

The Southern Sociologist

Volume 46

Number 1

Summer 2014



From the President, David Maume Recalling Charlotte, Anticipating New Orleans

As spring breaks out in Cincinnati (the northern-most Southern city in the United States), I am writing my first column as President of the Southern Sociological Society. I was honored and surprised to be elected to this position. Although I have been a member of the SSS since graduate school, I have spent my entire career north of the Mason-Dixon line. Still, year after year I return to the SSS meetings, seeing old friends/colleagues, and making new friends/colleagues. The SSS has always felt like home to me, and I hope you feel the same.

The meeting in Charlotte was a most memorable meeting. President Leslie Hossfeld (UNC-Wilmington), Vice President Stephanie Moller (UNC-Charlotte), Program Chair Daniel Buffington (UNC-Wilmington), and Local Arrangements Chair Lisa Walker (UNC-Charlotte) put together, with your contributions, a terrific program. And, we are all grateful to David Brunσμα (Va. Tech), Slade Lelock (Va. Tech), and a host of volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the meetings an enjoyable occasion.

I want to congratulate and welcome the newly elected officials of the SSS: Barbara Risman (Illinois-Chicago), President-Elect; Steve McDonald (NC State), Vice President-Elect; Lisa Walker (UNC-Charlotte) and Dawn Robinson (Georgia), Executive Committee; and Kirsten Dellinger (Mississippi) and Martha Crowley (NC State), Publications Committee. I look forward to working with all of you!

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

SSS 2014 Meeting.....	<u>4</u>
2014 Awards.....	<u>5</u>
2015 Awards.....	<u>8</u>
Research on Persistent Poverty	<u>9</u>
The Teaching Corner.....	<u>10</u>
Opportunities.....	<u>15</u>
Demographic Transitions.....	<u>20</u>
<i>Social Currents</i>	<u>22</u>
Southern Sociological Society.....	<u>23</u>



From the President, David Maume

(Continued from page 1)

With fond memories of Charlotte fresh in mind, I encourage you to think ahead to New Orleans in 2015. Of course, New Orleans is a regular stop for SSS, but this time we will be visiting New Orleans a decade after Katrina. I am proud of SSS for being one of the first conferences to return to New Orleans in 2006, thereby contributing to New Orleans' recovery. Still, we know that the city is smaller than it was a decade ago, not all neighborhoods have been fully re-built, and problems of poverty, crime, and racial inequality continue. I ask that in your own research and/or in the work of SSS committees, that you turn your sociological imagination to an assessment of how New Orleans is doing ten years post-Katrina. We anticipate that several sessions at the meeting will be devoted to the general subject of New Orleans ten years after Katrina.

The theme of 2015 meetings will be "**Stalled Revolutions? Gender Inequality in the 21st Century.**" While women have made many strides toward equal participation in societal institutions, and men are more supportive of equality and active in family life, there is no denying the persistence of gender inequality in the United States. Not only do women and men continue to face different expectations for their behavior in both the public and private spheres, the intersections of race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nativity with gender yield even more challenges to realizing equality. The 2015 SSS meeting will ask whether the gender revolution has stalled in and across important societal institutions and contexts, *and* discuss the policies needed to bring about a more gender egalitarian society in the 21st century. In support of the meeting theme will be plenary addresses given by Heidi Hartmann, Kathleen Gerson, Michael Messner, and Paula England (with more speakers to be named later). Running concurrent with the general meeting will be two mini-conferences that focus on gender inequality. The first, "Changing and Unchanging Institutions," will feature sessions assessing women's status in Religion (Carol Ann MacGregor, Loyola University New Orleans), Formal Organizations (Kevin Stainback, Purdue), the Military (Meredith Kleykamp, University of Maryland) and Higher Education (Will Tyson, University of South Florida). The second mini conference on "Gender Politics and Policies" will feature sessions on Work/family (Jeremy Reynolds, Georgia), Immigration (Jim Witte, George Mason), Health and Health Care (Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State) and Welfare (Rebecca Joyce Kissane, Lafayette College). Please consider submitting your work to one of the mini-conference session organizers or to a thematic session. Among the membership, we have no shortage of expertise on multiple aspects of gender inequality and the program co-Chairs and I fully intend, with your contributions, to craft an exciting and provocative program.

Much of my excitement about this year and about the meetings in New Orleans stems from my good fortune to work with talented and hard-working colleagues. I am particularly fortunate to have as my Program Co-Chairs Shannon Davis (George Mason) and Sarah Winslow (Clemson), on whose advice, enthusiasm, and commitment I have already come to rely. Jaita Talukdar (Loyola University of New Orleans) will chair the Local Arrangements Committee, and John

(Continued on page 3)

From the President, David Maume

(Continued from page 2)

Reynolds (Florida State) is serving as Vice President. In advance, I owe each of these colleagues a huge debt of gratitude for their willingness to serve SSS in these leadership positions. Watch for further calls, announcements, and special feature articles about New Orleans in forthcoming issues of *TSS*. We will be in touch soon with a call for participation and instructions for submission to the program.

There are several items of business that will occupy the attention of Executive Committee this year. First, the EC and I are committed to seeing the leadership of SSS as diverse as the membership. In the short term, I have asked Vice President John Reynolds (who chairs the Nominations Committee) to produce a maximally diverse slate of candidates for the elective office in the next election cycle. Second, the EC and I think it is a good idea to move our elections from the fall closer to the annual meeting, in order to maximize member participation in elections. Third, I will continue the process started by Past-President Leslie Hossfeld to build capacity in the SSS via its committee structure. The Presidential Task Force on Committees (appointed by Past-President Hossfeld) will continue its work, and we anticipate that a chair's orientation, a committee handbook, and some reorganization will come out of the Task Force's recommendations. Finally, because diversity, elections, and improved organizational capacity will require some focused discussion, this year the Executive Committee will hold a mid-year meeting at the end of October. Again, watch for forthcoming issues of *TSS* in which I will report on these efforts to improve the structure and functioning of SSS.

Have a great summer!!

David Maume
University of Cincinnati

David Maume receives the
"Presidential Collection"
from outgoing President
Hossfeld at the annual
Business Meeting.



Spring 2014 SSS Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society had almost 900 registrants, a record for an “off-site” location. The Charlotte Marriott provided a welcoming venue for the meeting.



The Program Committee led by Chair Daniel Buffington, University of North Carolina Wilmington, produced a diverse and exciting program. Leslie Hossfeld’s Presidential Address “For Southern Sociology” inspired the Society to become more involved. The mini-conference on food included sessions on urban and rural agriculture, access to food and food insecurity, and economic development through local food movements. Additionally, numerous sessions related to the meeting’s theme “Poverty, Social Policy, and the Role of the Sociologist.”

Members enjoying social interaction between sessions.



Several local brewers provided samples of their products at the Presidential Reception.

2014 SSS Awards

Roll of Honor



Walter Gove and Kenneth Land are recognized for their addition to the Southern Sociological Society's Roll of Honor after receiving the award from James Wright, Chair of the Committee on Honors.

Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

David Mamue receives the Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award.



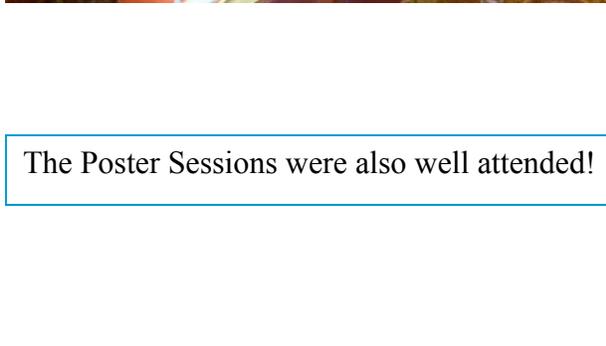
2014 SSS Awards

Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award

Stephanie Bohon received the Martin L. Levin Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the Southern Sociological Society.



Near-record attendance at the annual Business Meeting Saturday morning!



The Poster Sessions were also well attended!



NOT
SUN
BETHS

Odum Student Paper Awards

Undergraduate Award

Yueran Zhang of Duke University receives the Odum Undergraduate Award for his paper “Co-existence of Informal Finance Institutions with Divergent Logics: Evidence from Industrial Districts in Rural China.”



Graduate Award



Jim Wright congratulates Richard Benton, North Carolina State University, for winning the Odum Graduate Paper Award for his work on “Corporate Governance and Nested Authority: The Effects of Network Selection and Contagion on the Balance of Power In American Corporations.”

2015 SSS Awards

Robert Agnew to be Added to the Roll of Honor

The greatest recognition given by the Southern Sociological Society is an appointment to the Roll of Honor. This award recognizes a career of distinguished intellectual contribution to sociology. Awardees must be members of the Southern Sociological Society (or made significant contributions to Sociology while a member of SSS) and have made stellar contributions to the discipline across their career. **Robert Agnew**, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor at Emory University, will be added to the Roll of Honor in 2015.

Holly McCammon to Receive Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award

The Katherine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard Award recognizes distinguished scholarly contributions to the understanding of gender and society. The award honors a single work, several pieces of work, or a significant career of professional achievements. Holly McCammon, Vanderbilt University, will receive this award in 2015.

Distinguished Lectureship Award to Jon Shefner of University of Tennessee Knoxville

The Distinguished Lectureship Award has three key goals. First, it allows the Society to honor one of its distinguished scholar/teachers in a public manner. Second, it allows SSS to provide a much-needed resource to departments that typically lack the resources to bring distinguished scholars to their campuses. Third, it serves to promote SSS. The 2015 Award will go to Jon Shefner of the University Tennessee Knoxville.

Research on Persistent Poverty in the South

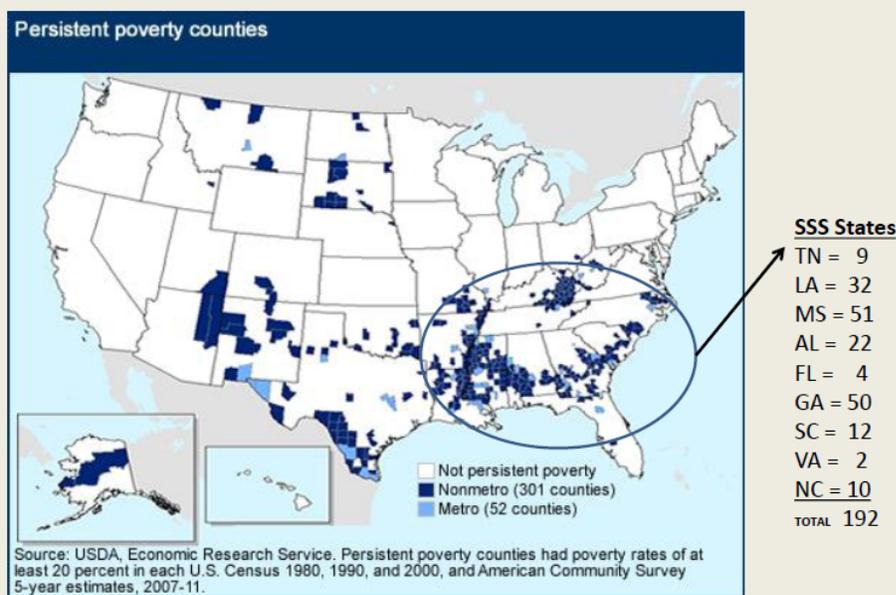
Leslie Hossfeld, Past President
Southern Sociological Society

During my presidential speech at the 77th Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Society in Charlotte in April, I proposed that interested SSS members get together and undertake research on southern poverty, similar to the work of our SSS founders, the Southern Regionalists. I shared with the audience this slide (see below) depicting the number of persistent poverty counties in our outreach area; indeed out of the 353 persistent poverty counties in the United States, 192 or 54% are situated in our SSS core region. Here is what I proposed in my speech:

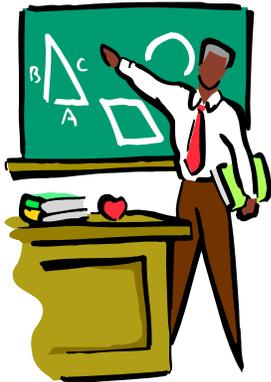
“What if, in the spirit of the regional sociologists who founded our society we identified 20 persistent poverty counties across the Southern Sociological Society region to do focused research and scholarly engagement examining poverty in each county and the region? What if we identified one grad student intern and one faculty member in each of these counties to work on researching and addressing poverty in that particular county? And then we created a learning community and brought them together at each Annual Meeting to share their research in a plenary called *Sociological Research in the South*? And at these sessions we pulled together regional leaders as part of the learning communities and provide research briefs and begin tackling regional issues through sociological practice and policy development? There may be graduate students and faculty in the room right now who would want to do this work. We would need to ensure this work is represented by faculty and students from all types of institutions in the Southern Sociological Society: small colleges and universities, HBCUs, Research Ones, etc. What a tribute to our society that would be. What a potential difference in these counties this

could make, over time, over the long haul.”

I want to thank those SSS members who have expressed an interest in this work. We will begin tackling the nuts and bolts of this project over the summer months ahead. If you are interested in joining us in this work, please contact me at HossfeldL@uncw.edu. We would love for you to join us in this endeavor.



353 Persistent Poverty Counties in the US
84% or 296 are in the South
192 in SSS states



The Teaching Corner



James N. Maples

The University of Tennessee at Martin

jmaple11@utm.edu

Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Nicholas Guittar, Chair, University of South Carolina- Lancaster

Jeannie Haubert, Winthrop University

Sandra Weissinger, Southern University of New Orleans

James N. Maples, The University of Tennessee at Martin

Kimberly Lancaster, Coastal Carolina Community College

Susan Ambler, Maryville College

From committee chair Nicholas A. Guittar (University of South Carolina Lancaster)

The 2013-14 academic year was an eventful one for the Committee on Sociology in Community and Small College (CSCSC). We spent the bulk of our time on our three main charges: 1) editing “The Teaching Corner” in *The Southern Sociologist*, 2) organizing and facilitating four teaching sessions/panels, and 3) holding a networking lunch at the 2014 meetings in Charlotte. We also engaged in a few new lines of work (summarized in item #4 below). The following is a brief synopsis of our progress and future directions on these four fronts:

1. “The Teaching Corner” – The Southern Sociologist

James N. Maples served as 2013-14 editor for “The Teaching Corner.” He has done a phenomenal job, providing teaching-related insight, ideas for in-class activities, best-practices, and information on developments within SSS and CSCSC in particular. Please take the time to review his principal articles from the past year’s issues (V45, N1 – V45, N4). Past issues are available for download on the [SSS website](#). James has kindly agreed to edit “The Teaching Corner” for another year, and we look forward to his upcoming contributions.

2. CSCSC Lunch 2014

The CSCSC hosted a lunch at SSS 2014 in conjunction with the SWS-South Southern Hand Mentoring Program. The lunch was held on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Dandelion Mar-

(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

ket. Between the two organizations we had a total of 43 attendees. The event served as a chance for casual interaction, networking, and good food. We look forward to your suggestions about venue, time/day, etc for our dinner/lunch in New Orleans 2015.

3. Sessions and Panels – Sponsored (or co-sponsored) by CSCSC

The CSCSC successfully sponsored three sessions and one panel at the 2014 meetings in Charlotte. The sessions centered on 1) Teaching Sociology to a Room Full of Non-Majors, 2) Real Food, Sustainability, and Consumerism: Integrating Components into Your Current Courses, and 3) Challenges with Teaching Sociology. Feedback from all three sessions was quite positive, and we look forward to some innovative sessions next year in New Orleans. The panel we facilitated (“So, You’re Applying to a Small or Community College?: It’s not the Same as Applying to an R1”) was a great success, and will perhaps become a staple at future meetings. The panel had a very casual vibe, which allowed the focus to be on answering questions from the audience and sharing our experiences at small and community colleges.

4. New Action Items

In addition to the aforementioned charges, our committee also engaged in a few new areas of inquiry which are all summarized here:

- We need to create pathways for connecting sociologists at community and small colleges with one another (and with regional and national associations). Of particular import here are those faculty members who are not employed within a sociology department (and may be quite isolated in terms of the discipline).
- We suggested to Executive Committee that we initiate some constructive dialog about the lack of coursework on *teaching sociology* in doctoral programs in sociology throughout the South. Many current graduate students and recent grads have voiced concerns over the lack of teaching-prep (classes in pedagogy, teaching methods, etc.) offered as part of their graduate education.
- It is imperative that we find new avenues for reaching out to faculty at small and community colleges to connect them to any resources and invite them to be involved in SSS (and hopefully our committee).
 - Visibility is key! We continue to entertain ways in which we can increase the visibility of sociologists from small and community college. For example, as the chair of CSCSC, I recognize that many of us work at institutions that do not have sociology departments. When I saw that the ASA was sponsoring a breakfast at SSS for department chairs, I decided to attend and represent teaching scholars in this situation. During introductions I had the opportunity to explain who I was and why I was in attendance—thus increasing the visibility of small and community

(Continued on page 12)


 The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 11)

colleges (in the eyes of the ASA as well as departmental chairs). We are interested in your thoughts in this respect—how can we increase our visibility and further integrate ourselves into SSS?

As a final item, we would like to welcome any (and all) sociologists who wish to be involved with our committee. Although we cannot add new appointees, we would most certainly like to operate as an inclusive—and thus influential—unit within the Southern Sociological Society. With our eyes set on NOLA 2015, I hope to hear from many of you and learn how we can better serve your needs.

Thanks,
 Nicholas A. Guittar
 University of South Carolina Lancaster

Teaching Exercise

Student Stereotype Journals: Engaging the Sociological Imagination One Page at a Time Rhiannon A. Leebrick, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville rleebrick@utk.edu

I find it can be challenging to get students to engage in conversations about race, ethnicity, and white privilege in a general sociology course. Even sociology majors who are otherwise active in class unexpectedly clam up when the conversation turns to racism or discrimination. To help initiate this important conversation in my general sociology class, I ask students to keep a *stereotype journal* for five consecutive days at the start of our two week section on race and ethnicity. In this journal, students record examples of stereotypes they see, hear, and experience in their everyday lives. I then use these examples in class as a tool to initiate a sociological conversation on race. I find that keeping a stereotype journal engages my students' sociological imaginations, encouraging students to reflect on situations and language that they may otherwise take for granted.

For this assignment, students must keep track of the things they say and hear about race and ethnicity for five consecutive days. I tell the students to use this as an opportunity to record the stereotypes that they hear *anywhere*: in public places, at work, at school, with friends and family, on TV, on the Internet, and on the radio. I also ask students to use the journal to keep track of their own thoughts and reflections about race, ethnicity, privilege, and other ideas as they work on the assignment. I ask them to write *at least* two entries per day, and I (quite sadly) find

(Continued on page 13)

The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 12)

students have no trouble finding plenty of examples. I explain the assignment in class and also post instructions and a grading rubric on Blackboard. After completing the journal, students discuss their thoughts about their own journal observations and conversations while answering the following questions in a three to five page reflection essay:

- How does what you have heard and recorded relate to what we have discussed in class this week?
- What surprised you about this project? What things did you hear that you were expecting? What things did you hear that you were not expecting?
- Are there any ways in which you can now discuss stereotypes that you had not thought about before?

I previously included a much longer list of questions for this assignment. However, I found that students generally write several pages given these three short prompts. The students then submit their journals and reflection essays to me.

Students generally have at least five entries per day, often substantially exceeding the minimum requirement of two entries. Their observations include conversations from work, in class, on the bus, and in the locker room. They frequently include things they have read on Internet news sites, Buzzfeed, and Facebook. They even describe conversations they have with their parents or roommates. Students are surprisingly candid in these entries, often recording observations about themselves and their own experiences. Occasionally, students describe instances in which they are the target of discrimination, while others record instances in which they are suddenly aware of their own prejudice or discriminating or racist behavior.

After collecting their assignments, I prepare for the next class by selecting approximately four pages of journal entries (with personal identifiers removed) to share with the class. I like putting the list on a projector screen so that students can read along. I remind the students that many of the quotes they will be seeing are from conversations that were overheard by people in the class, not necessarily from students themselves. I then simply read down the list. I include several recent examples below:

- “My father and I watched part of the women’s basketball game between Oklahoma and Iowa State. My dad said OK was going to win, even while Iowa State was winning, because they had more tall black girls.”
- “You might want to make sure I’m still white. I worked like a slave today.”
- “My friend received a twenty dollar tip from a Jewish woman for working a birthday party and he commented on how he was surprised that he received such a large tip from a Jewish woman.”

(Continued on page 14)

The Teaching Corner

(Continued from page 13)

- “My parents are not racist, but would not allow me to date a black male.”
- “Is she drunk or just another white sorority girl?”
- “One of my friends was doing a Spanish project and another friend made a joke saying ‘sorry no speak-o minimum wage-o.’”
- “I was bowling with a bunch of friends. We sat down next to a group of roughly 10 black people and one white man. A friend made a joke that ‘the judge much have brought some inmates out for good behavior.’”

After I read through the quotes, students are eager to talk. They often want to relay entries that I did not include or stories from their journals. This assignment serves as a wonderful opportunity to discuss stereotypes and other themes such as micro-aggressions, symbolic ethnicity, and white privilege that we have covered in class in a way that directly relates to students’ lives.

Students will often refer back to their journals over and over during the course of the semester. I feel this is a sign that the assignment successfully gets students thinking sociologically about race, ethnicity, and privilege. I believe it also serves as an important building block for the rest of the course. An added benefit of this assignment is that students record stereotypes that also deal with gender and sexuality and bring these examples up in discussion. As a result, this assignment is an ideal transition into the next class sections on gender and sexuality.

Faculty Spotlight

Rhiannon Leebrick is a doctoral candidate in the sociology department at the University of Tennessee. As a graduate teaching associate, she has taught social problems/social justice and introduction to sociology. Her research interests include environmental justice, environmental privilege, rural gentrification, and community change. She has a master’s degree from Virginia Tech in public and international affairs.



Opportunities

CALL FOR PAPERS

Race and Contention in 21st Century U.S. Media (tentative title)

Prospectus in development for Emerald Group Publishers

Jason Smith and Bhoomi K. Thakore, editors

In the 21st century, colorblind ideology permeates all structures of society, including the media. Representations of minorities in the media continue to reflect contentious stereotypes and ideologies. While these representations are problematic, they represent the racial order in which they were produced. To date, much has been written on the topic of stereotypical representation in the media. However, there have been fewer critical works on the ways in which increased minority representation speak to normative racial ideology and the political economy surrounding the creation of these representations.

In *Race and Contention in 21st Century U.S. Media*, we strive to address the ways in which minority characters have broken the historical limitations of representation in mainstream/popular media. Through the works presented in this anthology, we will acknowledge the power of dominant values and ideologies in non-normative racial/gender representations, and the types of characterizations these representations reproduce. We contend that these representations have direct consequences on racial ideologies and hierarchies in the 21st century.

We seek both theoretical and empirical submissions that address minority representations in a variety of post-2000 media—including film, television, music, news media, and online/new media. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Media and the “Post-racial” (contributes to/challenges of)
- Race and intersections of gender and sexualities
- Ethnic identities/Whiteness
- Biracialism in the media
- Structural dimensions (around all forms of media)
- Policy-related issues and their impact on the media landscape
- Media as a melting pot or a source of multicultural displays
- Mass media or niche media in regard to racial/ethnic groups
- Media creation—practices, values, norms

Please submit your completed chapter (5000-7000 words), OR a chapter proposal (500-750 words, including your research question, key literature, and conclusions) to the editors by **August 30, 2014**, in APA style format. Authors will be notified by October 2014 if their proposals have been accepted for the book prospectus. For more information and to submit proposals, contact Jason Smith (jsm5@gmu.edu) and Bhoomi K. Thakore (bhoomi.thakore@northwestern.edu).



Southern Demographic Association Call for Papers

October 15-18, 2014
Peabody Hotel
Memphis, Tennessee

You are invited to submit abstracts for posters and/or papers for the 2014 annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association (SDA). You are also invited to suggest topics for panels and poster sessions. For the first time since 1996, the SDA conference will return to Memphis, with the local arrangements organized by Wesley James from the University of Memphis. The 2014 conference will hold the opening reception on Wednesday, October 15 and conduct the two main days of scientific sessions on Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17.

Presentations of research in both applied and academic demography are welcome as are related topics in economics, sociology, geography, political science, public health, epidemiology, and psychology. Though SDA is known for regional emphases and membership, the Association encourages the membership and participation of individuals from any region of the country or world. The structure of presentations is flexible; potential contributors are encouraged to not only send abstracts for individual research papers, but also for posters, complete sessions, thematic sessions, panel discussions, software demonstrations, and more!

Presentations by (or co-authored with) students are especially welcome; they can offer a student a significant first professional meeting experience. SDA also awards cash prizes to the best undergraduate and to the best graduate student paper (see details on the [SDA website](#)).

All proposals and abstracts should be submitted by **June 15, 2014**, through the SDA web site <http://sda-demography.org/SDA2014.php>. The SDA web site will ask you for your name, the name(s) of any co-authors (or other presenters if you are proposing a session), descriptions of paper(s) or poster(s)/topics of proposed session(s), institutional affiliation(s), and complete contact information (email address, telephone number, fax number, and mailing address).





Southern Labor Studies Association Conference March 5-8, 2015 College Park, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The Southern Labor Studies Association invites academics, activists, students, attorneys, public historians, archivists, and any other people interested in the experiences of working people in the Early American or U.S. South to propose sessions for our next conference, which will take place from March 5-8, 2015. We will meet in two locations: at the University of Maryland, College Park during the day on Thursday, March 5, and then in Washington, D.C., from the evening of March 5 to the morning of Sunday, March 8.

Sponsored by the [Center for the History of the New America](#), day one of the conference (March 5) will focus on Workers and Organizing in the 21st Century. The rest of the conference will feature a wide range of topics.

The SLSA defines labor and working class studies broadly. We welcome historical and contemporary topics, all relevant academic disciplines, non-academic participants, and regional as well as comparative and transnational approaches. Please note that there is no official conference theme for the DC part of the conference; our hope is to assemble a broad and diverse set of participants on a wide range of subjects.

As always, we will consider traditional panels with three or four presenters plus a chair and commentator, but we encourage prospective participants to propose other types of sessions as well (and create new ones). For example, we invite sessions that put activists and academics in dialogue, sessions that approach topics from multidisciplinary perspectives, panels that consider one important pre-circulated work in progress, as well as roundtables, teaching workshops, organizing workshops, etc.

The deadline for submitting proposals is September 1, 2014. Proposals should include an approximately 250 words description of the session, 100-200 word abstracts of individual papers if appropriate, and a bio for each participant (100 words max.). Proposals should be sent by email to Eric Arnesen at arnesengwu@gmail.com.

For more information about the SLSA, visit our website (www.southernlaborstudies.org) or look us up on [Facebook](#).

**O
P
P
O
R
T
S
C
I
T
I
S
S
E**

Symposium: Symbols of Exclusion: The Semiotics of Race in Public Spaces

October 23-24, 2014
University of Mississippi
Call for Papers

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies and the University of Mississippi's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Critical Race Studies Group invite applications for a symposium on the semiotics of race in public spaces and efforts to memorialize histories of racialized atrocities. The symposium will be held October 23-24, 2014, at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Dr. Joe Feagin, Ella C. McFadden Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University, and Dr. James Young, Distinguished University Professor in English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will deliver keynote lectures at the symposium.

This symposium will bring together scholars in Holocaust Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, History, African American and Africana Studies, Religion, English, Political Science, Law, Southern Studies, and other relevant disciplines to foster scholarly dialogue and collaboration, highlight similarities and interconnections, and promote new research in and among these fields.

The symposium will feature research by students as well as established faculty members. Proposals are welcome from scholars and students, including undergraduates, in all relevant academic disciplines and at all career levels from colleges and universities in Arkansas, Alabama, the Florida Panhandle, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and western Tennessee. Proposals may address the public debates engendered by monuments and memorials, the museology of atrocity, cultural heritage and tourism, the preservation of landscapes, and the built environments of racialized prejudice, segregation, and exclusion. Successful applicants will be required to submit a copy of their presentation in advance of the conference for circulation among commentators, other panelists, and conference participants.

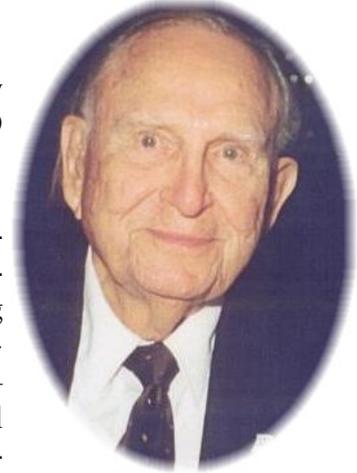
The deadline for receipt of proposals is June 13, 2014. To propose a paper, please send an abstract of no more than 500 words of your proposed paper, and a curriculum vitae that indicates your current academic affiliation, to Krista Hegburg, Ph.D., Program Officer, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, at khegburg@ushmm.org.

Submissions must include the speaker's name, institutional affiliation, current position, contact address, and email.

The symposium organizers will provide lodging for the duration of the conference and a stipend to help defray transportation costs, as well as some meals and local transportation.

Demographic Transitions

Abbott L. Ferriss, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Emory University, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2014. He was 99 years old.



Ferriss was one of the foremost scholars in the fields of social indicators and quality of life research. His first publication in these areas was a 1948 *Social Forces* article on “rural farm level of living indexes.” His last publication was the 2010 book *Approaches to Improving the Quality of Life: How to Enhance the Quality of Life* – published when Ferriss was 95 years old. Ferriss produced several books and many articles and chapters in the intervening years, including volumes in 1969, 1970, and 1971 on trends in the United States, titled *Indicators of Trends in American Education*, *Indicators of Change in the American Family*, and *Indicators of Trends in the Status of Women*. He published “Monitoring and Interpreting Turning Points in Educational Indicators” in the first issue of the journal *Social Indicators Research* in 1974. His 1988 Presidential Address to the Southern Sociological Society was on “The Uses of Social Indicators.” He received the Distinguished Quality of Life Researcher Award in 1997 from the International Society for Quality of Life Studies and was a Fellow of that organization. His career was devoted to promoting the use of social indicators at the federal, state, and other levels and identifying those indicators of greatest value.

His pursuit of this goal was reflected not only in his publications, but in his service. The U.S. Social Science Research Center opened a Center of Research on Social Indicators in 1972 and began publishing the *Social Indicators Newsletter* in 1973. When the Center ceased publication of the *Newsletter* in 1983, Ferriss volunteered to both publish and edit *Social Indicators Network News (SINET)*, and he served in these roles from 1984 to 1995. He searched for materials on social indicators, wrote articles about the latest work, compiled the newsletter, maintained a mailing list, and took the newsletter to the post office. All of this was done after his retirement from Emory in 1982. In addition, he was actively involved in many professional organizations. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Population Association of America 1965-1967, Vice President of the Southern Sociological Society 1966-1967, President of the Southern Sociological Society 1988-1989, Editor of *The Southern Sociologist* 1981-1984, and on the Board of Directors of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies 2003-2010. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Southern Sociological Society in 1995. And he was a member of the Sociological Research Association and the Cosmos Club.

NOTES

Ferriss was born in 1915 in Jonestown, Mississippi. He received his BA from the University of Missouri in 1937, his MA from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 1943, served in China and the Far East during WWII, and received his PhD from UNC Chapel Hill in 1950. He served on the faculty of several universities, but spent most of his academic career at Emory University, arriving in 1970 and serving as Chair of the Sociology Department from 1970-1976. As Chair, he strongly supported the creation of what became the first African American Studies program at a southern university. He also worked as a sociologist for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Bureau of the Census, National Science Foundation, and Russell Sage Foundation.

Ferriss also had many talents beyond sociology. His work with the WPA in the 1930s resulted in a set of original music recordings and photographs from the Mississippi delta. He produced a book of poetry in 2010. His paintings hung in the Emory Department of Sociology for many years. He published on Southern folklore (e.g., "The Persistence of Childrens' Gamesongs in North Mississippi" in 1995). And he was an avid hiker and world traveler well into his retirement, once facing down a bear on the Appalachian Trail. Those who had the privilege of knowing him appreciated his modesty, generosity, work ethic, and the model for successful aging that he presented. Ferriss was preceded in death by his wife Ruth Sparks and brother AW. He is survived by his sons, John and Will, his four grandsons, two great grandsons, and dear friend Rosemary W. Dodd.

Robert Agnew, Emory University

Kenneth Land, Duke University

Alex C. Michalos, University of Northern British Columbia

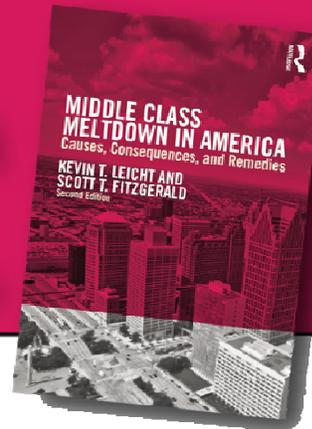
Send your comments, suggestions, or materials for *The Southern Sociologist* to the editor Bob Freymeyer
 mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu.


 The logo for The Southern Sociologist, consisting of the letters 'TSS' in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline.

MIDDLE CLASS MELTDOWN IN AMERICA

Causes, Consequences, and Remedies
Second Edition

Kevin T. Leicht and Scott T. Fitzgerald



Middle Class Meltdown in America: Causes, Consequences, and Remedies (2014) is now available.

In accessible prose, this short text provides a sociological understanding of the causes and consequences of growing middle class instability, with an abundance of supporting, empirical data. The book also addresses what we, as individuals and as a society, can do to put middle class Americans on a sounder footing.

This text is designed to be used as supplemental text in courses on inequality, social problems, economic and political sociology, public policy and other related topics. More information and complimentary review copies are available upon request from Routledge or by emailing Margaret.Moore@taylorandfrancis.com.

Social Currents

A Message from the Publications Committee
Bill Danaher, Chair

Want to help *Social Currents* be a success? Go to your college or university's library site and find your article there. You can also access articles at <http://scu.sagepub.com>. If you assign articles for your students to read, get them to do likewise. Don't just put a PDF copy on an accessible site. Sage uses the number of times journal articles are accessed online as an important gauge of the journal's effectiveness. Even if you get a paper copy, you can go to your library electronically and click on the article. This will add fuel to keep the journal fire burning. In other words, if you access an article electronically, Sage will know you are reading it. Thanks!

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

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 coming soon will have access to *Social Currents*: The Official Journal of the Southern Sociological Society. An annual meeting is held in the spring, usually mid-April. Membership is open to any person who can assist in promoting the objectives of

the society. Persons wishing to join SSS may send dues directly to the Executive Officer. Please include your first middle and last name, address, phone number, where employed, and gender. For statistical purposes, we also ask you to include your race and/or ethnic group and three areas of specialty.

The membership year is July 1 through June 30. Membership classes and annual dues are:

Sustaining.....	120.00
Regular	60.00
Emeritus.....	no cost
Student	25.00
Department.....	varied depending upon institution type

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

Dr. David L. Brunnsma
Executive Officer
Southern Sociological Society
560 McBryde Hall (0137)
Blacksburg, VA 24061

To pay online go to <https://www.cart.southernsociologicalsociety.org/>

THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST

Editor
Robert H. Freymeyer
Department of Sociology
Presbyterian College
Clinton, SC 29325
864-833-8359
fax 864-938-3769
[mailto: rhfreym@presby.edu](mailto:rhfreym@presby.edu)

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

INFORMATION WANTED. . .CONTRIBUTE TO TSS

To bring you the news, I need your news! Please send any news of your department and/or colleagues for possible publication in *TSS*. Articles pertaining to the state of the profession or the discipline are also welcome. To appear in the next issue, submissions must be received by the deadline below.

In addition to news and other information, I am also interested in any thoughts you may wish to suggest regarding the format and/or content of *TSS*.

TSS

The editor reserves the right to publish or not to publish any submission. Also, there may be times when submissions need to be edited. This will be done where appropriate, but in no case will the substance of any submission be changed without the prior consent of the author.

Next Issue Deadline: August 15, 2014