

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Will America Work? Race, Polarization, and Economic Inequality**

84th Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society  
April 7th – April 10th, 2021

New Orleans Downtown Marriott at the Convention Center  
859 Convention Center Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Omni Riverfront  
701 Convention Center Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

President: Adia Harvey Wingfield, Washington University in St. Louis

Program Committee Co-Chairs: Brandon A. Jackson, Purdue University;  
Rashawn Ray, University of Maryland

#### **THEME**

The theme for the 2021 meeting is “Will America Work? Race, Polarization, and Economic Inequality.” The year 2020 has produced a global pandemic, political polarization, civil unrest related to police brutality, and another wave of a racial awakening. Economic instability and unemployment have approached Great Depression-era numbers. Black, Latinx, and indigenous people are not only disproportionately more likely to die from COVID-19, the former two groups are

also more likely to be “essential, frontline” workers who face greater exposure to the virus. Additionally, COVID-19 has been brutal to minority- and women-owned small businesses. The benefits of the Payment Protection Program from the Small Business Administration were less likely to reach these small businesses, given that they often lack relationships with large banks and face discrimination in the lending process. In the midst of these racial and economic flash points, the US continues to grow increasingly polarized, with widening political, cultural, and social divides.

Sociologists have studied these issues and are well-positioned to examine them in real-time. This conference aims to feature research that highlights the structural and intersectional ways that COVID-19 further exposes systemic inequalities. We also aim to highlight innovative research that speaks to transformative leaps toward racial equality or reducing economic inequality. Accordingly, we welcome papers showcasing the ways that sociologists are aiming to contribute to broader conversations at their universities, communities, and state capitals to help make America work--for everyone.

**A Note on the possibilities of the conference:**

Due to COVID-19, we welcome--in addition to new submissions--resubmissions for all types of presentations, including full sessions, workshops, Authors Meets Curious Readers, etc., that were cancelled along with our 2020 conference. While we are proceeding with the slim hope that the conference can occur in-person, we are also planning an all-inclusive and innovative virtual conference with a dynamic and interactive platform that is user-friendly and allows for concurrent, live sessions to run synchronously along with pre-recorded content. Should we have to go online for SSS 2021, the virtual conference will feature interactive round table sessions, poster sessions, networking happy hours, salons, and “hallway” conversations for private conversations. We also plan to include one-to-one mentoring sessions with senior scholars and professional development workshops for junior scholars.

Accordingly, we have a quick survey for you to complete letting us know your university's regulations and policies about travel. [Please click here to be taken to the survey.](#)

## **SUBMISSION DETAILS**

### **Submission Deadline: November 6, 2020**

As mentioned above, we are very happy to have resubmissions of all types from our previously cancelled SSS 2020 meeting *and* we also welcome any and all new submissions. There are three primary submission types:

1) Individual Papers: You may submit extended abstracts of individual papers for inclusion in a regular paper session. These abstracts will be organized into sessions by the program committee members on the basis of common themes. All regular paper submissions should include: (a) the title of the paper\*, (b) names, affiliations, and contact information for each author\*, and (c) an extended abstract. Extended abstracts should be approximately 400-450 (max. 450 words) and organized with the following three section headings: Objectives, Methods, and Findings. While these section headings may not apply to all submissions, we expect objectives and contributions, and primary argument to be clear.

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

3) Full session proposals (proposed sessions with proposed presenters/panelists): All complete session proposals must include a short abstract (max. 450 words) detailing the theme of the proposed session. If the session is being submitted on behalf of an SSS Committee (or multiple committees), include this information in

the session title. Additionally, you must include full details (submission title, submission type, abstract, exactly three keywords, first name, last name, institution, email, and position) for all participants. Participants include the presider and organizer, in addition to the presenters or panelists, and discussant, if included. Author-Meets-Curious-Readers (AMCR) sessions spotlight books drawing broad enthusiasm across SSS membership. AMCRs may be self-nominated and should include three to four potential ‘curious readers’. Submissions should also include a brief description of the session’s prospective broad appeal and/or connections with the meeting theme. Proposals for Workshops on a range of topics like social change, pedagogy, methodology, networking, and publishing, for example, will be considered too. Proposals for AMCRs and Workshop sessions should be sent to the program chair for consideration. Also, note that the number of both AMCR sessions and Workshops will be limited by room constraints.

Members are encouraged to submit to Sessions Seeking Papers which will be updated and subsequently circulated as a digest on a weekly basis.

\*PLEASE NOTE that information provided here--through the submission portal--will appear exactly as it is entered. Therefore, in submission titles, ONLY capitalize first letters, and your name and affiliation should be entered according to how you wish to appear in the program.

## **SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

### **Join/Renew SSS Membership Dues**

With the exception of undergraduate observers and presenting undergraduate affiliates of SSS Departmental Members, anyone attending the meeting or participating in the program must be current dues-paying members of SSS.

## **Pre-Register**

All program participants (presenters, presiders, discussants, panelists, etc.) must be registered for the annual meeting. Please note that conference attendees are strongly encouraged to Pre-Register for SSS 2021 on or before March 1, 2021.

Those who register after this date will pay On-Site Registration fees. Note: You may join SSS/Renew your dues during the Pre-Registration process. In addition, *for those who requested that their SSS 2020 registration be credited toward their SSS 2021 registration, those are already reflected within your SSS Member Portal.*

[Submit](#) your paper, poster session, or full sessions. All submissions must include the title, extended abstract, author names, and contact information as noted above. Submissions must be received by the deadline, November 6.

Book your room at the New Orleans Downtown Marriott at the Convention Center. Web-based reservations are preferred by following this [link](#). The SSS conference rate is \$229 per night at the Marriott. Our overflow hotel is the Omni Riverfront. Web-based reservations are preferred. The SSS conference rate is \$215 per night at the Omni. Deadline for booking within the SSS Annual Meeting room block at either hotel is March 16, 2021; however, if past is indicative of future, the room block will fill up well before this cut-off date. Members should wait to book their rooms until a decision is made about whether the conference will be in person.

## **Limitations on Program Appearances**

Because time slots are limited, participants may serve in no more than two presentation roles (author of a paper, panel participant, workshop leader, poster presenter, etc.). There are no restrictions on the number of times a participant may serve as a session presider or discussant.

For more information, please go to the [Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting page](#).

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

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