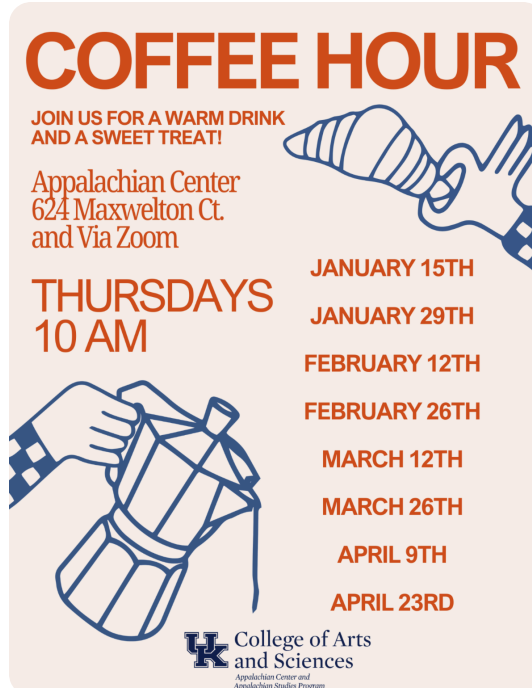
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Zoom or Appalachian Center

624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40508

Students, faculty, staff and community members: join us for coffee and light refreshments. Meet others interested in the region and learn about the Appalachian Center and the Appalachian Studies Program. Coffee Hour is a casual space to exchange ideas about programs, discuss regional issues, share research and connect with the community.

Coffee Hour typically meets every other week on Thursday at 10. Additional information can be found [here](#).




COFFEE HOUR

JOIN US FOR A WARM DRINK AND A SWEET TREAT!

Appalachian Center
624 Maxwellton Ct.
and Via Zoom

**THURSDAYS
10 AM**

JANUARY 15TH
JANUARY 29TH
FEBRUARY 12TH
FEBRUARY 26TH
MARCH 12TH
MARCH 26TH
APRIL 9TH
APRIL 23RD

 College of Arts and Sciences
Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program

Support the Graduate Appalachian Research Community (GARC) at their April Book + Bake Sale



SUPPORT THE GRADUATE APPALACHIAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY!

BOOK+BAKE SALE

THURSDAY | 2 APR | 12 - 5PM

GATTON STUDENT CENTER 2ND FLOOR TABLES

STEP 1. DROP OFF YOUR GENTLY USED BOOKS (FICTION & NON-FICTION) AT THE APP CENTER!

STEP 2. VISIT OUR TABLE IN THE STUDENT CENTER ON APR. 2ND TO PURCHASE A BOOK OR A TREAT!



Book + Bake Sale

Thurs, Apr. 2, 2026

12 - 5 p.m.

Gatton Student Center, 2nd floor tables

Help the Graduate Appalachian Research Community raise funds. The group will be selling gently used books and baked goods on the second floor of the Gatton Student Center on Thursday, April 2nd, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. In the meantime, it's time to clean out your bookshelf. Please donate your gently used books so they can find a new home and support GARC activities. The only books GARC cannot sell are formal textbooks, but they can sell novels, ethnographies, or other types

of books assigned for class.

Books for donation may be dropped off at the Appalachian Center, 624 Maxwellton Court, or brought to GARC meetings in the Annex.

AppalachiaCorps Summer Internship Program - Upcoming Information Sessions

AppalachiaCorps is a student internship program through the Appalachian Center that pairs students with experiential learning opportunities in eastern Kentucky and the greater Appalachian region.

AppalachiaCorps serves a three-fold purpose:

- Providing students with unique work and learning opportunities
- Strengthening UK's land-grant commitment to the Appalachian region
- Building capacity and networks of relationships between Appalachian organizations

The AppalachiaCorps program is **currently accepting student inquiries regarding Summer 2026 placements**. Please submit an inquiry form through the [Appalachian Center and Appalachia Studies Program's AppalachiaCorps information webpage linked here](#) and be sure to attend an information session in the Spring semester.



The poster features a map of the Appalachian region at the top with the text "APPALACHIA CORPS" and "PREPARING APPALACHIAN LEADERS OF TOMORROW". Below this, it reads "APPALACHIA CORPS INTERNSHIP INFO SESSIONS VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM". A list of dates and times is provided in a table-like format:

THU	→	JANUARY 29 @ 4:30PM
THU	→	FEBRUARY 12 @ 4:30PM
THU	→	FEBRUARY 26 @ 4:30PM
THU	→	MARCH 26 @ 4:30PM
THU	→	APRIL 2 @ 4:30PM

Below the dates, it states: "The AppalachiaCorps program is currently accepting student inquiries regarding Summer 2026 placements. Please submit an inquiry form on our website and attend an info session." It then lists the three-fold purpose and provides the website appalachiancenter.as.uky.edu/appcorps. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the logo for the College of Arts and Sciences, Appalachian Center and Appalachia Studies Program.

The final AppalachiaCorps informational session will be offered on the date listed below. Additional information including Zoom registration link, can be found [linked here](#).

- Thu. Apr. 2 4:30 PM ET

APP End-of Year Celebration and Recognition of Graduates

Thurs, Apr. 30, 2026

4 - 5:30 p.m.

Appalachian Center, 624 Maxwellton Ct. and Zoom

Join us at the Appalachian Center for our annual end of year celebration. We will recognize our graduates and award winners and celebrate with friends, food and festivities.

[Click here for more information and for registration link if joining via Zoom.](#)



APP Faculty Affiliates in the News

Kathryn Engle, Appalachian Center Director, along with **Shaunna Scott**, professor emeritus in Sociology, have been named as finalists in the Cultural Anthropology and Sociology category for

the [2026 Prose Awards](#)

Jennifer Cramer, Appalachian Studies Program Director and Professor of Linguistics - ["Advancing undergraduate education through the Chellgren Endowed Professorship"](#)

Crystal Wilkinson, Department of English, will be [honored by UK Libraries at annual Spring celebration](#)

CHECK THIS OUT

[Civil Rights and Restorative Justice-Kentucky Legal Clinic, Appalachian Center announce research partnership](#)

[UK-CARES Presents: Apr. 2 2:00 PM, Wethington 127, "Applying a cumulative impacts and risk lens to assessing health burdens among fence-line communities in south-eastern Pennsylvania"](#)

[Internship Opportunity: ANT 399 Student Leaders for International Programming in Arts and Sciences \(SLIPAS\) - Interviews in March and April \(click here for link to informational page with link to application form\)](#)

[Social Theory 2026 Symposium - April 2-3](#)

[Going abroad this summer? Attend the International Initiatives' "Bon Voyage" event - Apr. 2](#)

[Bluegrass Greensource 2026 Sustainability Summit - Apr. 14](#)

[John P. Wyatt, M.D. Environment and Health Symposium - Apr. 22](#)

[8th Annual Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit - May 13-14](#)

Appalachian Center to Celebrate 50 Years



Founded in 1977 with a Rockefeller Foundation grant, the [University of Kentucky Appalachian Center](#) supports the university's land-grant mission by fostering community-university partnerships in research, learning and engagement in Appalachia.

Check out future newsletters and the [UK Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies website](#) for details about the Spring 2027 event marking the center's 50th anniversary.

CONTACT US



For general questions or inquiries, call us:
859-257-4852

Jennifer Cramer, Ph.D.
Appalachian Studies Program Director

Kathryn Engle, Ph.D.
Appalachian Center Director

Shannon Markel
Department Manager

Make an Impact

Your gift helps us continue to provide transformative experiences for today's Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program students.

Give



Appalachian Center and Appalachian Studies Program | 624 Maxwellton Court, Lexington, KY 40506 | 859-257-4852

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