

# The Southern Sociologist

The Newsletter of the Southern Sociological Society

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## From Society President Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield

Hello all! Hope everyone's semester is now productively under way, and that some (many?) of you are getting vaccinated or otherwise continuing to stay healthy.

I write with some updates about the April meeting. As you know, the 2021 SSS meetings will take a virtual format. While I would have liked nothing more than to greet you all in New Orleans with beads, jambalaya, and a second-line parade, it's just not safe. (Also, I'm allergic to seafood.) So unfortunately we'll miss out on the in-person gathering this year, but I look forward to future meetings when we've turned the corner on this pandemic and it is safe to gather together again.

Going online will not slow us down, however. We've partnered with the platform All in the Loop to provide a virtual conference experience that will be memorable, interesting, and fun. This platform allows the standard virtual options, but will also provide features for members to interact with each other after sessions, network, and otherwise connect. I'm hopeful that we can replicate both the opportunity to share interesting, cutting-edge research, while also offering members ways to get to know

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## From Society President Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield, continued

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each other and form useful relationships and build networks—the magic combination that makes Southerners great. And don't forget about the exciting plenaries—"The Role of Academic Scholarship in Solving Social Problems," and "Past is Prologue: What History Can Tell Us About the Future for Underrepresented Groups," which will pair sociologists with activists and organizers from the New Orleans area to discuss the connections between research and policy. I think these will be valuable conversations that really get us thinking.



It's definitely not the conference I had in mind when I agreed to run for office, but I'm really looking forward to the meeting and having the opportunity to showcase the amazing work our members are doing. So mark your calendars for April 7-10! We'll still laissez bon temps roulez --even if we have to do so from our screens.

See you soon!

Adia

Adia Harvey Wingfield  
Washington University in St. Louis

Presidential Plenaries List (for a full list of conference sessions, visit our [online program](#).)

SESSION 2. Wednesday · 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY: PAST IS PROLOGUE: WHAT CAN HISTORY TELL US ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS Discussants: Mignon Moore, Barnard College; Malaysia Walker, Louisiana Trans Activists

SESSION 88. Thursday · 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY: THE ROLE OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP IN SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS Discussants: Aldon Morris, Northwestern University; Mary Moran, Our Voice Nuestra Voz;

SESSION 169. PRESIDENTIAL TOWNHALL Friday · 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

PRESIDENTIAL HONORS AND CONVOCATION CEREMONY, ANNUAL AWARDS, AND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

## Letter from the Editor, James N. Maples:



As some of our members may have noted (or even experienced), large swaths of Eastern Kentucky recently experienced [catastrophic flooding](#). This includes the Red River Gorge, an area dear to my heart. As is the story of Appalachia, these floods barely made the news beyond our borders.

Hardest hit were some of the poorest areas in my region, including Beattyville, home of the [Woolly Worm Festival](#) for over thirty years. Beattyville is in Lee County, which holds many climbing crags valued by our [thriving climbing community](#) who are often the focus of my research.

I encourage you to consider donating to support places like Beattyville as my neighbors recover. You can donate to the Southeast Kentucky Flood Relief fund by visiting the [Foundation For Appalachian Kentucky's website](#).

This edition of TSS brings valuable well-being advice from our new Grad Office section, a new teaching note from my colleague Lisa Conley, and summaries of articles from *Social Currents*, our Society journal. We also share news from SWS-South, the publications and accomplishments of our members, and information on several upcoming conferences and events, [including one right here in my department](#).

I am grateful for the work of my TSS editorial colleagues. Their dedication and service makes this newsletter possible.

James N. Maples, PhD

Eastern Kentucky University

Nadya Vera is currently a graduate student focusing on environmental sociology at the University of Tennessee. She earned a master's degree in mass communications with an emphasis in public relations at the University of Florida and a bachelor's degree in theater arts at Florida International University. Before her return to academia Nadya managed media relations for animal fighting issues at the Humane Society of the United States in Washington, D.C., and worked as a public health educator for the Washington County Department of Health & Human Services in Hillsboro, Oregon. Nadya lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, with her husband, 3-year-old son, a newborn son, and additional four-legged family members.





## What is *The Grad Office*?

“The Grad Office is a column written for grad students, by grad students. In each issue, we’ll address one or more topics as we (and other graduate students) have experienced them. Most important is our aim to provide you, the reader, with useful information, tools, and resources that are less-formalized within graduate programs. Whether a qualitative or quantitative researcher, first-year or sixth-year, first-gen or not, we want you to have gained something useful!”

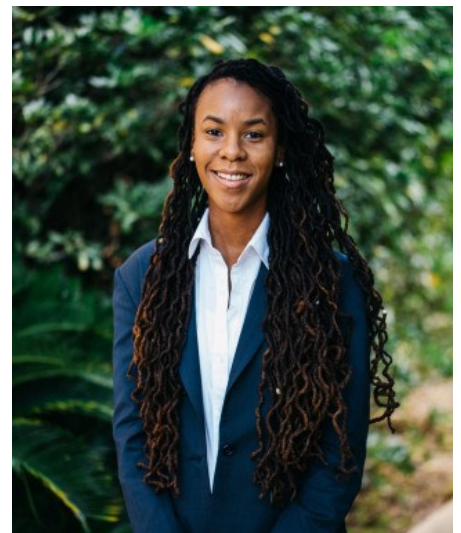
# Welcome to the Grad Office

The Committee on the Status of Students is designed to aid and support all student members of SSS. As a committee, we are here to listen to your concerns, celebrate your successes, and offer support and guidance as you navigate your academic experiences. We will be working closely with TSS to make sure the most pressing topics and issues impacting students at all levels are addressed and highlighted in the newsletter. As we continue to navigate a difficult and stressful time, we hope to foster a sense of community that will serve as a resource for all students. This academic year, we plan to create virtual networking opportunities for students and faculty from different universities and research areas across the discipline. These events will hopefully take place prior to the annual conference, so students will be able to cultivate relationships before we convene for meetings. We encourage students to reach out to us with any concerns or recommendations they might have about improving the student experience within and outside of SSS.

Taylor M. Jackson, M.S.  
Deana Rohlinger, PhD  
Florida State University

Taylor M. Jackson is currently a doctoral candidate in the department of sociology at Florida State University.

Broadly, her research interests are race, gender, work, social media, and mental health. She primarily uses qualitative and digital methods in her work. Her dissertation examines how Black women utilize social media platforms to engage in self-care and cope with racism in their daily lives. She is also interested in how racial, gender, and sexual minorities navigate the workplace and other organizations. Her research is featured in the *Journal of Business Anthropology* and *Social Currents*.



## THE GRADUATE COLUMN: PANDEMIC WOES, JOB MARKET THROES, & APPLIED-WORK KNOWS

By: Rachel Sparkman and Tyler Bruefach

### Virtually the Same? Taking on Conferences During a Pandemic

So far in the Graduate Column, we've discussed the broader and finer points of bolstering the doctoral students' toolkit when considering a nonacademic career path. We first tried to help you get through that awkward dinner-time question, "What're you gonna do with a Sociology degree?" (hopefully, no one asks you that, but maybe it doesn't sting quite as badly anymore!). Our next column featured an assessment of where and how to make yourself more competitive for nonacademic careers. Skills, experience, and knowledge that are specific to certain fields often come from your program, but also extracurricular opportunities.

Now, we turn our attention to the mixed-bag that is conference season. There are plenty of things to love! As sociologists, we enjoy hearing about (and maybe even presenting) interesting, novel research. Yet there are also aspects of the conference that deserve pause. Even when aided by departments and grants, traveling to conferences is expensive for students. Many aspects of the *academic* conference are geared towards the academic sociologist and might feel less important for those seeking applied work (though the presence of applied sociology is growing). Accessibility is certainly an issue for people with financial constraints, caregiving responsibilities, disabilities, and more. But like everything, the pandemic has changed much of what we do and don't love about conferences. Here, we'll assess the similarities and differences between virtual conferences of today to the traditional conferences of the *Before-times*. Some of the purposes for attending conferences remain the same, but the ways to accomplish one's goals might differ! Based on our own experiences and knowledge, we'll do the best we can to provide you with a clear picture of how to do the virtual conference.

Many of the reasons we go to conferences are still "virtually" attainable (see what I did there?) and the degree to which they've changed varies. One reason we attend conferences is to learn about and discuss cutting-edge research skills, novel work, and career pathways. This aspect of the conference has not changed much; pandemic-era conferences have adjusted in ways that make it feasible to attend from our physically-distanced homes (i.e. Zoom), often without fundamental changes to the content or structure of sessions. In some ways, this consistency is a good thing! But attending conference sessions can be exhausting when in-person, let alone attending via Zoom or any other virtual platform. This certainly makes it harder to stay engaged. The same issue also pertains to presenting your own work. It's still important to promote yourself (especially when on the market)! As the presenter, however, you



Rachel Sparkman is a second-year sociology PhD student at Florida State University. She received both bachelor's and master's in Sociology at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Before coming to Florida State, she was a sociology instructor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Her primary research interests include rural sociology, demography, the economy, and spatial inequalities. She is currently interested in looking deeper into structural inequalities rural communities experience, as well as the role immigration and race play with economic vulnerability in small towns. She can be reached at [rsparkman@fsu.edu](mailto:rsparkman@fsu.edu).

have more control over how to structure your content to better-match the virtual environment and attendees' reduced attention-spans. We'll touch on this later because it's crucial to keep your audience engaged. Finally, social networking is a *huge* reason why conferences are even a thing. Academic and applied sociologists alike can connect – even interview – with potential employers and have long-awaited reunions with colleagues. Of the three discussed here, this purpose for attending conferences has changed the most. Much of networking is informal, whereas the virtual interactions we are limited to are nearly all intentional. Those hoping to network in the virtual conference therefore need to proactively seek out opportunities.

All sociology associations (that we know of!) have announced their conferences will be virtual this year (Southern Sociological Society included). If you've experienced Zoom University, presenting and attending won't be too drastically different than what you're used to. But it can feel a little awkward giving a professional presentation from your home. There are a lot of [resources online](#) to help you think through the virtual presentation process and keeping your audience engaged. From our own virtual presentation experience, we suggest practicing on Zoom (or another video platform) so you can get the feel of how your PowerPoint will look while also toggling the additional framing of the "shared screen." Remember to touch base with the presider on how time will be kept and other protocols for the session. Be prepared to present early in case another session presenter is late. Lastly, have your OneNote or notebook ready to write down feedback from the audience. Needs more tips and tricks? You can find 10 tips for giving virtual presentations [here](#). Remember, this is a professional conference presentation with a chance to discuss your research and get your name out there - so dress accordingly from the waist up!

Presenting or not, conferences going virtual has made it easier than ever to attend by removing barriers to accessibility! While some associations have kept their attendance costs, the costs of traveling to the conference have (nearly) disappeared. Additionally, the conference programming looks the same, but now it is easy to fit in more sessions, barring other challenges like Zoom fatigue and caregiver responsibilities. Once programs are made available, find sections and topics you are interested in, use the calendar feature on the online program to make your schedule, and voila! No more running in between sessions, trying to find a seat in the back row, and quietly snacking on your trail mix you thoughtfully packed for this reason. Conferences are also announcing virtual courses and workshops for participants, so continue to keep an eye out for those as programs are finalized. For example, the American Sociological Association is accepting submissions for half- and full-day courses for participants to learn new skills and knowledge, as well as announced there will be workshops on Departmental Leadership and Management, Professional Development, Research and Policy, and Teaching. These are excellent opportunities to start building the skills we discussed in our [last column](#) as well as begin networking in the field!

If you can make it to a virtual conference this year, remember to have fun participating while also *trying* to network. Networking



Tyler Bruefach's research broadly examines the interrelationships between nonmaterial resources and education, health, and disability across the life course. Primarily, his work gauges how psychological resilience develops and shapes health differently across early-life contexts. He is a doctoral student at Florida State University, where he also received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology. He can be reached at [tbruefach@fsu.edu](mailto:tbruefach@fsu.edu).



# Welcome to the Grad Office

always feels a little awkward for graduate students, but conferences (virtual or not) are great opportunities to cultivate relationships. In a more formal capacity, you can volunteer to help with the conference itself (such as presiding over sessions). Look for the associations to send out emails calling for volunteers as the date for the conferences near. Additionally, conferences will sometimes hold mentor/mentee events to connect graduate students and those in the early stages of their career with senior colleagues. Lastly, if you do connect with someone at the virtual conference, or maybe did not have a chance to speak with them, you can always follow up by email after the conference. This is an excellent chance to discuss their research, ask questions, and make that connection to someone in your field.

There are plenty of virtual conferences coming up! We've created a shortlist of conference meetings for you to check out:

## Upcoming virtual conferences:

[39th Annual SouthEastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium \(SEUSS\)](#), March 12-13  
[Southern Sociological Society](#), April 7-10  
[Population Association of America](#), May 5-8  
[Rural Sociological Society](#), sessions running from Spring to August 1  
[American Sociological Association](#), August 6-10

*Need to talk to someone?* Contact the [National Grad Crisis Hotline](#) at (1-877-GRAD-HLP) or by Skype (877-472-3457), or the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) and click on the link to chat or call (1-800-273-8255).

## Membership Renewals and Changes to Membership Year

The 2019 SSS Election changed the membership year. Beginning Jan. 1st, 2020, the SSS membership cycle will follow a calendar year. The new membership year begins on January 1st, 2020.

SSS membership is crucial to the running of the society. The benefits of active membership in SSS include:

- engaging in the governance of the Society;
- eligibility for SSS committee service, grants, and awards;
- receiving announcements about research opportunities and job openings
- instant access to the SSS peer-reviewed journal, *Social Currents* as well as *The Southern Sociologist*, the Society's quarterly newsletter.

SSS welcomes members from diverse scholarly and personal backgrounds.

For more information on the types of memberships offered, please click [here](#).

To check on the status of your dues and/or conference registration, please log into your personal member portal by visiting [here](#).

To renew your dues, please visit [here](#).



# TEACHING CORNER

## Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Naomi Simmons (committee chair, Newberry College)  
Kendra Jason (University of North Carolina Charlotte)  
Sarah Cribbs (Randolph-Macon University)  
Aaron Rowland (University of Tennessee Martin)  
Ramona Olvera (Owens Community College)  
Regine Jackson (Agnes Scott)  
Amy Sorenson (Emory & Henry College)

Sarah Cribbs, Teaching Corner Editor ([sarahcribbs@rmc.edu](mailto:sarahcribbs@rmc.edu))  
Student Editors: Tarah Leake and Mike Avent (Randolph Macon College)

### Introducing, The Nature Experiment: A Reflective Journaling Project Lisa Conley

Now more than ever, it is vital that the work of sociology includes examining our connection with the natural world. The challenges our generation and those who come after us face regarding climate change and its associated global disruptions are legion. These challenges can indeed be tackled by those with an abstract understanding of the human and non-human world. Yet, they will be solved by those who recognize that disconnecting humans from the non-human world is just as problematic as other attempts to assert false hierarchies, mastery, and control—a core element in nearly every social problem we see today.

#### What is The Nature Experiment?

The Nature Experiment is a reflective journaling project that explores the connection between humans, the natural world, our food system, and our reliance upon technology. The format encourages artistic, multimedia responses and culminates with the creation of either a paper portfolio or a digital portfolio that can be shared on a class website. Initially paired with Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods* (2008) and E.O. Wilson's *Biophilia* (1984), the reflections explore the connection between humans and the non-human world. It deepens our understanding of what we lose when we disconnect ourselves from the natural world.

The experiment gives students a creative outlet to connect their lived experiences to the sociological and structural issues discussed in the books and build upon the work we have covered through the course of the year. It is best utilized at the end of the semester as a capstone project that will allow for the application of deeper sociological thinking. This timing is also optimal for trust to

Lisa Conley moved to Melbourne from the US where she earned a PhD in Sociology from the University of Kentucky. She is currently a research fellow at an anti-poverty organization and has worked as an environmental educator; children's safety educator; and has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University. Her doctoral research examined subsistence home-gardening and food preservation practices in rural and urban Kentucky communities.



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have been built so students feel comfortable sharing personal reflections with the instructor. I introduced the experiment in Sociology of the Family courses but it could easily be adapted for many social science courses.

### **From the classroom into the world**

Realizing that many people are questioning our detachment from the natural world, I have recently launched a website and Instagram of the same name which will serve as a place to share teaching resources and to form both virtual and analog communities. [TheNatureExperiment.com](https://www.thenatureexperiment.com) and [@\\_thenatureexperiment\\_](https://www.instagram.com/_thenatureexperiment_) are tools to be used in our journeys of unlearning, reflecting, and reconnecting with the natural world.

For the full assignment template, please visit [www.thenatureexperiment.com](https://www.thenatureexperiment.com)

### **Students overwhelmingly love this project**

Young people tend to go far beyond the expectations outlined for them. One musical student created a MP3 for the class that incorporated birdsong. Another said, “The Nature Experiment was one of the best, most fulfilling assignments of my college career.” Completing it alongside the students and sharing my own reflections seemed to create a sense of trust with the students who, in turn, reciprocated the vulnerability.

### **Reflecting on 2020 and the role of nature**

Here in the state of Victoria, Australia we are now emerging from several months of one of the world’s strictest (and most successful) lockdowns to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Though the restrictions were widely embraced by Victorians as a necessary and temporary hardship, living through the lockdown was a physical, psychological and social challenge.

Perhaps the most nourishing revelation from this period has been an increased appreciation of the natural world. Since March 2020, being outdoors became a balm to our souls. Without the distraction of long commutes, the office cubicle, the post-work happy hour or weekend shopping, most people found themselves with more time and interest in the green spaces within the imposed 5km limit of our homes. The local trees, birds, and flowers took on an elevated role in our lives—we looked to them for peace, pleasure, and calm. Their changing leaves and migrations served as markers of time when we lost ourselves in collective grief and video calls. Isolated from our human network, my partner and I would use our daily exercise to visit our “tree friends”, who there was no rule against hugging.

Growing up as a fifth generation eastern Kentuckian, the natural world was my playground. Like many other Appalachian kids, I spent most of my free time outdoors running and playing in the woods, the vegetable garden, tobacco fields, hay bottoms, and local rivers and streams. In ways that I’ve returned to during the pandemic, the non-human natural world was my teacher and my babysitter. Alongside my dog Betsy, it was also perhaps my closest friend. The deep love for the natural world I developed in Appalachia is a core element of my identity to this day—even halfway around the world.

In the Western scientific sense, this love for the natural world, understood as biophilia, was conceptualised by Erich Fromm and later the subject of a book by naturalist E.O. Wilson. Biophilia, accord-

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ing to Wilson, is “the rich, natural pleasure that comes from being surrounded by living organisms.” Exploring and invoking a sense of biophilia is the aim of The Nature Experiment. The underlying rationale is that we have become disconnected from the natural world, but can reconnect to it through reflection, unlearning, and reassessment. In doing so, we not only learn more about nature, but we also learn more about what we find truly meaningful in our lives.

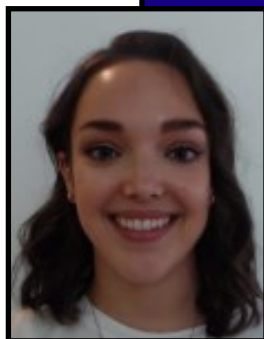
### **Acknowledgement of Country**

I wrote this reflection from my current home in Melbourne, Australia on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. They are the traditional custodians of the land and I pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

### **Meet our Teaching Corner Editorial Staff**



Sarah Cribbs is an associate professor of Sociology, Black Studies affiliate, and Women’s Studies affiliate at Randolph-Macon College, where she teaches courses related to race and ethnic relations, social inequalities and research methodologies. Her research centers primarily on white racial attitudes, including how racial attitudes influence administrative policy decisions, perceptions of racial hierarchies, and access to structural resources. At Randolph-Macon, she serves on the Women’s Studies Council, Black Studies Council, Non-Discrimination Committee, and is the Co-Director of the Honors Program. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon (2011), M.A. from the University of Louisville (2001), and B.A. from Roanoke College (1999).



Tarah Leake is a Student editor for the Teaching Corner. She attends Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia and majors in Sociology. Her academic interests include gender issues, film, and toxic masculinity. In the future, she hopes to work for a nonprofit organization. Tarah has developed communication, problem-solving, and writing skills that all aid in her contribution to The Southern Sociologist.

In this section, graduate student editor Heather Sue McDonald Rosen highlights the work of SWS-South.



## Sociologists for Women in Society - South

### SWS-South News

Professional networking within sociology is increasingly accessible with the continuation of virtual conferencing. There is certainly some benefit to be gained – virtual conferencing alleviates common barriers to travel by reducing the cost of attendance, eliminating the cost of travel, and facilitating participation by members of the disabled community who were previously excluded due to the social or environmental conditions of a physical meeting space. The increased access also threatens to overwhelm those with limited conference or other experience with professional organizations in sociology. Additionally, teaching and attending classes online for most of the past year has demonstrated the potential for virtual communication to become impersonal and isolating for both students and educators.

Educators have worked around these barriers, using things like “breakout groups” to provide students opportunities to interact with fewer classmates at one time. The small-group setting is more personal, and a higher proportion of group members have the opportunity to engage in a given discussion when there are fewer people involved. The benefit of personal connection via communication should not be ignored as we enter the new conference season.

SWS-South provides this connection regularly through ongoing pandemic support programming but will also participate in the upcoming SSS 2021 virtual conference. Our sponsored paper sessions ([program here](#)) are a great opportunity to meet other SWS'ers, and members of SWS-South can participate in a conference mentoring program, the SWS-S Hand Program. Mentorship can be helpful for those who are new to academic conferences or would like to connect to a scholar with similar interests. In the absence of physical networking opportunities, mentorship through the SWS-S Hand Program is one way to foster connection in a vast virtual space. Please email Kimberly Kelly at [kkelly@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:kkelly@soc.msstate.edu) if you are interested in participating in the SSS 2021 mentorship programming as either a mentor or mentee.

Members of SWS-South now have access to year-round mentorship in addition to the SSS conference mentorship program. The mentorship program is meant to provide guidance in a variety of areas, including research, teaching, and the job market. Inquiries should be sent to [naomi.simmons@newberry.edu](mailto:naomi.simmons@newberry.edu) and should specify the role (mentor or mentee) and the areas for which you are seeking/providing mentorship. SWS-South is in the



Heather Sue is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Georgia interested in the connections between medicine, disability, social status, and conflict. Her research investigates the influence of changed relative status on conflicts between doctors and members of the disability community. She holds a BA in Sociology from Auburn University and an MA in Sociology from the University of Georgia. Heather Sue is an active advocate for disability access on campus. She works to facilitate accessible environments for students with chronic illness and disability both in and outside of the classroom.

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process of constructing a resource collection to complement the mentorship program. We are seeking resources related to research, job market, teaching, managing health and self-care, and other resources that are useful for the pursuit of feminist scholarship. Members can email their sources for sharing to [bturgeon@jsu.edu](mailto:bturgeon@jsu.edu).

SWS national provides SWS-South members access to weekly writing and support groups. You can join SWS-South regardless of membership to SWS national; to join or renew your membership, visit <https://socwomen.org/sws-south/>. Student membership is \$5, new faculty membership is \$15, and returning faculty membership is \$20. All membership questions should be directed to the membership chair at [kkelly@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:kkelly@soc.msstate.edu).

Virtual conferencing is here to stay for the foreseeable future. In the wake of last year's SSS conference cancellation, the personal connection that has become a routine part of Spring for so many of us was noticeably absent. I know that I am definitely looking forward to gaining some of that connection back. If you're also looking forward to it, I highly recommend including SWS-South among your personal connections.

In Solidarity,

Heather Sue M. Rosen  
University of Georgia

### **We Want to Hear About You!**

*The Southern Sociologist* wants to help celebrate the Society's amazing members. In each edition, we'll list members' recent publications, career updates, social activism, and more! But to do that, we need to hear from you!

You can submit your news and publications by using our convenient [online form](#). You can paste the work directly from your CV.

TSS is also happy to include write-ups for major events (such as faculty retirements and transitions) from our membership. Contact [TSS editor James Maples](#) for more information.



## News and Highlights from *Social Currents*

Graduate student editor Kelsey Mischke (NC State) highlights news and articles from *Social Currents*, the official journal of our Society.

[Social Currents](#) is the official journal of the Southern Sociological Society. It publishes cutting-edge research from all methodological and theoretical orientations in sociology and the social sciences more broadly. *Social Currents* always welcomes submissions and features a fast turn-around time. In addition to publishing traditional journal length articles, *Social Currents* is unique in publishing shorter front-end theoretical agenda setting and policy-related pieces (approximately 4,000 words).

*Social Currents* is seeking a new editor or editorial team to begin a three year term that will run from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024. Details can be found on the [Southern Sociological Society's website](#). Thank you to the departing editors, Dr. George Wilson and Dr. Martha Crawley, for their service.

**Becker, Sarah, and Justine E. Tinkler. 2021. “This is My Girl’: How Men’s Desires Obscure Women’s Sexual Aggression Experiences in Public Drinking Settings.” *Social Currents* 8(1):86-101. [\[Abstract\]](#)** How do young men and women define and experience nonconsensual sexual contact in public drinking spaces? Analyzing data from 198 peer interviews with college-aged men and women, Becker and Tinkler find that women routinely experience sexual contact and physical coercion from men in bar settings. Women normalize these experiences; they define sexual contact as unwanted only when men act aggressively or are physically threatening. Few men reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact and their experiences were qualitatively different. Men were also able to immediately stop undesirable interactions while women typically told stories of prolonged interactions where nonconsent was ignored. Both men’s and women’s stories centered men’s experiences. Women’s consent (or lack thereof) and experiences were invisible compared to men’s feelings of ownership over women’s bodies and other men’s reactions to the situation. Both men and women described sexual aggression as the cause of men’s violence toward other men rather than characterizing it as violence in its own right. The normalization of men’s sexual aggression toward women in barrooms and the focus on men’s feelings of ownership reinforces patriarchal power dynamics that privilege men and discourages bystander intervention. Findings may be useful for bystander intervention training.

**Parris, Christie L., Karen A. Hegtvedt, and Cathryn Johnson. 2021. “Assessments of Environmental Injustice among Black Americans.” *Social Currents* 8(1):45-63. [\[Abstract\]](#)** How do black American’s identities and experiences shape their views on environmental injustice? Drawing on survey data, Parris,



**Kelsey Mischke** is a fourth-year graduate student at NC State University in Raleigh. Her primary research interests include gender, inequality, the body/embodiment, emotions, identity, symbolic interactionism, and qualitative methods. Using data collected through life history interviews with female bodybuilders, her thesis research examined how negative reflected appraisals—our interpretations of others' reactions to us—and peer and media comparisons cultivate feelings of body dissatisfaction that act as catalysts for participants' involvement in body projects—activities aimed at transforming the body. She is also interested in health and the sociology of work. In her free time, she powerlifts and dabbles in strong(hu)man events.

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Hegtvedt, and Johnson test how black Americans beliefs in the fragility of the environment, experiences with discrimination, environmental identity, and black identity influence their beliefs in distributive environmental injustice (that environmental harms are distributed unfairly) and procedural environmental justice (that the procedures distributing harms are fair). They find that beliefs in the fragility of the environment and black identity strongly predict assessments of distributive and procedural environmental (in)justice. Black identity is the strongest predictor of individuals' views. Experiences of environmental harms predict evaluations of distributive environmental injustice, but not procedural environmental justice. This research demonstrates how individual-level factors shape environmental justice attitudes, and the heterogeneity of beliefs among black Americans. Fruitful opportunities for future research include examining other factors that may shape justice assessments, the processes that underlie these patterns, and the emotional and behavioral implications of justice assessments.

**Eife, Erin. 2020. "No Justice, No Peace? Protest Participation for People with Criminal Legal Contact." *Social Currents Online* First:1-19. [[Abstract](#)]** While previous research has examined the relationship between criminal legal (CL) contact and voting behavior, little is known about how CL contact may influence protest participation. Analyzing data from the 2014 Chicago Area Study, Eife tests the relationship between CL contact and protest participation within the last 5 years. Results show that, in general, people with CL contact are equally as likely as those without CL contact to engage in political protests. Black respondents with CL contact are more likely to participate in protests than both non-Black (white and Hispanic) people with CL contact and Black people without CL contact. This suggests the importance of personal perceived injustice as a motivation for political participation. Future research might more closely examine the relationship between CL contact, race, and political participation, especially the mediating roles membership in a civil society organization and news consumption might play.

### **SWS-S Membership Information**

Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) is a regional chapter of the national organization Sociologists for Women in Society. We sponsor research presentations, teaching sessions, and professional workshops at annual meetings. We host a silent auction that takes place during a coffee and dessert reception. The proceeds from the auction go to a local organization serving women in need. Interested in joining?

Our membership year runs from April 1 – March 31 and dues are relatively inexpensive (\$15 for faculty; \$5 for students and unemployed members). You can become a member [online](#) or look for us at the SSS annual conference!

## Membership Accomplishments and Publications

In this section, Manny Ramirez (University of Connecticut) lists recent work and accomplishments by our members. [Click here to submit your news!](#)

### Recent Publications from Our Membership:

#### Aging and the Life Course

Ritter, Lacey J., and Alexandra C.H. Nowakowski. 2021. *Sexual Deviance in Health and Aging: Uncovering Later Life Intimacy*. Lexington Books.

#### Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Boucher, J. L., A. M. Levenda, J. Morales-Guerrero, M. M. Macias, and D. M. A. Karwat. 2020. "Establishing a Field of Collaboration for Engineers, Scientists, and Community Groups: Incentives, Barriers, and Potential." *Earth's Future* 8(10):1–19.

Boucher, Jean Léon, Garfield T. Kwan, Gina R. Ottoboni, and Mark S. McCaffrey. 2021. "From the Suites to the Streets: Examining the Range of Behaviors and Attitudes of International Climate Activists." *Energy Research & Social Science* 72:101866.

Gaby, Sarah. 2020. "Reconfiguring Organizational Commitments: Boundary Crossing in Civic Groups." *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*. (31): 1121–1133.

#### Crime, Law, and Deviance

Bolden, Christian L. 2020. *Out of the Red: My Life of Gangs, Prison, and Redemption*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

"McGlynn-Wright, Anne, Robert D. Crutchfield, Martie L. Skinner and Kevin P. Haggerty. "The Usual, Racialized, Suspects: The Consequence of Police Contacts with Black and White Youth on Adult Arrest." *Social Problems*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa042>"

Schlosser, Jennifer A. 2020. *Prison Stories: Women Scholars' Experiences Doing Research Behind Bars*. Rowman & Littlefield.

#### Environmental Sociology

Holt, William. 2020. "Hidden in Plain Site: Public Perceptions of Environmental Justice in the 35th Avenue North Birmingham Superfund Site." *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 20(4):357–82.

#### Family

Knox, David, Caroline Schacht, and I. Joyce Chang. 2021. *Choices in Relationships*, 13th ed. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

#### History of Sociology

Earl Wright II. 2020. *Jim Crow Sociology: The Black and Southern Roots of American Sociology*. Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati Press



**Manuel Ramirez** is a second year sociology Ph.D. student at the University of Connecticut studying race, racism, and immigration. He earned a master's degree in Sociology from the University of South Florida where he focused on whiteness at comic book conventions and the racial discourses and ideologies among cosplayers. His current work, alongside Dr. Fae Chubin, is a comparative study that examines how state practices and political discourse racialize Latin American migrants and Palestinian protesters within settler colonial white supremacist contexts. Manuel is currently preparing for his area exams and dissertation proposal while instructing courses like *Social Problems and Race*, *Class and Gender*. He can be reached at [manuel.ramirez@uconn.edu](mailto:manuel.ramirez@uconn.edu).

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### Inequality, Poverty, Mobility

Havewala, Ferzana. 2020. "The Dynamics Between the Food Environment and Residential Segregation: An Analysis of Metropolitan Areas." *Food Policy*: 102015.

Hossain, Md Belal, Michael A. Long, and Paul B. Stretesky. 2021. "Welfare State Spending, Income Inequality and Food Insecurity in Affluent Nations: A Cross-National Examination of OECD Countries." *Sustainability* 13(1): 324.

### Medical Sociology

Bateman, Lori Brand, Laura Heider, Selwyn M. Vickers, William A. Anderson, Anthony C. Hood, Evelyn Jones, Corilyn Ott, Sequoya Eady, and Mona N. Fouad. "Barriers to Advancement in Academic Medicine: the Perception Gap Between Majority Men and Other Faculty." *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (2021): 1-7. (Published online ahead of print.)

### Methodology

Blackwell, Rebecca and William Force. 2020. "Donileen Loseke," in *SAGE Research Methods Foundations*, edited by P. Atkinson, S. Delamont, A. Cernat, J. Sakshaug, and R. Williams. doi:10.4135/9781526421036896556

Sims, Jennifer Patrice and Cassandra Nolen. 2021. "I Wouldn't Trust the Parents to 'Do No Harm' to a Queer Kid: Rethinking Parental Permission Requirements for Youth Participation in Social Science Research." *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, doi:10.1177/1556264620983134.

### Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Gaby, Sarah, David Cunningham, Hedwig Lee, Geoff Ward, and Ashley N. Jackson. 2021. "Exculpating Injustice: Coroner Constructions of White Innocence in the Postbellum South." *Socius*.

Li, Yao and Nicholson, Harvey L., Jr. 2021. "When 'Model Minorities' Become 'Yellow Peril'—Othering and the Racialization of Asian Americans in the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Sociology Compass*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12849>.

### Sex and Gender

Kao, Ying-Chao. 2020. Book Review of *Vulnerability Politics: The Uses and Abuses of Precarity in Political Debate* by Katie Oliviero. *American Journal of Sociology* 125(6):1716–19.

### Sociology of Culture

Dowd, James. 2020. *Social Life in the Movies: How Hollywood Imagines War, Romance, Aging, Schools, and Social Inequality*. Routledge

### Sociology of Sexualities

Knox, David and Susan Milstein. 2021. *Human Sexuality: Making Informed Decisions*. 6th ed. Redding, California: BVT Publishing.

### Sociology of Sports/Outdoor Recreation

Kilburn, Lauren, Michael Bradley, and James N. Maples. 2021. "The Economic Impact of Paradise Cove Aquatic Center in Richmond, Kentucky." *Kentucky Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship*.

Sharp, Ryan L., Michael J. Bradley, and James N. Maples. 2020. "Who Has the Right-of-Way? Equity and Economics of Off-Highway Vehicle Use in Eastern Kentucky." *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 26(2) 191-208.



*(Continued from page 16)*

Maples, James N., Michael J. Bradley, and Natasha Hacker. 2020. "Economic Impact of Paddling on the Kentucky River near Fort Boonesborough State Park." *SHAPE* 58(1):9-21.

Bradley, Michael J, James N. Maples, and Ryan L. Sharp. 2020. "Identifying Perceived Barriers to Social Equity and Equal Access in Kentucky State Parks." *SHAPE* 57(2):18-27.

Clark, Brian G., James N. Maples, and Ryan L. Sharp. 2020. "Awareness and Application of Minimum Impact Practices among Rock Climbers in the Red River Gorge, Kentucky." *Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education* 23 73-86.

Teaching and Learning in Sociology

Gullette, Gregory and Marni Brown. 2021. *Experiential Learning on the Inequities Confronted by Immigrant and Refugee Communities*. General Anthropology (In Press).

Santellano, Karina, Kimberly Higuera, and Felicia Arriaga. 2020. "Latina Educators in Sociology: Combating Trumpism with Critical Pedagogy." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649220977569>.

**New Job positions/promotions, Recent awards, nominations, grants/fellowships, media appearances, retirements, social activism, and other news**

Christian L. Bolden won the 2020 Frank Tannenbaum Outstanding Book Award—Division of Convict Criminology, American Society of Criminology.

Patti Giuffre is the new Assistant Dean of the Graduate College at Texas State University.

Guest Editors Marni Brown (Georgia Gwinnett College), Samantha Nousak (Kent State University), and Tiffany Taylor (Kent State University) are calling for abstracts for their Sociation special issue titled, "Disability, Invisible and Visible, in the Wake of COVID-19": <https://sociation.ncsociologyassoc.org/elementor-484/>.

James Maples was granted a research sabbatical at Eastern Kentucky University for 2020-2021. His work will examine the history of flooding in the Red River Gorge region and the history of the failed Red River Dam proposals.

Jennifer Patrice Sims and Chinelo Njaka won the 2020 Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award from the Mid-South Sociological Association for *Mixed-Race in the US and UK: Comparing the Past, Present, and Future* (Emerald Publishing).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

## Have an announcement to make?

Please submit it to graduate student editor Jason D'Amours (Florida State University) by clicking [here](#). As TSS is published quarterly, please send announcements well in advance of any deadlines for submission.

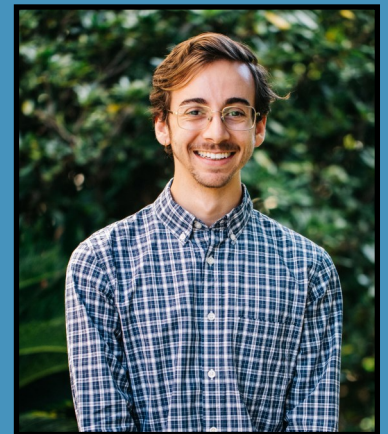
### CALL FOR EDITORS: *Social Currents*

*Social Currents* is seeking a new editor or editorial team to begin a three-year term that will run from January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2024, with the transition between editorial offices beginning summer 2021. *Social Currents* is the official journal of the Southern Sociological Society and publishes six issues a year. The journal is a broad-ranging social science journal that focuses on cutting-edge research from all methodological and theoretical orientations with implications for national and international sociological communities. The uniqueness of *Social Currents* lies in its format. The front end of every issue is devoted to short, theoretical, agenda-setting contributions and brief, empirical and policy-related pieces. The back end of every issue includes standard journal articles that cover topics within specific subfields of sociology, as well as across the social sciences more broadly. Currently the journal receives approximately 200 submissions per year and accepts about 20% of its submissions.

Candidates for the editorship must be members of the Southern Sociological Society and must be tenured professors in an academic institution or hold an equivalent role in a non-academic setting. We welcome proposals from sole editors or teams. Editors should have an outstanding record of scholarship; offer a vision for the journal's future as well as an understanding of its unique format; possess a familiarity with diverse methodological approaches; and provide evidence of strong organizational skills. Candidates with previous editorial experience are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications should be no more than five pages and should include: (a) a vision statement that describes the journal's strengths, challenges, and the editor/editorial team's plans to maintain and ideally raise the journal's standing, (b) detailed information about the editor/editorial team, including a summary of skills and qualifications for the position; philosophy for establishing the editorial board; ability to offer guidance and support to authors submitting manuscripts; and plans for balancing editorial duties with their institutional responsibilities (e.g., course releases, potential deputy and managing editors), and (c) a very precise description of how the office will function, e.g., who will be responsible for selecting review-

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Jason D'Amours is a doctoral student at Florida State University interested in the sociology of sexualities, medicine, and social movements. He is currently working on his master's thesis exploring the intersection of HIV/AIDS activism and the changing landscape of HIV prevention. He can be reached at [jdamours@fsu.edu](mailto:jdamours@fsu.edu).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

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ers, how to ensure that authors receive decisions in a prompt and timely fashion. Applications that propose co-editors at different institutions should specifically address how editorial tasks will be divided between editors and institutions and in which institution(s) the editorial staff will be located.

The publications committee will begin reviewing applications starting April 1, 2021. We will offer a recommendation to the SSS Executive Committee by June 1, 2021. Please send completed applications to Gayle Kaufman at [gakaufman@davidson.edu](mailto:gakaufman@davidson.edu).

## **CALL FOR PAPERS *Journal of Professions and Organization***

### **Special Issue on: Diversity and Inclusion in Changing Professional Organizations**

**Issue Editors: Swethaa Ballakrishnen, David Brock, and Elizabeth Gorman**

Contemporary scholars have shed considerable light on processes of gender, racial-ethnic, and social class inequality in traditional professional organizations. Yet much has happened over the past two or three decades to reshape contexts for professional services, as well as the kinds of individuals who populate them. Alongside older organizational forms, there have been shifts to institutionalize new kinds of work resulting in larger and more bureaucratic organizational logics across professional fields. Many have established different kinds of transnational presences with continuing implications for the interrelated relationships between the local and the global across sites. Liberalized regulatory structures in many countries permit new organizational structures and forms of ownership. Artificial intelligence and information technology have replaced and transformed the work that professionals once have done and/or need to do much longer. New occupations that lack longstanding professional traditions, such as data scientists and project managers, are now providing “professional” knowledge-based services. These structural changes have, in turn, had important effects on individual capacities, outcomes, and experiences. At the broadest levels, inequality in income, status, and autonomy within professions has grown. At the same time, there have been new kinds of inequities buttressed as progress, and new rewards to interactional capital. The demographics of the kinds of individuals who seek (and are sought within) these professional milieus are changing, strategic corporate investments as they relate to global social movements have begun to offer new kinds of opportunities, and these changes have resulted in corresponding changes within professional experiences and environments.

We welcome submissions that address different levels of analysis (individual, firm, interactional, field) and make use of a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. We especially encourage authors who investigate new forms of inequality, new managerial and organizational approaches to diversity and inclusion, and research on sites that are transnational, comparative, and/or global. If you have questions about whether your project might be a fit, please reach out to one or more of the guest editors ([sballakrishnen@law.uci.edu](mailto:sballakrishnen@law.uci.edu), [dmb@bgu.ac.il](mailto:dmb@bgu.ac.il), [eg5n@virginia.edu](mailto:eg5n@virginia.edu)). The submission deadline for full papers is June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Manuscripts should be submitted [here](#), and for more information about *Journal of Professions and Organizations* visit their [webpage](#).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

## **CALL FOR PAPERS *Social Problems* Special Issue on: The Lives (and Futures) of Black Children and Youth    Issue Editors: Derrick Brooms and Marcelle Medford**

*Social Problems* invites submissions for a special issue on the lives and futures of Black children and youth, focused on how their lives are impacted by various structures and social institutions while also appreciating their needs and development. The editors of this special issue are interested in manuscripts that are centered on the humanity, promise, and well-being of Black children and youth. That is, while they may face a number of challenges—in their lives, in their communities, across institutions—the goal is not simply to point to these problems (or even them as problems) but to nuance and deepen our understanding of how Black children and youth, and perhaps their families, remain agentic and pursue their possibilities. Additionally, we desire papers that offer theoretical sophistication and analytic rigor and are geared toward social justice in all areas relevant to the broader mission of *Social Problems* and its parent organization, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

Papers are limited to a maximum of 35 pages including references. Extra material including, tables, figures, photos, appendices, etc., should be kept to a minimum. All manuscripts should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font and double-spaced (including indented quotes and references). Leave one-inch margins. Avoid the generic use of male nouns or pronouns. All manuscripts are subject to the normal anonymous peer-review process. The deadline for submitting papers is Friday, April 30, 2021. Please submit papers through the online [submission portal](#) and choose “Black Children Special Issue” at “step 6” of the submission process. If you have any questions concerning this special issue please contact [Derrick Brooms](#) and/or [Marcelle Medford](#).

## **STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

The Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association (A-MSA) invites students to submit papers for its annual student paper competitions – one for undergraduate students and one for graduate students (MA or PhD). The competitions are open to all students currently attending (part-time or full-time) a community college or university in the states of Alabama or Mississippi. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first (\$150), second (\$100), and third place (\$50) winners in each competition.

The authors of three undergraduate and three graduate papers will be selected as finalists by a panel of judges and be required to present their papers in a public Zoom conference on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 3-5pm (CDT). Awards for each competition will be announced following the presentations.

Submissions are due by Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11:59pm. All student authors who submit a paper for the competition will receive a free one-year membership in A-MSA. For more information and the submission form, visit [here](#).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

## **CONFERENCE :The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium (SEUSS)**

**Topic: 2021 Pandemic Problems: The Sociologist's Perspective**

**March 12-13, 2021 virtually at Morehouse College, Atlanta GA**

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual SEUSS will be held Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, 2021 virtually at Morehouse College. The Symposium provides undergraduate students a unique opportunity to participate in a professional meeting. Students may present a paper or a panel. Any area of sociological significance is welcome. Students who submit full papers by the February 19, 2021 deadline will be eligible for an *Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research* (1<sup>st</sup> place \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$75, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50) and have their papers published in *Challenge OnLine*, the interdisciplinary journal of Morehouse College. All presenters receive a *Certificate of Professional Participation* and all abstracts are published in the *Symposium Proceedings*.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts has passed. For more information and updates visit [here](#).

## **CONFERENCE: Environment, Health, and Justice in Appalachia: Annual Eastern Kentucky University Undergraduate Research Symposium Thursday April 22nd 8 AM – 12 PM      Online Event (Zoom invite to follow)**

EKU Sociology is excited to host our second annual Undergraduate Research Symposium! Social science undergraduate and graduate students and faculty of Kentucky are encouraged to submit a paper to present on Earth Day in a Zoom session or Zoom roundtable.

While we certainly encourage papers around our topic of Environment, Health, and Justice in Appalachia, research and discussions on any aspect of social science will be gladly accepted. Feel free to contact Alison Buck [alison.buck@eku.edu](mailto:alison.buck@eku.edu) for more information.

Please submit a short abstract (50-150 words) and be prepared to select keywords that represent the key ideas in your paper. Abstracts are due by April 1st and can be submitted at [https://eku.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8cVTorjoCjE4VU1](https://eku.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cVTorjoCjE4VU1)

The Southern Sociological Society (SSS) is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards and by encouraging:

- (a) effective teaching of sociology;
- (b) valid and reliable methods of research in the study of human society;
- (c) diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems;
- (d) cooperation with related disciplines and groups;
- (e) recruitment and training of sociologists; and
- (f) development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies.

Members receive online access to *The Southern Sociologist* and *Social Currents*: The Official Journal of the Southern Sociological Society. An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April.

Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly to the Executive Officer. Please include your name, address, phone number, and institution. The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes and annual dues are:

Sustaining.....	120.00
Regular .....	60.00
Emeritus.....	no cost
Student .....	25.00
Department.....	varies by institution type

Dues, subscriptions, membership inquiries, and address changes should be addressed to:

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## **THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST**

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***The Southern Sociologist*** (TSS) is the official publication of the Southern Sociological Society. It is typically published electronically four times a year in the months of May, September, January, and March. The purpose of TSS is to report the news, announcements, and information of interest to the profession and to serve as a medium of communication for the SSS membership on issues affecting the profession.

### **CONTRIBUTE TO TSS**

To bring you the news, I need your news! Please

send any news of your department and/or colleagues for possible publication in TSS. Articles pertaining to the state of the profession or the discipline are also welcome. To appear in TSS, submissions should be sent to James Maples ([James.Maples@eku.edu](mailto:James.Maples@eku.edu)) by the publication deadlines below.

The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish any submission. Also, there may be times when submissions need to be edited in conjunction with the author.

### **Publication Deadlines**

June 10  
September 10  
December 10  
February 10

