

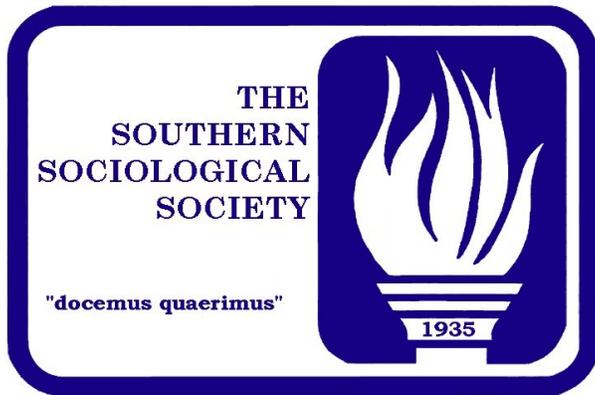
The Southern Sociologist

The Newsletter of the Southern Sociological Society

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In this Edition of TSS

Letter from the Editor	3
SSS 2023	4
TSS Contribution Opportunities	5
Member Accolades	6
Announcements	7

From Society President Earl Wright II, PhD

Hello SSS friends!

The fall semester is quickly passing by and before you know it, we will be together in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Our leadership team is working diligently to make the 2023 meeting one of the best in our organization's history. With your support I am certain we will accomplish this goal.

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. This theme is especially dear to me because of my career long efforts to increase awareness of the accomplishments of southern sociologists at southern institutions.

Historically, scholars in this region have not been recognized for their tremendous discipline shaping, and sometimes divisive, contributions. This is why I am excited to hear presentations that amplify the great research produced within our footprint. The American South has long been the bellwether for this nation's future direction(s). The fact that we have an opportunity to bear witness to some of these important works before they reach the mainstream is exciting.

In addition to the interesting and informative sessions we have planned, you will get to hear from three dynamic plenary speakers. Elizabeth Hig-

(Continued on page 2)

From Society President Dr. Earl Wright II, continued

(Continued from page 1)



Earl Wright II, PhD

ginbotham (Emerita, University of Delaware) will deliver a talk on the origin and impact of the University of Memphis' Center for Research on Women (CROW). Established by Elizabeth Higginbotham, Bonnie Thornton Dill, and Lynn Weber, CROW was a research center and clearinghouse for scholarship on women of color and women in the south. The first of its kind upon its founding and a model for future centers, CROW was instrumental in bridging academia & real-world applications for women in Memphis, the South, and the nation. Higginbotham's talk is certain to not only contextualize the center's place in academia's history, but, hopefully, inspire this generation of scholars to continue pursuing important and timely works on women of color and women in

the south.

I've attended a fair number of conferences during my career and am always excited to see the plenary sessions. However, I often lament the lack of junior scholars being platformed for plenary sessions. When developing the 2023 meeting I was intentional in creating a space where an early/junior scholar could be highlighted. When it was time to decide who that person would be the choice was easy. B. Brian Foster (Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia) is at the forefront of studies depicting southern culture through the eyes of Black southerners. Foster's research speaks to the south. In many respects, his work IS the south. Foster's research highlights the importance of agency for rural Black folk whose voices have been ignored too long or, when heard, framed through a deficit theoretical lens. Using an agency centered theoretical lens, Foster will take us on a journey through the "back beat" of the Black belt of the American South.

Zandria Felice Robinson is one of the nation's leading thinkers, intellectuals, and sociologists. A trained violinist who writes and speaks with the grace of an artist and truthfulness of an elder, she is the author of award-winning books *This Ain't Chicago: Race, Class, and Regional Identity in the Post-Soul South* and *Chocolate Cities: The Black Map of American Life*. In a way that only she can deliver, Zandria will provide a thought-provoking talk on the politics of exclusion.

Believe it or not, there is more special programming, but you will have to wait until early spring 2023 to find out what it is! Until then, make your reservation to attend the 2023 meeting in Myrtle Beach from March 29 through April 1. I look forward to seeing you there!

Earl Wright II, PhD
Rhodes College
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From TSS Editor **Nadya Vera**

Dear TSS Readers,

As I write this note, news outlets recently announced that majority in the U.S. Senate will continue for the Democrats and 19 House races remain undecided. The war in Ukraine continues and Alex Jones was ordered by a judge to not hide his money in offshore accounts so that he could pay punitive damages for defamation awarded to Sandy Hook victims' families.

When I teach, I emphasize the importance—perhaps even ad nauseam—of developing and never letting go of critical thinking skills. The many ways in which ideology has fueled almost incalculable amounts of suffering and destruction throughout the world—and understanding the way in which this nation has made mistakes—can be difficult for students to digest. I admit that *caring* about inequality and wanting to address social problems can be exhausting and heartbreaking, but I also particularly enjoy highlighting the ways in which our field has helped to reshape narratives.

As an environmental sociologist and a parent, it is sometimes difficult to not become distraught about the realities of the climate change crisis. That being said, I remind my students that the nation's aspirational goals—even if their origins and outcomes are extremely flawed—are worth pursuing.

In closing, I am thrilled to share that TSS will have a new section titled *Sociological Impact* dedicated to showcasing upcoming books and highlighting the work of those colleagues making notable contributions within public sociology (please see page 5 for additional information).

Thank you for your contributions to our field and the world at large.

Sincerely,

Nadya Vera
University of Tennessee



Nadya Vera

SSS 2023 | MYRTLE BEACH, SC

March 29–April 1, 2023

I Will Find a Way or Make One!: Embracing and Advancing the American South's Tradition of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism

Earl Wright II, Rhodes College, President, Southern Sociological Society, 2022-2023

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Johnson C. Smith University, Program Co-Chair

DeMond Miller, Rowan University, Program Co-Chair

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, in ways both positive and negative, to our understandings 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!

Hotel Information

We are excited to hold SSS 2023 at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach. We have secured a SSS conference rate of \$169 per night, you can [reserve your room here](#). 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.

TSS CONTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES

Did You Know ?

Brilliantly curated by Caliesha Comley, PhD, and Ashley Stone, PhD, TSS has two columns in which SSS members can share their pedagogical and public sociology insights.

Additionally, TSS is seeking graduate student editors. Available opportunities include serving as a liaison for *Social Currents*, copy editing, or curating a column for graduate students. Should you (or someone you know) be interested in contributing to TSS, please email nvera@vols.utk.edu.



Did you try a new approach to teaching that you are happy with (or recommend against)? The *Teaching Corner* provides a space for us to share pedagogical pearls of wisdom with each other.

Dr. Caliesha Comley is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Georgetown College, where she teaches courses in inequalities, research methodologies, and



Caliesha Comley, PhD

social and criminal justice. Informed by post-colonial, feminist, and legal studies, her research centers on women's resistance against state violence through law and social movements. Dr. Comley also

serves as the Director of Georgetown College's Pre-Law Program of Distinction. She earned her PhD (2019) and MA (2016) from Boston College, and BA from Georgetown College (2014).

To make a submission to the *Teaching Corner*, email Dr. Comley at

Caliesha_Comley@georgetowncollege.edu.

SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT

If you or someone you know has an upcoming book being published or is making inroads within public sociology, you should provide your contact information and project description to *Sociological Impact*.

Ashley Stone, PhD, a former TSS graduate student editor, was recently hired as the 2022-2023 Ida B. Wells-Barnett Post-doctoral Teaching Fellow in the Department of African and Black Diaspora Studies at DePaul University in Chicago. Dr. Stone's contributions to TSS were so valuable that she has kindly agreed to transition becoming a PhD section editor!



Ashley Stone, PhD

In this new role, she will launch a section titled *Sociological Impact* to feature interviews with authors/editors of upcoming books and scholars doing public sociology. Dr. Stone can be reached at astone@depaul.edu.

MEMBER ACCOLADES

Congratulations Dr. Nik Lampe!

Nik M. Lampe, PhD, began their postdoctoral scholar position in LGBT aging, social networks, and policy at Vanderbilt University on September 1, 2022. This position carries an appointment in the Department of Medicine, Health and Society as well as an affiliation in the Vanderbilt LGBT Policy Lab. In this position, they received funding for an NIH Grant—“Effects of Social Networks and Policy Context on Health among Older Sexual and Gender Minorities in the US South.” (Principal Investigator: T. A. McKay).

Nik also received an Honorable Mention for the 2022 Sociology of Sexualities Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Fellowship as well as the 2022 Medical Sociology Section Howard B. Kaplan Memorial Award, both from the American Sociological Association. Check out their publication:

Lampe, Nik M., Desai, Nidhi, Norton-Brown, Tomeka, Nowakowski, Alexandra C. H., & Glueckauf, Robert L. (2022). African American lay pastoral care facilitators’ perspectives on dementia caregiver education and training. *The Qualitative Report*, 27(2), 324-339.

***The Southern Sociologist* Wants to Celebrate You!**

In each edition, we’ll list members’ recent publications, career updates, and social activism. 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](#) for more information.

Michaela D. McMillian Jenkins is a Sociology PhD student at Emory University. Her primary research interests are ethnicity, race, citizenship, organizations, and education. Particularly, she considers experiences of intragroup variation, especially when differences are invisible to those outside of the group.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

CALL FOR EDITORS

Social Problems

Editorial Search—Call for Applications

The Editorial and Publications Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is soliciting applications for the position of Editor of the Society's flagship journal, *Social Problems*.

The Editor's three-year term will begin with the operation of the new editorial office at mid-year 2024. The new editor will be responsible for editing and promoting Volumes 72-74 (years 2025-2027). An editor may be reappointed to a second and final term not to exceed three years with the recommendation of the Editorial and Publications Committee and approval of the Board of Directors. Applicants must be members of the SSSP by the time of their application and throughout their tenure as editor.

The editor is responsible for managing the peer-review process for approximately 400-500 submitted manuscripts per year, and preparing four issues of the journal (approximately 800 printed pages) annually. The journal's production/copy editor service is provided by our publisher, Oxford University Press (OUP). OUP will also provide the services of one of its managing editors, unless the new editor chooses to use their own managing editor. The editor will also work with relevant individuals and committees to promote the journal.

The Committee seeks a diverse pool of editorial candidates with strong scholarly records, previous editorial experience (e.g., service as journal editor or associate editor, editor of scholarly editions, etc.), and strong organizational and management skills. A familiarity with and commitment to *Social Problems* and the SSSP are required.

The SSSP supports the operation of the editorial office with an annual budget and provides a stipend and travel expenses for the editor. While the Society encourages applicants to secure additional support from their respective institutions, the amount and nature of that support will not be a decisive factor in the selection of the new editor. The final decision will be based principally on the strength of the complete application. Support from the host institution may include office space, utilities, the use of computers and other office equipment, tuition waivers for office personnel (if appropriate), and faculty release time. Each year the editor will submit a budget to SSSP to cover operating expenses that the host institution does not support.

Individuals interested in applying for the editorship should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, a proposed budget for the operation of the editorial office, and a letter of support from their department chair, corresponding dean of the prospective host institution, or appropriate official with budgetary authority. Guidance in the preparation of applications is available from the Editorial and Publications Committee as well as the current *Social Problems* editor, the executive officer, and the administrative officer, if necessary.

Please direct all questions, inquiries, nominations, expressions of interest, and application materials to Dr. Yvonne Braun, chair, SSSP Editorial and Publications Committee, telephone: (541) 346-5752, E-mail: ybraun@uoregon.edu. **For more information on the position, please see the [Section V.](#) and [Section VIII. B. 2. A.](#) of the SSSP operations manual. **Deadline for applications is January 15, 2023.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

CALL FOR PAPERS

Big Feminism: The Fiftieth Anniversary Issue of *Signs*

Issue Editors: Dr. Suzanna Danuta Walters and Dr. Carla Kaplan

Signs was founded in 1975 as part of an emergent tradition of feminist scholarship and has been publishing continuously ever since, establishing itself as a preeminent journal in women's, gender, and sexuality studies. At the time of the journal's conception, *Signs*'s founding editorial staff sought not only to raise consciousness and develop theories of women's oppression but also to challenge the taken-for-granted and to strive for theoretical nuance and interdisciplinarity.

To honor half a century of publication, our fiftieth anniversary issue aims to generate new questions and critical discussion about "Big Feminism"—about the role and power of feminist theory—today and into the future. These fifty years have witnessed consequential feminist debates (over sexuality, over the category "woman," over approaches to difference, over representations of "third-world" women) and the emergence of new analytical and theoretical frames (to analyze experience, identity, agency, desire, the body, violence, inequality, coalition, work, family, and relationships between self and other, and more).

The *Signs* archive stands as a testament to the creativity, vitality, reach, and impact of feminists and feminist thinkers. Virtually no area of social life and no academic discipline has been untouched or unchanged by those who have contributed their work to the journal.

And yet, as the editors of a recent special issue have written: "The work in this field has never been richer, the future of our field never more imperiled." From the standpoint of 1975, 2025 may appear to be a feminist pipe dream. Rights that were once aspirational have been codified into law; there are women heads of state the world over; women have not only entered but have transformed the professions; LGBTQ rights, while very much a work in progress, have been achieved to a degree that even recently seemed unimaginable.

At precisely the same time, the ground beneath our feet is collapsing. As we write this, we are facing the end of abortion rights and a global upsurge of fascism in which misogyny figures centrally. And, #MeToo notwithstanding, violence against women continues unabated. From this moment of profound triumph and profound precarity, how do we, as feminists, imagine the next fifty years? What are our feminist visions (utopias and dystopias) for 2075? What work will it take to bend the arc toward gender justice?

This special anniversary issue of *Signs* seeks to engage with the big feminist questions that remain outstanding after all these years.

- How has the definition of feminism evolved, and what does it encompass now?
- How do we grapple with the relationships and nuances between feminism, gender, sexuality, race, and capitalism?
- How might we imagine a feminist vision for the future, from where we stand now? How might we get there?

(Continued on page 9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY NEWS

(Continued from page 8)

- Whence the durability of patriarchy? Of violence against women? Of the denial of reproductive justice?
- What are the new forefronts of feminist theory? Compulsory heterosexuality, intersectionality, and gender performance (among others) are concepts that have shaped our feminist thinking over the past fifty years. What are the emergent feminist theories of the fifty years to come?
- Given the strength of the patriarchy in the 2020s, including but not limited to the shocking efforts to roll back long-standing reproductive rights, what will it take to dismantle this system?
- Over the past fifty years, feminists of color, queer feminists, and disabled feminists, among others, have transformed the movement with critical attention to race, sexuality, nationality, ability, and age—and yet these inequalities remain. How do we attend to these disjunctures? What inequalities remain unrecognized? How can we transform our own movement while still working for transformation in the wider world?
- Has the knowledge produced in field of women's/gender studies managed to advance the work of social and political transformation?
- What will it take to build better, stronger bridges between academic feminism and feminist activism on the ground? What new coalitions should we be building, and how?
- How, finally, will feminist historians, writing in 2075, remember 2025? How do we understand our present from the standpoint of the (imagined) future?

Signs particularly encourages transdisciplinary and transnational essays that address substantive feminist questions, debates, and controversies without employing disciplinary or academic jargon. We seek essays that are passionate, strongly argued, and willing to take risks.

The deadline for submissions is **December 15, 2022**.

Please submit full manuscripts electronically through *Signs*'s Editorial Manager system at <http://signs.edmgr.com>. Manuscripts must conform to the guidelines for submission available at <http://signsjournal.org/for-authors/author-guidelines/>.

SHARE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH SSS MEMBERS



Submit announcements to Graduate Student Editor Skyler Bastow (Florida State University). As TSS is published quarterly, please send announcements at *least three months in advance* of any deadlines for submission.

Skyler Bastow is a second year doctoral student in Sociology at Florida State University. His research interests are health, life course outcomes, and LGBTQ+ lives, particularly around the transgender and gender nonconforming community.

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.

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 as follows:

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:

Dr. David L. Brunsmas
 Executive Officer
 Southern Sociological Society
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 Blacksburg, VA 24061

Pay online at cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org



THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST

Nadya Vera, Editor
 Doctoral Student, Sociology
 University of Tennessee

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 July, October, 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, we 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 always welcome.

To appear in TSS, submissions should be sent to tss@southernsociologicalsociety.org 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 15
- September 15
- December 15
- February 15

