

## EXTRA! EXTRA!: Sociological Sessions Generating a BUZZ

Excitement and buzz are in the air for engaging research sessions highlighting contemporary issues. Members of the Southern Sociological Society remain on the cutting edge of scholarly endeavors. With a series of new sessions proposed shortly before the session proposal deadline expired, the SSS 2023 meeting is on track to be one of the most memorable gatherings with topics that are relevant to promoting scholarly work and broadening our members' professional network. 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, embraces the actively engaged scholar-practitioner. All quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches to addressing sociologically-related topics are welcome. Below is a revised list of sessions seeking papers. The sessions scheduled for the 2023 meeting represent a range of current topics and session themes in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We look forward to receiving your abstract(s) for general-theme sessions or any of the sessions listed below.

### **Sessions Seeking Papers (as of October 14, 2022)**

This weekly digest will highlight sessions seeking papers. For any individual submissions, please [click here](#).

1. Gender, Place, and Space
2. Making a Way: Side Hustles for Sociologists
3. Story as Sociology
4. Invisibility in Sports: Uncovering Marginalizing Systems and Processes
5. Examining Empowerment from a Sociological Lens
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7. Post-George Floyd Hires: The Future of Black Sociology and Black Studies
8. Scholar-Activism in Small & Community Colleges in the South (Session A - Panel)
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10. Research Session: How SSS (and other regional professional organizations) best support sociologists at small and community colleges
11. Racial Conceptualization
12. Racial Threat and Racism: Extending Blumer's Group Position Theory
13. Hazards, Disasters, Coastal Environments, and Climate Change
14. Public Sociology: Exploring Alternative Pathways to being a Sociologist
15. 2020 Racial Justice Uprisings: Lessons, Legacies
16. Structural Sexism: Concept, Measures and Consequences
17. Fat Studies/Body Politics
18. Social Activism in the South: From the Du Bosian Scholar-Activist Model to Contemporary Praxes
19. Race and Education
20. Whitespaces
21. Race In/And Appalachia
22. Multiracialities
23. Panel: Sociologists Doing Activism
24. Diasporic Womanisms and Indigenous Women's Movements of the Global South  
Mini-Conference

25. Gender, Sexualities, and Health (Sponsored by the Committee on Gender and Sexuality)
26. Policy in Social Context
27. The Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic
28. Gender, Sexualities, and Religion
29. “We Will Find a Way or Make One”: Reproductive Justice in the Era of Dobbs v. Jackson
30. Homelessness in the 21st Century
31. The State of the Black Professoriate in Higher Education - Moving Beyond Anti-Racism.  
Sociology of Disasters
32. Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Digital Spaces
33. Benefits and Challenges of Joint Sociology/Criminal Justice/Criminology Programs
34. Product and Process: Using Creative Sociology as a Tool for Public Engagement

### **1. Gender, Place, and Space**

The SSS annual conference theme for 2023 highlights the relationship between place – the South – and the people in it. This paper session aims to zoom in on relationships among gender, place, and space. Gender is not only an important part of social life but is also ubiquitous. Its effects can be felt in every place and space, including workplaces, schools, homes, parks, and online – all of which are gendered themselves. At the same time, gender is also constructed, maintained, and changed in places and spaces. This session seeks to examine these relationships using a variety of methods (including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods) and geographic sizes (from very specific places such as classrooms, to states, to regions such as the South or Midwest, to global). Although not limited to the following, topics may include: gender and digital space (including social media, Zoom, and websites); gender and physical places such as workplaces, schools, and homes; gender and belonging in place and space; the gendering of places and spaces; and methods for studying the relationships among gender and place or space. Submissions should include: (1) a title, (2) three keywords, (3) an abstract containing (if applicable) objectives, methods, and findings, and (4) your contact information, including your name, email, phone number, and institutional affiliation. Please send submissions to Dakota Dougherty at [ddoughe@ncsu.edu](mailto:ddoughe@ncsu.edu) by October 31st, 2022.

### **2. Making a Way: Side Hustles for Sociologists**

This proposed panel session will explore the experiences, benefits, and pitfalls of side hustles or side gigs for sociologists working in academia. Although sociologists have consistently utilized additional work to supplement their income (consulting, grant writing, textbook reviews, standardized test grading, etc.), the COVID-19 pandemic led to increased pressure to make the most of one’s time and talent. Sociologists were not exempt from this pressure. Currently seeking panelists to discuss their process of seeking, holding, and/or leaving additional paid work related to their sociological training. If you are interested in participating in this panel session, please submit the following information by October 30th, 2022 to Melencia Johnson ([melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu)). In your email please include: (1) Your name, position, and affiliation (2) A short description (300-500 words) detailing how your unique experience would contribute to the panel.

### 3. Story as Sociology

For this session, we are seeking papers that elevate story and narratives as a sociological method, unit of analysis, or presentation of findings. We encourage papers that are concerned with a variety of questions and topics but that are grounded in story, which may include:

- Sociological analysis of fiction, nonfiction, film, poetry;
- Interviews, oral histories, autoethnographies;
- Presenting sociological ideas through storytelling;
- And so on...

Creative presentations that challenge the format of a conference paper are welcome.

All submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper,\* (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author,\* and (c) an abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 350-450 words and include an overview of the objectives, methods, and findings as relevant.

\*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

Please submit your materials to session organizer Elizabeth B. Roberts (ebr@vt.edu) by October 31, 2021.

### 4. Invisibility in Sports: Uncovering Marginalizing Systems and Processes

Sports are a crucial cultural element of the U.S. South. They can exert positive effects on participants' mental and physical health, strengthen communication and collaboration across differences in identities, and teach important skills, such as accountability and leadership. Conversely, no sport is immune to the ubiquitous impacts of various forms of oppression, among them sexism, white supremacy, ableism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. In light of the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of Title IX and the momentous change this law has created for women in sports, this session offers a platform for investigations into issues of persistent invisibility and marginalization in sports and approaches to combating them. The organizers invite presentations covering all types of sports, at all levels of practice (from novice to expert, and from amateur to professional), across the United States. While studies may use any methodology to be considered, projects that use an intersectional lens are especially encouraged.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Access to different sports
- Marginalization in specific disciplines
- Harassment and other forms of violence
- Effective inclusion efforts
- Opportunities for leadership roles
- Media portrayals, identities, and sport

“Doing gender” and sport

Please submit the following information by November 1st, 2022 to Matt Wilkinson (mwilkins@coastal.edu) and Ina Seethaler (iseethale@coastal.edu):

Submission title, abstract (400-450 words), and three keywords

Submitter name, position, and institution

SSS membership status

### **5. Examining Empowerment from a Sociological Lens**

This session seeks papers examining the meaning of "empowerment" in a multifaceted manner. Revisiting the meaning of, means by which, and goals of authentic empowerment may be critical to addressing the calls issued through the year's theme: to reflexively move the field forward at the same time as we address larger social issues and everyday challenges. Accordingly, this session welcomes papers that address the idea and conceptualization of empowerment in such areas as classroom pedagogy, scholar activism, cultural representations, organizational transformation, identity construction, DEI and decolonization initiatives, and beyond.

If interested, please submit the following to amanda.koontz@ucf.edu\* by Friday, October 28th, 2022:

1) Title of the Paper

2) Extended Abstract with Word Count (400-450 words). As possible, please highlight the objectives/research question, methods (data collection/analysis), and findings/contributions (including preliminary/expected).

3) Author Names, Affiliations, and Contact Information (this information will appear directly as submitted in the program, so please share exactly as you would like for it to appear)

\*Feel free to also reach out with any questions (etc.) on the proposed session and potential fit.

### **6. Asian Americans in the South**

For this session, we are seeking papers that address the in/visibility of Asian Americans in the South, whether past, present, or future.

Potential paper topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Histories of Asian immigration to the South
- Past or present Asian American activism in the South
- Asian American racial flexibility between Black and White
- Asian American southern identities
- And so much more....

All 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 words and organized with the following three

section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed.

\*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program. Please submit materials by October 30, 2022 via email to [sunah.laybourn@memphis.edu](mailto:sunah.laybourn@memphis.edu)

**7. Post-George Floyd Hires: The Future of Black Sociology and Black Studies**

The purposes of the session is to examine the past, present, and future barriers and opportunities for Black Sociology and Black Studies to transform society individually and collectively. Submit papers to Lori Latrice Martin [lorim@lsu.edu](mailto:lorim@lsu.edu).

**8. Scholar-Activism in Small & Community Colleges in the South (Session A - Panel)**

The process of scholar-activism at teaching-focused institutions varies from that found at larger and research-based institutions. Resource scarcity, heavy teaching loads, and small (or non-existent) sociology departments complicate this work. The goal of this session is to offer a platform for small college scholar-activists to discuss their work, offer insight into their process, and network with other scholar-activists. We invite scholar-activists who also work at small & community colleges in the southern region to talk about their recent or current scholar-activist projects, barriers that they have faced, and successes they have had. Please submit a brief description of your project to: Amy Sorensen [asorensen@ehc.edu](mailto:asorensen@ehc.edu)

**9. Scholar-Activism in Small & Community Colleges (Session B - Conversation)**

In this conversational session, we would like to offer an opportunity for sociologists engaged with (or interested in) scholar-activism to talk about the issues (positive and negative) associated with this labor in the context of small and community colleges in the south. This session is designed to be a fully engaged, participatory session in which we can discuss things like: tricks and tips, garnering institutional support, overcoming barriers, and self-care practices. Please submit a brief description of your project to: Amy Sorensen [asorensen@ehc.edu](mailto:asorensen@ehc.edu)

**10. Research Session: How SSS (and other regional professional organizations) best support sociologists at small and community colleges**

As part of a larger project by the Committee on Sociology in Small and Community Colleges, this session is designed to be a focus group-type session to gather qualitative data on what supports, programming, and opportunities might best benefit sociologists working at small and community colleges. We are collecting this data to ensure that our committee has the capacity to continue to advocate for the needs of our colleagues at teaching-intensive institutions. . Please submit a brief description of your project to: Amy Sorensen [asorensen@ehc.edu](mailto:asorensen@ehc.edu)

**11. Racial Conceptualization**

Racial conceptualization matters. The grounds that people, organizations, and governments use to assign "race" to individuals have shaped who is enslaved, qualified for citizenship, and at risk of lynching. Racial conceptualization continues to shape everyday discrimination, eligibility for antidiscrimination protections, patterns of dating and marriage, treatment by law enforcement, and other outcomes. In the last twenty years, racial conceptualization has been complicated by a rise in multiracial identification; the proliferation of differing warrants for racial membership; and debates about the relative importance of ancestry, appearance, culture, other-identification, and self-identification in racial assignment. Research has examined contested norms in racial attribution for groups outside the White/Black binary; explored whether racial membership is sometimes thought of as continuous in addition to categorical; and asked how genetic testing is shaping logics of categorization.

This session therefore welcomes papers that address racial conceptualization, attribution, boundary-drawing, and contestation. Papers may be primarily empirical, theoretical, or both. To be considered for this session, please submit a PDF or Word submission to Raj Ghoshal, [rgoshal@elon.edu](mailto:rgoshal@elon.edu). Your submission should include: Title, names and contact information (email, affiliation, phone number) for all authors, and abstract or extended abstract (150-500 words). Additional information is welcome but not required. Please include "SSS" in the email subject line. Please share this session information with potentially interested colleagues. Submissions are due by Tuesday, November 1st.

## **12. Racial Threat and Racism: Extending Blumer's Group Position Theory**

Racial threat is regularly used as a common explanation of racism in modern scholarship. This panel brings together scholars who utilize, extend, complicate, and/or contradict Blumer's group position theory as the basis for understanding racial threat in modern society. We welcome empirical and theoretical work to focus our discussion.

If you are interested in participating in this session, please submit your information in a Word document by Sunday, October 30, if not sooner, to Ashley V. Reichelmann ([avr@vt.edu](mailto:avr@vt.edu)) or J. Scott Carter ([carter@ucf.edu](mailto:carter@ucf.edu)). In your document please include:

1. Each author's name, affiliation, position, and email address
2. Title of the paper
3. Extended abstract (400-450 words) - Please note that the SSS guidelines suggest, if applicable, that the abstract should be organized with the following section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings.

## **13. Hazards, Disasters, Coastal Environments, and Climate Change**

From Bullard's (1990) *Dumping in Dixie* to numerous works on Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Southern sociologists have repeatedly advanced our understanding of the causes and consequences of socioecological hazards and disasters, environmental justice, and climate change. In this session, we welcome both qualitative and quantitative analyses of hazards, disasters, coastal environments, and climate change in and beyond the Southern United States. Contemporary disasters in the South such as the Jackson, Mississippi, water crisis highlight the need for ongoing research on socioecological disasters across the region as does the annual meeting's location in

coastal Myrtle Beach. However, in an era characterized by a range of hazards and disasters associated with global climate change, the results of such analyses carry considerable significance beyond the region, and we encourage projects from any region globally. Our goal is to group papers into multiple, linked thematic sessions (i.e., specific sessions such as “coastal environments” and “climate change”).

If you are interested in participating in this paper session, please submit the following information by October 21, 2022 to Kevin Smiley ([KSmiley@LSU.edu](mailto:KSmiley@LSU.edu)).

In your email please include:

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

Session Organizers:

Braden Leap, Associate Professor, Mississippi State University. [BLEap@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:BLEap@soc.msstate.edu)

Kevin Smiley, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University. [ksmiley@lsu.edu](mailto:ksmiley@lsu.edu)

Adam Straub, Assistant Professor, Rowan University, [strauba@rowan.edu](mailto:strauba@rowan.edu)

Liesel Ritchie, Professor of Sociology, Virginia Tech, [liesel14@vt.edu](mailto:liesel14@vt.edu)

#### **14. Public Sociology: Exploring Alternative Pathways to being a Sociologist**

The Committee on Sociological Practice is seeking panelists for a session on alternative pathways to doing sociological work, in any area. We wish to have a panel of 4 to 6 members who can provide different perspectives of the ways that individuals approach the practice of sociology, particularly in ways that are considered “non-traditional” or are outside the scope of what is typically considered “academic sociology.” If you are interested in participating in this panel session, please submit the following information to Jonathan Cox ([jonathan.cox@ucf.edu](mailto:jonathan.cox@ucf.edu)) by Monday, October 25th: (1) contact information (name, affiliation, email address, phone number) and (2) an extended abstract or summary detailing your experience and contributions to the panel.

#### **15. 2020 Racial Justice Uprisings: Lessons, Legacies**

The 2020 racial justice uprisings were the one of the largest, most widespread and sustained protests in history. This session seeks presentations exploring any aspects of this historic moment from a sociological and interdisciplinary perspective. This could include but not limited to: pre-2020 BLM organizing as a crucial influencing factor; coalitions between various social justice social movement groups; white supremacist countermovement activity and backlash; rise and fall in public awareness of racism as a social problem; public policy reform such as decriminalization, “defund police” or other impact on communities from the protests; confederate monument toppling; surge in funding (and/or merely statements) for DEI initiatives, and more. Creative presentation formats are also encouraged, such as photos, videos, spoken word, music reflecting on this period and its legacy. Contact [eileen.obrien@saintleo.edu](mailto:eileen.obrien@saintleo.edu) with your submission.

#### **16. Structural Sexism: Concept, Measures and Consequences**

This is a call for extended abstracts for a paper session organized in honor of Patricia Homan, last year's Early Career Gender Scholar Award winner, sponsored by the Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) at the 2023 Southern Sociological Society (SSS) Meeting. This session seeks papers that engage with Homan's work on structural sexism – focusing on some aspect of the conceptualization, measurement, or consequences (social, economic, or health-related) of structural sexism. This session is open to qualitative, quantitative, or theory papers. If you are interested in participating in this session, please submit your information in a Word document by October 26, if not sooner, to Tara Henry ([thenry3@fsu.edu](mailto:thenry3@fsu.edu)). In your document please include:

-Each author's name, affiliation, and position

-Contact information for each author

-Title of the paper

-Extended abstract (400-450 words) - Please note that the SSS guidelines suggest, if applicable, the abstract should be organized with the following section headings: objectives, methods, and findings.

### **17. Fat Studies/Body Politics**

This session will highlight scholarship in the general theme of body politics/fat studies. In alignment with the conference theme of "sociological innovation and social activism", we will highlight papers that used innovative methods and theoretical traditions to study topics that broadly include: Fat Studies, Fat sexualities, Fatness & institutions, and Fatness as an Identity; Fat Activism; Health at Every Size (HAES); Bodies as they intersect with gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, ability; Body politics; Colonizing and Decolonizing Bodies; Representation & visual culture; Dieting and Food as they relate to bodies; Fashion as it intersects with gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, ability, size; Disciplining/Policing bodies, Size Discrimination; and Bodies, borders, and boundaries (transnational bodies).

All 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 words and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed.

\*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program. Please submit materials by October 24th, 2022 via email to [lbyers2@vt.edu](mailto:lbyers2@vt.edu) and [aprohaska@ua.edu](mailto:aprohaska@ua.edu).

### **18. Social Activism in the South: From the Du Boisian Scholar-Activist Model to Contemporary Praxes**

Despite the important contributions of Black activists and scholars associated with Atlanta Sociological Laboratory, the Civil Rights, and the Environmental Justice Movement, the contributions of southern change makers are often minimized or overlooked. Yet, public sociology and the scholar-activist model have been at the core of Southern Sociological scholarship at least since Du Bois' Atlanta School of Sociology. This session seeks to highlight this long-standing tradition of social activism in the south,



and among southern sociologists. We solicit papers that amplify, uplift, and complicate our understanding of southern activism in relation to race, gender, sexuality, immigration, education, or housing, among other areas.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in this session, please submit the following information to the session organizer, Megan Underhill (munderhi@unca.edu) by Thursday, October 27, 2022: (1) the title of the paper; (2) contact information (name, affiliation, email address, phone number) for each author; and (3) an extended abstract of 400-450 words.

### **19. Race and Education**

For this session, we are seeking papers that discuss the historical, contemporary, and future realities of race and education. We are interested in work that critically assesses the role of race, racism, and racial inequality in the social construction of education as a social institution.

Potential paper topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

Racial achievement gaps

Minority issues in education

School funding and resource allocation

Critical Race Theory and the institution of education

Book banning and its implications

Current sociological trends in education

Sense of belonging for Students of Color

Tracking

And so much more...

All paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper,\* (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author,\* and (c) an abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 350-450 words and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed. \*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

Please submit your materials to session organizer Taylor McElwain (taylormcelwain@vt.edu) by October 27, 2021.

### **20. Whitespaces**

We are interested in putting together a session (or sessions) compiling scholarship that investigates the historical, contemporary, and future realities of whitespaces – broadly conceptualized. We are interested in work that critically assesses these spaces regardless of theoretical, methodological, or epistemological orientation.

Potential paper topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Academic disciplines as whitespaces
- Whitespace and racialized interaction orders
- The cultures of whitespace
- Whitespace as a perceptual space
- Cultural consumption and whitespace
- Whitespace and invisibilities
- Identity construction, navigation, and maintenance within whitespace
- Institutions as whitespace
- And so much more...

All paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper,\* (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author,\* and (c) an abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 350-450 words and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed. \*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

There is also a possibility that an edited volume will be produced out of these sessions. Of course, the submission and review processes will determine which papers may ultimately be invited to submit to that volume as well as which ones ultimately are a part of any final collection.

Please submit your materials to session organizers David L. Brunsmad (brunsmad@vt.edu) and Joong Won Kim (jkim182@utk.edu) by October 27, 2022.

## **21. Race In/And Appalachia**

We are interested in putting together a session (or sessions) compiling scholarship in the sociology of race and ethnicity within the Appalachian region. We are interested in work that contributes to the scholarly discussion of race and racism in Appalachia regardless of theoretical, methodological, or epistemological orientation.

Potential paper topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Racial identity construction and navigation in Appalachia
- Appalachian movements for racial justice
- Race, space, and place in Appalachia
- Race, racism, and politics in Appalachia
- Appalachian racial formations
- And so much more...

All paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper,\* (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author,\* and (c) an abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 350-450 words and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed. \*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

Please submit your materials to session organizers Jacob Robinson (jrob1855@vt.edu) and David L. Brunsmad (brunsmad@vt.edu) by October 27, 2022.

## **22. Multiracialities**

We are interested in putting together a session (or sessions) compiling scholarship on multiracial experiences and identities in contemporary societies. We are interested in work that contributes to the ongoing scholarly discussion of multiracialities regardless of theoretical, methodological, or epistemological orientation.

Potential paper topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

- The 2020 census and multiracial identities and experiences
- The multiracial movement
- Multiraciality and the COVID-19 pandemic
- Multiraciality in popular culture
- The Trump era and multiracialities
- Race, racism, and multiracial identities
- Multiraciality and family formation
- Children's social worlds and the place of multiracial discourse
- Critical mixed race studies
- And so much more...

All paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper,\* (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author,\* and (c) an abstract. Abstracts should be approximately 350-450 words and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. These section headings may not apply to all submissions, so authors may modify as needed. \*Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

Please submit your materials to session organizers Christina Wan (cwan@student.gsu.edu) and David L. Brunsmad (brunsmad@vt.edu) by October 27, 2022.

## **23. Panel: Sociologists Doing Activism**

Share how you're combining your social science expertise with social justice activism.

This proposed panel session will include sociologists or other social scientists who have used their expertise – either broadly or as scholars of race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, social movements, politics, work, human rights, peace, violence, crime, globalization, or other specialties – as activists in recent years. Most participants are anticipated to have participated in local community or campus efforts, but regional-, national-, or international-scale activism in the U.S. or elsewhere is also appropriate. Similar sessions in the past few years were well-attended and generated lively discussion among the audience and presenters. This panel is particularly congruent with the 2023 annual meeting theme, “I Will Find A Way or Make One!: Embracing and Advancing the American South's Tradition of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism.”

The panelist's activism may have been undertaken either explicitly in their role as a social scientist or simply informed by their social science expertise. The session's focus is on progressive activism, broadly conceived. Among the relevant groups and settings – though not a comprehensive list – are:

- Black Lives Matter or other anti-racist groups
- LGBTQ+ rights groups
- reproductive rights
- feminist groups
- #MeToo movement activism
- disability rights activism
- Moms Demand Action and other anti-gun-violence groups
- democracy protection activism
- environmental groups (e.g., climate change, pipeline opposition)
- anti-war groups
- labor unions and labor rights or antisweatshop activism
- progressive campus activism of any kind, including advising of activist student organizations
- political action groups such as Indivisible, Democratic Socialists of America
- political campaigns, candidacy, or office-holding

Participants will share their experiences and how their expertise played a role in their activism. Two or more participants engaged in directly related activism may submit a single proposal to co-present. Graduate and undergraduate students and social scientists in nonacademic positions are invited, as well as faculty, as long as they linked social science knowledge to activism.

Prior inquiries are most welcome – contact me with what you're thinking about and we'll discuss. By Wednesday, October 19, or sooner, please submit a title; an abstract describing the type of activism, group or setting, and the presenter's use of social scientific expertise in that context (not more than 450 words); and contact information and affiliation to me.

Please share this session information with potentially interested activist colleagues.

Dale Wimberley  
dale.wimberley@vt.edu (including "SSS" in the subject line is really helpful)  
Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech

#### **24. Diasporic Womanisms and Indigenous Women's Movements of the Global South Mini-Conference**

(Mini Conference) Diasporic Womanisms and Indigenous Women's Movements of the Global South Mini-Conference

Theme: Reclaiming Our Names, Our Selves, and Our Spaces: Womanist Theory, Method, Activism, and Pedagogy

We are seeking paper submissions and other submissions in all mediums of knowledge (poetry, art, spoken word etc.) in the vein of Clenora Hudson-Weems's "Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves," Mary E. Modupe' Kolawole's "Womanism and African Consciousness," Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Lila Abu-Lughod's "Do Muslim Women Need Saving?" and Gloria E. Anzaldúa's "Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza" that speak to contemporary realities for our Diasporic Womanisms and Indigenous Women's Movements of the Global South Mini-Conference. Submissions should articulate a decolonial, antiracist, transnational womanist theory and praxis. We see the need for women, men, and gender expansive members of the diasporas of the Global South to carve out an emancipatory space within Sociology for articulating collaborative struggles and priorities of whole communities. We advance a womanist framework that articulates women's oppression, resistance, and survival as inextricably tied to the oppression, resistance, and survival of their families and communities. Therefore, womanists prioritize community-facing dialogue with and work against oppression alongside women, men, and gender-expansive community members as self- and community- affirming work that matters and work that counts. Womanist theorizing encompasses intersectional approaches to understanding race, class, gender, sexuality, without privileging decontextualized gender and patriarchy. Womanists insist on their autonomy to self-name. They also self-define their oppression and their agency in their struggles to preserve ancestry, land, and community in the face of colonialism, racial capitalism, coloniality, neocolonialism, military occupation, white supremacy, cultural imperialism, and epistemic violence.

Mini Conference Paper/Panel Sessions are as follows:

Papers that advance and review theoretical work by women and gender expansive scholars residing in geographies and working in non Western academic institutions outside the Global North that can expand the curricula of Sociology in the United States that shape how we think, study, and teach the structures and relations of oppression that impact women's lives as well as women's agency.

We are seeking papers with a decolonial critique of national and transnational structures controlled by governments and institutions of the Global North, from Global South regions in Africa, The Caribbean, Latin America, Pacific Islands, Middle East, and Asia and their diasporas. We are particularly interested in case studies of the various contestations around ongoing neocolonial and settler colonial projects.

Women of color around the globe are on the frontlines of many movements on behalf of their local communities. Some identify as womanists, some do not use any label, some use modifiers such as "critical" or "decolonial" feminists, and some resist the label of "feminist." Therefore we are seeking womanist papers that highlight women's work in women's movements or movements spearheaded by women such as Black Lives Matter, Black Motherhood, Black Fatherhood, Reproductive Justice, Environmental Justice, Labor Justice, (Public) Housing Justice, Immigrant Justice, land reform movements, Peasant movements and more.

Course syllabi describing pedagogical approach, list of readings/resources featuring case studies, assignments, and learning objectives that advance womanism and women of color movements led by women in action.

Papers on the ethics that should govern goals for transnational projects in research methodologies, activism, pedagogy, and scholarship between indigenous women and communities, academic institutions, and women's organizations of the Global South and their diasporas situated in the Global North. These papers should aim to give concrete examples as well as discuss the limitations to fully realizing transnational visions.

Speeches, poetry, spoken word, and other creative pieces that affirm our ancestral identities, our spirit, our voices, our dignity, our right to exist and take up space anywhere, our power, the beauty of and our love for our communities, and our spaces of belonging. Your piece may be inspired by one or several of the 18 tenets of [Africana] womanism -Self-Naming, Self-Definition, Family-Centeredness, Wholeness, Role Flexibility, Adaptability, Authenticity, Black [indigenous and diasporic] Female Sisterhood, Male Compatibility, Recognition, Ambition, Nurturing, Strengthen, Respect, Respect for Elders, Mothering, and Spirituality. [You may submit this as a second submission].

All paper submissions should be sent to Mini Conference Organizers: Sancha Medwinter, Tannuja Rozario, and Monisha Issano Jackson by uploading your submission by November 4th, 2022. Please include: (a) "Womanism Mini Conference: the title of the paper," \* (b) 3 key words, \* (c) first name, last name, institution, email, and position for each author, \* and (d) an abstract up to 400 words long. \*Provide this information in the form fields \*and\* also copy and paste into the "Abstract" field along with the abstract. Note that information provided here is what will appear in the program, so please include your name, affiliation, and contact information exactly as you want it to appear in the program.

Please submit your materials here. We will notify you of your acceptance shortly after the above deadline. Accepted submissions will be submitted as full panels to the SSS portal. Please submit your materials to session organizers Sancha Medwinter, Tannuja Rozario and Monisha Issano Jackson via this google form (<https://forms.gle/oFvuNZd15LWUJE54A>) by November 4, 2022. Contact Sancha Medwinter ([smedwinter@umass.edu](mailto:smedwinter@umass.edu)) with any questions.

## **25. Gender, Sexualities, and Health (Sponsored by the Committee on Gender and Sexuality)**

This is a call for paper abstracts for a SSS conference session focused on gender and/or sexualities, and health. This session, sponsored by the SSS Committee on Gender and Sexuality, is broadly conceived and open to any papers using quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed methods that address some aspect of gender and/or sexualities and health.

If you are interested in participating in this sponsored paper session, please submit the following information by October 28th, 2022 to Nazneen Khan (nazneenkane@rmc.edu). In your email please include:

1. Submission Title, Abstract, and 3 Keywords
2. Contact Information for author(s): Name, Position, and Institution
3. Your 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/>

## **26. Policy in Social Context**

Sponsored by the Committee on Sociological Practice. This session is dedicated to a broad sociological understanding of executive, judicial, legislative, and non-governmental actions that target social phenomena at local, state, national, and/or international levels. Paper topics include the application of social theories to policies (e.g., statutes, court opinions), the connection between policies and social problems, and the impact of enacted policies on social problems. This session highlights how sociologists work to bring the social and political (and consequently, economic) aspects of human life into focus to cultivate a more enriched understanding of the world.

If you are interested in presenting a paper in this session, please submit the following information to Andrea Hunt (ahunt3@una.edu) by Monday, October 24th: (1) the title of the paper; (2) contact information (name, affiliation, email address, phone number) for each author; and (3) an extended abstract.

## **27. The Social Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of Americans and people around the world for nearly three years. The costs include enormous morbidity and mortality plus substantial burdens to society and the economy. Mitigating the pandemic's impact requires a shift in public opinions and behaviors. Insights from sociology can help align human attitudes/actions with the recommendations of public health experts. Social science scholars have made significant strides in understanding different arrangements and patterns of society in response to the pandemic. This proposed session aims to bring together sociologists studying the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and welcome papers on a wide range of topics. Potential topics of interest include but are not limited to: (1) public opinion of the pandemic, (2) factors shaping behavioral nudges such as social distancing and mask-wearing, (3) determinants of vaccine/booster uptake, (4) the politics of the pandemic, (5) the unequal distribution of the pandemic's cost, and (6) evaluations of COVID-19 policies. If you are interested in presenting a paper in this session, please submit the following information to Feng Hao (fenghao@usf.edu), associate professor of sociology at the University of South Florida, by Friday, October 28th. 1. Submission Title, Extended Abstract, and Three Keywords 2. Name, Position, and Institution 3. SSS Membership Status

## **28. Gender, Sexualities, and Religion**

This is a call for extended abstracts for a paper session focused on gender and/or sexualities, and religion sponsored by the Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) at the 2023 Southern Sociological Society (SSS) Meeting.

This session is broadly conceived and open to any papers using quantitative or qualitative methods that address some aspect of gender and/or sexualities and religion. If you are interested in participating in this session, please submit

your information in a Word document by Sunday, October 30, if not sooner, to Mandi N. Barringer

(m.barringer@unf.edu). In your document please include: Each author's name, affiliation, and position Contact

information for each author Title of the paper Extended abstract (400-450 words) - Please note that the SSS guidelines

suggest, if applicable, that the abstract should be organized with the following section headings: Objectives, Methods,

and Findings. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

### **29. “We Will Find a Way or Make One”: Reproductive Justice in the Era of Dobbs v. Jackson**

This session, sponsored by the Committee on Gender and Sexuality, embraces the spirit of the 2023 SSS meeting theme— “I will find a way or make one—” by focusing on reproductive justice (RJ). The Dobbs v. Jackson ruling, which eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, highlights the precarity of reproductive justice (RJ). It also highlights the need for renewed focus on RJ and for new modalities to creatively resist, find, and “make a way” to respond to this precarity. This need is perhaps particularly urgent in the US South, where despite already high rates of pregnancy and birthing-related mortality, state-sanctioned violations to reproductive justice are gaining momentum. We welcome any paper proposals on RJ including birth justice, abortion law/policy and access, sterilization abuse and other forms of obstetric violence, obstetric racism, pregnancy/birthing mortality rates, and more. If you are interested in participating in this sponsored paper session, please submit the following information by October 14th, 2022 to Nazneen Khan (nazneenkane@rmc.edu). In your email please include: 1. Submission Title, Abstract, and 3 Keywords 2. Contact Information: Name, Position, and Institution 3. Your 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/>

### **30. Homelessness in the 21st Century**

Homelessness exploded in the 1980s and has not significantly decreased. Strategies currently employed by the federal government, states, and non-profit organizations typically serve as bandaids rather than addressing structural causes of homelessness. Additionally, there is a dearth of research addressing housing insecurity and homelessness and very little advocacy by academics. In this session we are looking for papers that address causes of housing insecurity and homelessness, or innovative solutions for ending this devastating social



problem. By sharing information we hope to be able to learn from each other. Please send submissions to Stephanie Southworth at [ssouthwor@coastal.edu](mailto:ssouthwor@coastal.edu) by October 31, 2022

### **31. The State of the Black Professoriate in Higher Education - Moving Beyond Anti-Racism**

Many would agree that even in 2022, racism remains a significant factor in the experiences of African Americans in American society. This reality may also apply to the status (rank), impact and role of black faculty in higher education institutions. And while some may believe that racism is primarily endemic to Historically White Institutions (HWCUs); its remnants may be relevant more and more at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Some scholars argue that HBCUs may be facing an identity crisis in the immediate future due to sizable numbers of non-black faculty, and non-black leadership. This session is an examination of the current state of the black professoriate in higher education institutions in America. This session explore the state of Black Faculty at HWCUs and HBCUs pertaining to two key factors –status (rank/placement), roles and what it means to teach while black. Please send submissions to Toni Muhammad ([drtonisims@gmail.com](mailto:drtonisims@gmail.com)) by October 31, 2022.

### **32. Sociology of Disasters**

From Bullard's (1990) *Dumping in Dixie* to numerous works on Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Southern sociologists have repeatedly advanced our understanding of the causes and consequences of socioecological disasters. In this session, we welcome both qualitative and quantitative analyses of disasters in and beyond the Southern United States. Contemporary disasters in the South such as the Jackson, Mississippi, water crisis highlight the need for ongoing research on socioecological disasters across the region. However, in an era characterized by a range of disasters associated with global climate change, the results of such analyses carry considerable significance beyond the region. If you are interested in participating in this paper session, please submit the following information by October 21, 2022 to Kevin Smiley ([KSmiley@LSU.edu](mailto:KSmiley@LSU.edu)). In your email please include: 1. Submission Title, Abstract, and Three Keywords 2. Name, Position, and Institution Session Organizers: Kevin Smiley, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University. [KSmiley@LSU.edu](mailto:KSmiley@LSU.edu) Braden Leap, Associate Professor, Mississippi State University. [BLEap@soc.msstate.edu](mailto:BLEap@soc.msstate.edu)

### **33. 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.

### **34. 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)).

### **35. 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 14, 2022 to Lisa Winters (lwinters@coastal.edu).

In your email please include:

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

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