

**Southern Sociological Society  
2023 Annual Meeting**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**“I Will Find A Way or Make One”:  
Embracing and Advancing the American South’s Tradition  
of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism**

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
Sheraton Myrtle Beach  
March 29 - April 1, 2023

**Submission Deadline: November 4, 2022**

**President**

Earl Wright II, Rhodes College

**Program Co-Chairs**

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Johnson C. Smith University  
DeMond Miller, Rowan University

**Theme: “I Will Find A Way or Make One”: Embracing and Advancing the American South’s Tradition of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism**

Narratives on the origin and development of sociology in the United States largely focus on the individual and institutional exploits of scholars located at Midwestern and Northeastern institutions. Only recently have scholars seriously investigated the role of Southern-based scholars and institutions on the discipline’s emergence and development. Had our sights been set on the South we would have learned long ago that this region was consequential to our understanding and applications of the discipline. We would have known long ago that Southern sociologists and institutions were the first to embrace the discipline, establish methodological practices now commonplace in research studies and publications, and produce people-centric and public-facing scholarship we now call scholar-activism and public sociology. The American South’s significance to sociology has a long and rich tradition that continues to this day.

This year’s theme, “I Will Find A Way or Make One!: Embracing and Advancing the American South’s Tradition of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism,” is an invitation to those located in or engaged with research on the American South to show how their work continues the efforts of early Southern sociologists to impact the discipline through theory, methods, and substantive topical areas including, but not limited to, gender & sexuality, health & medicine, race, regionalism, and rural sociology. We welcome your participation as we celebrate this region’s past and, more importantly, *map the discipline’s future* through dynamic research that engages with “everyday people” in ways that address the many challenges facing this nation and world.

The American South has long been the bellwether for this nation's future direction(s). Let us, as Southern sociologists, again meet the challenge of using science to confront the pressing issues of this moment and lead the way toward societal transformations that positively impact the life chances and life outcomes of our fellow Americans. This is our legacy. This is our charge. This is our responsibility!

### **A Note About COVID**

We are excited to plan an in-person 2023 conference. Conference attendees will be required to be fully vaccinated and to upload their vaccination card in order to attend the conference. "Fully vaccinated" means all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you given your age and health status. Masks will also be required in the annual meeting spaces - presenters are encouraged to wear masks during their presentations as well. SSS will encourage all members to test before coming to the annual meeting, to monitor their symptoms during SSS 2023, and to test at the conference if there is reason to do so - we will have onsite COVID plans ready for the various possibilities. We understand that the COVID situation is fluid, particularly with the development of highly contagious variants. As such, SSS Executive Committee will be monitoring the situation and will make alterations if necessary.

In addition, the Sheraton Myrtle Beach is currently enforcing increased cleaning schedules and encouraging masks for those who are not vaccinated. SSS will be closely monitoring the situation as it develops.

### **Submission Deadline** **Tuesday, November 4, 2022 at midnight EST**

### **Submission Details**

The SSS annual meeting is constructed entirely out of member submissions. Submissions are considered from the breadth and depth of the discipline regardless of the theme of the conference. At SSS there are three submission types: individual papers, poster presentations, and full session proposals.

Important notes: The information provided through the submission portal will appear exactly as it is entered (including capitalization). Therefore, enter your paper title, name, and affiliation as you wish it to appear in the program. Also, time slots are limited, thus, participants may serve in no more than two presentation roles (author of a paper, panel participant, workshop leader, poster presenter, etc.). There are no restrictions on the number of times a participant may serve as a session presider or discussant.

*1) Individual Papers:* You may submit extended abstracts of individual papers for potential inclusion in a regular paper session. These abstracts will be organized into sessions by members of the Program Committee on the basis of common themes. All regular paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper, (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author, and (c) an extended abstract. Extended abstracts should be approximately 400-450 (max. 450) words and organized with the suggested three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings.

2) *Poster Presentations*: You may submit abstracts for inclusion in a poster session. All poster submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper, (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author, and (c) a brief abstract (max 250 words). Posters should display relevant objectives, theory, methods, results, and conclusions in a way that is accessible (readable from a distance of six feet) and visually appealing. Easels, clips, and backing boards are provided by SSS. Your poster should not exceed 30" x 40".

3) *Full Session Proposals*: All full session proposals must include a short abstract (max. 450 words) detailing the theme of the proposed session. This should include a brief description of the session's prospective broad appeal and/or connections with the 2023 meeting theme of invisibility. All areas of sociology are welcome! If the session is being submitted on behalf of an SSS Committee (or multiple committees), include this information in the session title. Additionally, you must include full details for all participants including: submission title, submission type, abstract, three keywords, name, institution, email, and position. Participants include the presider and organizer, in addition to the presenters or panelists, and discussant, if included.

4) *Special Sessions*: Members can submit ideas for a range of other special sessions, including workshops, mini-conferences, and Author-Meets-Curious-Readers (AMCR), among others. AMCR sessions spotlight books with broad enthusiasm across SSS membership. AMCRs may be self-nominated and should include three to four potential 'curious readers'. Proposals for workshops on a range of topics like social change, pedagogy, methodology, networking, and publishing, for example, will be considered too. Proposals for AMCRs and workshop sessions should be sent directly to the program co-chairs for consideration and follow the guidelines described above under *Full Session Proposals*.

Members are encouraged to submit to "[Sessions Seeking Papers.](#)" which will be updated and subsequently circulated as a digest on a weekly basis.

### **Submission and Registration Procedures**

Anyone attending the meeting or listed in the program *must be a current dues-paying member of SSS* (with the exception of undergraduate observers and presenting undergraduate affiliates of SSS Departmental Members). All program participants (presenters, presiders, discussants, panelists, etc.) must also be registered for the annual meeting. Please note that conference attendees are strongly encouraged to pre-register for SSS 2023 on or before March 1, 2023. Those who register after this date will pay increased on-site registration fees. You may join/renew your SSS membership, submit abstracts, and pre-register for the conference from our website: <https://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

### **Hotel Information**

Book your room at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach using this [link](#). Web-based reservations are preferred but you may also call 1-888-627-8203 to reserve a room - simply mention that it is for the "Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting". The SSS conference rate is \$169. Deadline for booking within the SSS Annual Meeting room block rate is March 6, 2023. However, the room block often fills up well before this cut-off date.

Please direct conference program questions to: [program@southernsociologicalsociety.org](mailto:program@southernsociologicalsociety.org).  
Questions regarding membership or registration should be directed to:  
[webmaster@southernsociologicalsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@southernsociologicalsociety.org).