**Project Title:** College Students' Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Faculty Mentor:** Soo-Yeon Yoon  
Sociology  
email: sooyeon.yoon@sonoma.edu

**Project Description:** Using in-depth interviews with current students at SSU, this project explores the ways in which COVID-19 shapes college students’ experiences of transition to adulthood focusing on finishing school and transitioning from school to work. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for all across the globe. This ongoing crisis is a tough period particularly for young adults who are hard hit by the pandemic, with profound and possibly permanent consequences for them. This study asks the following research questions: If growing up is increasingly harder due to changes created by COVID-19, who are likely to face more challenges than others? Does COVID-19 exacerbate long-standing inequalities in educational outcomes? How do college students create a new way of life for them to embrace “the new normal”? The purpose of this study is to contribute to our understanding of the ways in which the universal crisis affects young people’s lived experiences heterogeneously, rather than homogeneously, according to their social positions.

**Student Contributions and Qualifications:** Student assistants will complete the CITI IRB training and learn about ethics in social science research. They will work with transcribing interviews and verifying transcripts. They will learn how to manage, transcribe, and analyze interview data. They will attend bi-weekly check-in meetings.