

## Digest #2: Sessions Seeking Papers

Dear SSS members,

We hope your summer break was restful and that you are ready to start the academic year! It's never too early to begin planning how you will contribute to our 2023 meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – especially, if you (and other colleagues) are engaged in innovative work our members and the larger sociological community can benefit from. Now is the time to consider organizing a session, or sessions, that highlight specific and important areas of research. This year's conference is being developed with a bottom-up focus that encourages the submission of important and interesting works even if they do not relate to the conference theme. So, if you are doing research your SSS colleagues should be aware of please consider organizing a session around that topic.

### Sessions Seeking Papers (as of September 9th, 2022)

This weekly digest will highlight sessions seeking papers. To submit a session seeking papers, please visit [this form](#). We encourage members to submit their SSPs by Thursday of each week in order to appear in the next week's digest. These will then be featured in our weekly digest until submissions are due. For any individual submissions, please [click here](#).

1. Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Digital Spaces
2. Benefits and Challenges of Joint Sociology/Criminal Justice/Criminology Programs
3. Product and Process: Using Creative Sociology as a Tool for Public Engagement

#### 1. Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Digital Spaces

In recent years, we have seen new technologies change the way we live our lives – for many, the pandemic accelerated this process. At the same time, shifts in economics, legislation, the workplace, popular culture, and social media have led to increasing appreciation of the diversity present in gender and sexual expressions. In this session, we are interested in how these shifts in both technology and social awareness overlap and have influenced each other. We welcome submissions that explore issues related to sex, gender, and/or sexuality within digital spaces (broadly defined as online media that is accessed using a computer, smart phone, tablet, or other internet-connected device). Digital media can involve user-to-user communication, like social media, video games, dating sites, and webinars; mass/informational media, such as ebooks, mobile apps, websites, blogs, podcasts, and streaming video sites; and even wearable technologies, like smart watches and virtual reality. In line with this year's conference theme, we strongly encourage proposals that seek to empower non-normative expressions of sex, gender, and/or

sexuality through digital media. Topics are not limited to, but may include: constructions of sex, gender, and/or sexuality online; representations of sex, gender, and/or sexuality in digital mass media; methods for studying sex, gender, and/or sexuality in digital spaces; intersections of sex, gender, and/or sexuality with other identities in digital media; the role digital media plays in shaping personal and public ideas about sex, gender, and/or sexuality. Please send submissions to Katie Pridgen (kpridgen@concord.edu) by October 31st, 2022.

## **2. Benefits and Challenges of Joint Sociology/Criminal Justice/Criminology Programs**

The study of crime has always been an important part of teaching sociology. As the popularity of crime-related sociology courses has increased over time, so too have requests for sociology departments to develop and house criminology and/or criminal justice programs. Although sociology and criminology are most often recognized as closely related, mutually beneficial fields of study, criminal justice has endured more criticism from academics. Indeed, the shift toward joint sociology-criminal justice programs left many sociology faculty concerned that the study of crime within their departments would lose its “sociological focus” and “scientific liberal arts tradition” as a result of emphasizing vocationally-oriented skills over critical thinking, problem solving, and the broader perspective that structural inequities are at the root of social problems (ASA 2010).

As such, we are seeking panelists who teach in sociology departments that also have new or established programs (e.g., majors, minors, concentrations) in Criminal Justice and/or Criminology. Specifically, we seek panelists who are willing to open a dialogue around both the benefits and challenges of joint sociology/criminal justice/criminology programs as related to 1) the short- and long-term impacts of joint programs on departmental resources, and 2) the integration of core sociology courses (e.g., theory, research methods, statistics) into the criminal justice/criminology curricula. Each participating panelist should be prepared to provide a short overview of their own background with this topic. We will then open the panel up for audience questions and broader discussion.

If you are interested in participating in this panel session, please submit the following information by October 14th, 2022 to Lisa Winters (lwinters@coastal.edu). In your email please include: 1) Your name, position, and affiliation 2) Your teaching/research focus 3) A short description (300-500 words) detailing how your unique knowledge/experience would contribute to the panel 4) SSS Membership Status Note: Policy requires all participants listed in the program to be a current member of SSS and be registered for the annual meeting. You may join/renew your SSS membership and pre-register for the conference at: <https://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/> References ASA Task Force on Sociology and Criminology. 2010. Report of the ASA Task Force on Sociology and

Criminology Programs. Retrieved September 4, 2022  
([www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/ASA\\_TF\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.asanet.org/documents/teaching/pdfs/ASA_TF_Report_FINAL.pdf)).

### **3. Product and Process: Using Creative Sociology as a Tool for Public Engagement**

There is growing recognition that the sociological imagination may be “crafted in and with fiction” and that creative writing in all forms may serve as a medium through which sociologists can more easily reach and engage a public audience (Watson 2016; Watson 2021). In this session, we will explore the marriage between sociology and creative writing as both a product and a process. As such, we welcome proposals from sociologists who engage creative writing as an alternative to traditional methods of teaching and publishing. Submissions may include original short fiction, poetry, and/or creative non-fiction that demonstrate important sociological concepts, theory, and research. Proposals describing unique pedagogical exercises that require sociology students to analyze or write literary texts are also welcome. In line with this year’s conference theme, we strongly encourage proposals that highlight the importance of engaging audiences both inside and outside of the academy. Topics may include but are not limited health care, criminal justice reform, environmental justice, gun violence, immigration, and identity-based discrimination. If you are interested in participating in this paper session, please submit the following information by October 14th, 2022 to Lisa Winters ([lwinters@coastal.edu](mailto:lwinters@coastal.edu)).

In your email please include:

1. Submission Title, Abstract, and Three Keywords
2. Name, Position, and Institution
3. SSS Membership Status

Note: Policy requires all participants listed in the program to be a current member of SSS and be registered for the annual meeting. You may join/renew your SSS membership and pre-register for the conference at:  
<https://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

Collegially!  
Program Committee, 2022-2023

*Please direct conference program questions to  
[program@southernsociologicalsociety.org](mailto:program@southernsociologicalsociety.org)*

*Questions regarding society membership or registration should be directed  
to [webmaster@southernsociological.org](mailto:webmaster@southernsociological.org)*