

## CALL FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS

**DEADLINE: December 13, 2013**

40<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-South Sociological Association Conference

**“Sociology and Globalization: Exploring Diversity, Paradigmatic Shifts, and Critical Frameworks from A Social Context”**

The substantive program for the 2014 Annual Meeting is now taking shape under the leadership of President-Elect Anita Gardner and the 2014 Program Committee. The theme of "**Exploring Diversity, Paradigmatic Shifts, and Critical Frameworks from a Social Context**" invites participation across the discipline and provides many opportunities to bring together a variety of sociological work in diverse formats.

The spectrum of sessions on the Annual Meeting program reflects the MSSA's commitment to facilitate intellectual communication and the transmission of knowledge, information, and skills relevant to the field of sociology and aligned social sciences.

Members are now encouraged to submit session proposals. Members are encouraged to submit proposals that reflect global and critical frameworks within the context of sociology. All session ideas are welcome. With the collective input of MSSA members, the 2014 Annual Meeting program will achieve a high mark of excellence.

### **There are five different types of invited sessions:**

**Thematic Sessions** examine the meeting theme. These sessions are broad in scope and endeavor to make the theme of the meeting come alive. Ideas for Thematic Sessions are due by Friday, December 13, 2013. **Special Sessions** focus on new areas of sociological work or other timely topics which may or may not relate to the theme. They generally address sociological issues, whether in research or its application, of importance to the discipline or of interest beyond.

**Regional Spotlight Sessions** provide opportunities to look at issues pertinent to the host site for the Annual Meeting. With Mobile, Alabama, as the site of the 2014 Annual Meeting, there are many opportunities to develop interesting session topics with invited panelists, as well as ideas for local tours and site visits.

**Workshops/Roundtables** provide practical advice or instruction to sociologists at every professional level. Topics focus on careers and professional growth, academic department strategies, research skills and use of major datasets, teaching challenges, publishing advice and tips, grant opportunities and grant writing skills, enhanced teaching of standard courses, ethical issues, and more. If you have tried a pedagogical approach that has been effective, developed insightful career advice, or have wisdom to share about using sociology in applied and research settings, please volunteer to organize and lead a workshop. Workshops are open to all attendees; no fees are involved.

**Courses** are designed to keep sociologists abreast of recent scholarly trends and developments. These intensive sessions are led by expert instructors who are considered to be at the forefront of a given field. Course instructors are urged to prepare reading lists, teaching materials (e.g., handouts, etc.), and to use the same sort of techniques they would use in advanced courses. If you have cutting-edge methodological or theoretical knowledge in an important area, or know a colleague who has such expertise, please submit a proposal for a course. Participants in courses register in advance and pay a small fee to cover cost of materials.

### **Guidelines for Submitting Session Proposals**

**Thematic Sessions, Special Sessions, and Regional Spotlight Sessions** Proposals must include:

- Designation of the session type: Thematic Session; Special Session; Regional Spotlight Session
- Working title for the session;
- Brief description of the substantive focus;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2014 program;
- Recommendation(s) for session organizer, including address, telephone, and e-mail information; and

**Workshops and Roundtables** proposals must include:

- Working title for the session;
- Brief description of the focus, goals, and intended audience for the workshop;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2014 program;
- Recommendation for workshop organizer/leader, including address, telephone, and e-mail information; and
- A list of potential co-leaders or panelists, if desired.

**Course** proposals must include:

- Working title for the Course;
- Brief description of the focus and content;
- Rationale for inclusion of the topic on the 2014 program; and
- Recommendation for course leader, including address, telephone, and e-mail information.

**SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO:**

**Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner**  
**Assistant Professor of Criminology**  
**President-Elect, Mid-South Sociological Association**  
[midsouthsoc@gmail.com](mailto:midsouthsoc@gmail.com)  
**704-378-1092 (o)**