

Pearson Originals Videos

SOCIOLOGY

Episode	Description
A Candid Conversation About Sexual Aggression and Violence	Sexual harassment and violence have always been present, but are only recently garnering significant public attention. As women around the world continue to step forward with their stories of sexual abuse, we're left to grapple with how we, as a society, let sexual violence become a normal and trivialized part of our culture. This film is a candid conversation about sexual harassment and violence.
The Sanctuary City Debate: Spotlight on Lansing, MI	We witness first hand as city leaders in Lansing, Michigan grapple with the morals, logistics, and legalities of potentially adopting sanctuary status. We experience the debate from many perspectives, from undocumented people who are directly impacted by the policy, to local politicians, law professors, and immigration attorneys who help explain this one city's debate and contextualize its place in the national discourse.
School Districting and the Achievement Gap: A Tale of Two Communities	Malibu and Santa Monica are two well-off communities in California that are currently linked in the same, seemingly successful school district. But they have two problems. There is a marked achievement gap between high-income and low-income students. And Malibu, a wealthy minority segment of the SMMUSD, wants to separate and form its own district, leaving the Santa Monica students with fewer resources. The debate over Malibu's secession has been simmering for decades but now has come to a head, prompting many to question Malibu's motives in pulling away, and whether or not it would benefit students, and society, if they separate.
Fighting for Racial Equality: A Conversation Between Generations	The issues and rights Americans fight for are constantly evolving, as are the methods in which we use to achieve change. This film opens a conversation between two generations of civil rights activists with similar goals, but different ideas on how to achieve them.
When Jobs Disappear: A Coal Miner's Story	Harlan County, Kentucky resident Brandon Pierson went straight into the mines after high school, but after five short years, he was laid off along with 20% of the Kentucky coal mining workforce. With the support of a government program, Brandon returned to school and is able to envision a new future, scarred but resilient. Through his story, we understand the impact the declining coal industry has had on him and on his community.

Domestic Violence in Rural America: Survivors' Stories

In small rural communities across the country, many victims of domestic violence find themselves isolated with the nearest help clinic at least 40 miles away. We go to Harrisburg, Illinois to understand the importance of resources and education in combating domestic violence.

Community Journalism

Journalism is witnessing a reckoning day on the national stage, but what about at the local level? Does local news still matter? This is a profile of charismatic investigative journalist Les Zeitz, a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer who left the city and is now editor of a tiny paper that serves one of the most unpopulated counties in the lower 48. His story will illuminate issues that community journalism has to contend with today — competing with the Internet, ensuring relevance to their communities, and maintaining the fundamentals of journalism that are critical to a democracy.

Seeking Refuge from the Syrian War: The Abdi Family

The Syrian civil-war has caused 4.8 million people to flee the country while millions more people remain displaced inside Syria's borders. The U.N. called it the biggest crisis of our times. While more Syrian refugees were accepted into the U.S. under the Obama administration, Trump is changing direction. In this piece, we meet a family of newly settled Syrian refugees in El Cajon, California. They are among the 3,566 Syrian refugees the federal government allowed into the country in 2017, potentially some of the last.

The American Working Class: Voices from Harrisburg, IL

As the dust of globalization settles, Americans in the so-called Middle America are feeling left behind. In this film, we hone in on Saline County, a small community in southern Illinois where natural disasters and local coal mine closures have left residents economically disadvantaged and in need of help. We examine what led these traditionally blue-dog Democrats to vote for Donald Trump, and why their future — and who they vote for next — still matters.

America's Opioid Crisis: Portraits of an Epidemic

Four of five new heroin users started out misusing prescription painkillers. In this video we are introduced to the nationwide opioid epidemic through the stories of three recovering addicts in Arizona, as well as the first responders and doctors battling a rising tide.

Interpreting the First Amendment: Regulating Protest in Minnesota

Numerous states have recently debated legislation to limit protest tactics. This film takes us to Minnesota where State Rep. Zerwas introduced two pieces of legislation in response to several protests that occupied highways and the airport. Under the proposed legislation, protesters could go to prison for up to three years or be fined for the cost of policing the protest.

Agenda Setting in Politics: Rick Wilson's Story

Rick Wilson is a Republican political strategist made famous by his candid, and often inappropriate, commentary on live broadcasts. He was trained under Lee Atwater — the master in political messaging and manipulation. This film is an exploration of the factors that drive a successful campaign, which in Rick Wilson's opinion are simply fear, anger, hope, and love.

Taking a Stand Against Environmental Injustice

The neighborhood of Wilmington, California is bordered by several large freeways, three oil refineries, two of the largest ports in the United States, and is peppered with active oil wells, each dipping into the third largest oil field in the contiguous U.S. All of this industrialization translates to significantly higher rates of asthma and cancers for its 50,000 residents, most of whom are Hispanic. We follow the story of this neighborhood through the eyes of Brandon Molina, a 19-year-old activist and aspiring politician who spells out why protections in Wilmington are not as strictly enforced as those in more affluent areas, how many people in his neighborhood feel compelled to cooperate with the fossil fuel companies (despite their devastating effects), and what young people like him are doing about it.

The U.S.–Mexico Border: Meeting at Friendship Park

The iconic Friendship Park in San Diego, CA, at the U.S.–Mexico border, is one of the only places in the world where people in the U.S. and Mexico can see and speak to each other. This piece shows the evolution of this historical place. In 1971, only a thin piece of barbed wire separated the two countries. Today, a pair of massive metal walls stretches into the ocean. With Trump's campaign promise to build a border wall, we look at one of its closest examples, from both sides of the fence.

#FAKENEWS: Can the Press Fight Back?

When a Colorado state Senator took to Twitter and called his hometown newspaper "fake news," he didn't expect the paper's publisher to sue HIM for libel. The story of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel explores the motivations and implications of casting doubt on the media, considers if the press should take a stronger defensive position, and addresses the larger context surrounding the term "fake news."

Undocumented in America: Viviana's Story

This film is an intimate portrayal of what it's like to be an undocumented immigrant in the shadow of the sanctuary city debate happening around the country. We meet a 22-year-old undocumented college student and her family who work in agriculture as they wait to see if their home of Lansing, Michigan decides to become a sanctuary city.

**Gender Identity:
Meant to Be Maddie**

Amid the tangle of political debate surrounding whether bathroom laws are a state or federal decision, the lives of young transgender individuals, who are 41% more at risk to commit suicide than their peers, hang in the balance. This piece focuses on Maddie, a nine-year-old transgender girl, and her family, who live in North Carolina, a state central to the transgender “bathroom bill” debate. We will learn about the emotional journey the family is on as they support their daughter in living her true identity.

**The Trump Effect:
Energizing
Opposition**

From the first day of Donald Trump’s presidency, the only thing Americans knew they could be sure of was unpredictability. Trump has laid waste to “business as usual” in D.C. and, love him or hate him, he’s energized the country in conversation. This film will investigate the reinvestment in civic engagement that the beginning of the Trump era has brought about on both sides of the aisle by zeroing-in on a special election held in Georgia’s Sixth Congressional District, the most expensive house race in the nation’s history.