How does the population structure of social settings shape the contexts in which interethnic friendships form? This presentation will advance a theoretical framework of consolidation as a measure of multidimensional social structure and use it to understand the intergroup dynamics underlying interethnic friendships among adolescents in Western European classrooms. This approach reveals barriers to interethnic friendships in more consolidated classrooms (in which students from different ethnic backgrounds also tend to differ in socioeconomic status). In other words, there is a strong positive association between consolidation and ethnic homophily, supporting the idea that the salience of ethnic boundaries is contingent on the joint configuration of socioeconomic status and ethnicity within social contexts. As populations and social settings are increasingly characterized by multidimensional configurations of attributes that range from superdiversity to consolidation, scholars should analyze multiple axes of differentiation to adequately capture the conditions under which intergroup boundaries are brighter.

In-person attendance is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email Meredith Clason if you would like to attend the talk in the Albion Small Room (SSRB 305). Once the available seats are taken, the event will be available only by Zoom.