

FALL 2020

FORUM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-SOUTH
SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.
Organizational Statement

The Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. (MSSA, Inc.), founded in 1975, is a 501-C-(3) non-profit organization providing both professional support to, and a forum for sociologists who teach, conduct research and reside in the Mid-South region of the US. Through its publications, annual conference, academic support and collegial networks, MSSA, Inc. promotes the advancement of sociological research, the diffusion of knowledge, innovative service and teaching. From its inception, MSSA, Inc. has been and continues to be committed to mentoring and enabling the growth of the next generation of sociologists in the value of high-quality research and engagement, and ethical, professional service.



MSSA, Inc. Inclusion Statement

The Mid-South Sociological Association Inc. embraces diversity and promotes inclusion by recruiting, including, and valuing people of all races, genders and gender identities, sexualities, ethnicities, religions, economic and employment statuses, abilities, and other dimensions. The MSSA celebrates all expressions of diversity and identity and strives to provide an environment conducive to free expression of ideas without fear of judgment in any way. Moreover, the MSSA does not tolerate any action from any member or conference participant that encourages or promotes hatred and/or intolerance in any form. Further, to the extent that the Board determines that it is not detrimental to the best interests (financial and otherwise) of the association, the MSSA will use the economic power of the annual conferences and other activities to select locations and enter into agreements with businesses that have policies and practices that reflect the values of the MSSA.



An introduction to this edition, thank yous, and my conference wrap up

Written by: Andrew Tatch

Welcome to the Fall 2020 edition of Forum, the official bi-annual newsletter of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc! As my second attempt as the editor, I am excited to use this space to recap what is most accurately described as a heroic effort by the MSSA, Inc. executive board and the tech committee and subcommittees. Serving on both, I can certainly be accused of tooting my own horn here, but it seemed to go extremely smooth and quite frankly, better than I expected for our first ever transition to a virtual conference-- and a rushed transition at that. So much of the credit for making this conference work so well goes to our new MSSA, Inc. President Tina Deshotels and Ruth Chananie, who was recently appointed as our new Chair of a now more permanent technology committee. Simply, although a lot of us put in a lot of hours, these were the captains of the ship, at least from my perspective.

For this particular issue, I would like to thank Dr. Braden Leap for contributing a piece on an innovative and unique course he developed for Mississippi State University. Thanks (and congratulations) are also in order for Dr. Roman Johnson, a recent UAB graduate and now postdoctoral associate doing important work at Harvard University. And a thank you to Pam Holiday, a senior at Dixie State who joined us (virtually) for our conference and was willing to share her interesting work! And lastly, thank you to all who shared your wins (a lot of them).

What's in this edition?

- From the desk of the MSSA, Inc. President (p.4)
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I want to take this last little bit of space to speak on just how awesome I felt that last conference was. Again, it served as a reminder of why Mid-South is so great and why it means so much to so many of us. Even virtually, I met awesome new people, connected with old friends, got incredible advice as I begin my new academic journey at Troy University (PRAISE), and logged off of Zoom more rejuvenated and more excited about our organization than ever before. On a Friday night, I left the main business meeting to join a mentoring session and there were around 9 people in the session-- around 7:00PM on a Friday evening. And those of us more junior faculty or graduate students got EXCELLENT advice from others willing to share their experiences. That, to me, is the core of what makes this organization and everyone associated with it so great.

We did it. In the middle of a pandemic. And we did it well. Let's keep this momentum going.

From the Desk of the President

TINA DESHOTELS, PHD

I am pleased to be writing to you as MSSA President. I am particularly pleased given the extraordinary commitment of those who made our first ever virtual meeting such a success! In the middle of a pandemic, we had one of our most successful meetings ever!!! How does that happen?!!?!? When I used to hear folks go on and on about thanking this person and that, I, in the past did not really know just how serious they were being. In that spirit, please bear with me. The 2020 meeting truly was one for our history books and it cannot be understated just how important each and every one of you were and are to making MSSA successful, session organizers, participants, officers, past officers, committee chairs and contributors, thank you. I do have to call out at least a few folks. Past President Ruth Chanie, from offering sage advice, some of which I did not want to hear, to our seemingly endless formatting work on the program gave an especially herculean effort once again this year. Past-President Jessica Abbott, was always there, sometimes pushing me forward, sometimes holding me back with countless texts, late night, early morning phone calls. And, the tech committee co-chaired by Ruth Chanie and Marcus Brooks, all the committee members and volunteers, we really do all owe them credit for their ability to provide a smooth virtual experience! It sounds cliché and it's still true, each and everyone of you worked hard, giving your time and energy, and laid a firm foundation that we will be able to build on in the future. Thank you.



And, let's look to the future! The 47th Annual MSSA 2021 will be hybrid, in Charlotte, NC and virtually, on October 20-23, 2021. The meeting theme is "Reconstructing Reality through Research, Teaching, and Activism." Dr. Shelly McGrath, President-Elect and Program Chair is hard at work organizing another timely, engaging and welcoming conference. As usual, the meetings will include paper and panel sessions, roundtables, a plenary address, receptions, a banquet and business meeting where we will hand out awards to all the outstanding winners of our various competitions (see page 7 for recent winners). We will also continue the tradition of offering virtual mentoring and networking events both in person and virtually.

From the desk of the President, continued

Now, for the really important duty, I want to remind everyone that for MSSA to continue to offer the services we do, we must support our association. This means that we will be asking for all those who can attend in person to stay at the hotel, the Hilton Charlotte University Place. While we are offering a virtual option, for those who would not be able to attend in person, we are also obligated under contract to, as an organization, fill 250 room nights. If we do not, the organization will be charged for the nights we do not fill. Pre-pandemic we would not be as concerned. Rest assured we will let you know if this changes but as of now, we are concerned. We are in process of re-thinking how we do meetings and will be presenting a variety of different ideas for alternative formats. COVID has changed the landscape and we must change with it. But one thing remains the same. It is always true that it is only through the active support of all our members that we can continue to be the vibrant and highly supportive professional organization that we have since our founding in 1974.

I would like to welcome our new board members. First, as mentioned earlier, Dr. Shelly McGrath is our president-elect. I'm sure we will all show her the wonderful enthusiasm you shared with me in helping to make 47th meeting a huge success! And, because we cannot let Dr. Ruth Chananie go, she is chair of the newly created permanent technology committee. Dr. Nicola Davis Bivens joins us as vice-president elect, Kirsten Ostergren Clark as Nominations Chair, Andrea Hunt as Chair of Committee on the Profession, Dr. Sarah Donley returns as Chair of Women, Gender, and Sexualities, and Dr. Ashraf Esmail as Chair of Small and Community Colleges. What a great team to lead us forward!!!! "See" y'all in Charlotte!

Your grateful President,

Tina Hebert Deshotels



The most sincere thank you...

OUR RECENT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SIMPLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, WHICH WE WISH TO AGAIN RECOGNIZE!



2020 Technology Committee

- Jessica Abbott, Dixie State University
- Marcus Brooks, University of Cincinnati (co-chair)
- Ruth Chananie, University of Tampa (co-chair)
- Tina Deshotels, Jacksonville State University
- Sarah Donley, Jacksonville State University
- Andrew Tatch, Troy University

2020 Technology Sub-Committee

- Shaonta' Allen, University of Cincinnati
- Jenny Bradford, New Mexico State University
- Kirsten Ostergren Clark, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Oluwaseun Emoruwa, Mississippi State University
- Tyler Gay, Georgia State University
- Taylor Jackson, Florida State University
- Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken
- Bee Ben Khallouq, University of Central Florida
- Nik Lampe, University of South Carolina
- Ying Ma, Austin Peay State University
- Maria Mayhan, Auburn University
- Alexis Moore, Georgia State University
- Jason Savoy, Louisiana State University
- Sonya Spence, University of Central Florida
- Anthony J. Stone Jr., University of Cincinnati
- Frederic Traylor, Rutgers University – New Brunswick



MSSA, INC. 2020 AWARD WINNERS

AS ANNOUNCED DURING THE 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award

- Jennifer Sims and Chinelo Njaka; *Mixed-Race in the US and UK: Comparing Past, Present, and Future*

Sociological Spectrum Award

- Marc Matre and Kevin Breault; "A History of the Mid-South Sociological Association."

Graduate paper competition

- Nik Lampe; *Understanding the Healthcare Experiences of Transgender and Non-Binary Young Adults*

Undergraduate paper competition

- 1st place: Katelynn Shadoan and Faith Myers; "Ladies, Do Not Pass Go: Changing Cultural Gender Beliefs Through a Gender Monopoly Simulation"
- 2nd place: Tiffany Maziarz; "You Throw Like a Girl!": A Theoretical Exploration of Media Representation and Viewership of Women's Sports
- 3rd place: Audrey Smith; *Predictors of Fear of Sexual Assault*

Introducing selected members of the MSSA, Inc. executive board

It is important for me, as the editor of the Forum, to try and use this newsletter to try and further the collaborative and collegial climate we appreciate and expect from MSSA, Inc. One way I try and do that is to make sure there is an open line of communication between members and the executive board. Having been fortunate to serve alongside these dedicated (and wonderful) individuals for multiple years, I want to give them a bit of space to tell you who they are. As you see them in Charlotte, please say hi to them and thank them for the work they are doing to keep MSSA, Inc. strong and sustainable for the foreseeable future!

Kevin Breault: Sociological Spectrum editor

This is Kevin Breault. I serve as Editor-in-Chief of Sociological Spectrum and Archivist of the MSSA. I have a B.A. from Reed College and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. I am mainly interested in social epidemiology and I am known for work in the areas of suicide and homicide. I have published in all the major journals in sociology as well as medical journals. With the late Marc Matre, I am author of "A History of the Mid--South Sociological Association," recently published in Spectrum, and with others in my research group a paper on women, unemployment and suicide in the International Journal of Women's Health. I look forward to getting a vaccine.

Sarah Donley: Chair of the Committee on Women, Gender, and Sexualities

Hello everyone! I am Sarah Donley and I am excited to begin my second term as the Chair for the Women, Gender, and Sexualities Committee. Currently, I am an Associate Professor at Jacksonville State University. My research interests center on gender, work and organizations, culture, and social stratification. WGS has been doing some exciting things! I recently co-edited a special issue entitled, "Intersectional Experiences and Marginalized Voices," with the Chair of the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Melencia Johnson. The special issue will be published in early 2021 in Sociological Spectrum. In addition to the special issue, WGS has created an annual newsletter, Constructs, and a WGS Travel Scholarship. After a very successful virtual meeting in 2020, I am looking forward to hopefully seeing everyone in person at the 2021 annual meeting in Charlotte, NC.

Kirsten Ostergren Clark : Chair of the Committee on Nominations

Hi all-- my name is Kirsten Ostergren Clark and I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Medical Sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. My research interests include Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Masculinity and Fatherhood, and Religion and Health. I earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of South Carolina and spent several years supervising group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, managing a dental clinic for Medicaid-only patients and working as a renal social worker in dialysis clinics, among other areas of service. I have taught sociology and psychology classes at the community college level and been both an independent instructor and a teaching assistant for sociology classes at the university level through UAB. I also have research experience doing interviews for university-related projects. My dissertation is a qualitative project with the subject involving fatherhood and developmental disabilities. My non-academic activities include exercising and playing in a community handbell choir, along with her church handbell and vocal choirs. I anticipate graduating in Fall 2020 and seek to acquire a position in teaching or training in the social sciences. I am looking forward to serving the MSSA!

Call for Session Organizers



From Shelly McGrath, MSSA, Inc. President-Elect

This year's theme is:

Reconstructing Reality through Research, Teaching, and Activism! All topics are welcome. You may propose sociology, criminology, or interdisciplinary sessions. The 2021 MSSA meeting is welcoming of all scholars! Given this year's theme, I encourage you to consider organizing a paper session, poster session, roundtable, workshop, or panel discussion that incorporates this year's theme regarding how sociology and the social sciences can reframe reality in fact and incorporate it into teaching and research. Papers, posters, etc., discussing different medium's role in contributing to the reemergence of basing decisions on facts are highly encouraged.

Please feel free to propose any session of your choosing—all are welcome here! Please send me your ideas for organizing a session (to: smcgrath@uab.edu), including a brief description (or working title if you have one), type of session desired, whether you would prefer an online or in-person session, and your contact information no later than **February 26, 2021**. I look forward to working with you to create a successful and inspiring conference!

Types of Sessions:

- **Paper sessions:** 3-5 individuals present their research with Q&A after
- **Roundtables:** held at a round table; intended to have people interested in a particular topic discuss ideas, ongoing research, or ask questions
- **Workshops:** directed sessions with the goal of participatory learning
- **Poster Sessions:** presenters display a poster version of their research and describe it briefly to viewers
- **Panels:** led by a group of experts who lead a discussion with attendees about a particular topic

Innovative Teaching: Country Music's America

WRITTEN BY BRADEN LEAP, PHD

Jad Abumrad's "Dolly Parton's America," a podcast inspired by Dr. Lynn Sacco's history class at the University of Tennessee with the same title, focuses on Dolly Parton's business acumen, public persona, and politics as a means of discussing the complexities of America and our shifting, heterogeneous places in it. Paralleling Dr. Sacco's class, the podcast has one central question: What is Dolly Parton's America? Like Parton's career, the podcast is a fascinating portrait of the creative, hopeful, and often maddening steps we take to try to navigate the contradictions, ambivalences, and inequalities that have always been at the heart of the United States. If you haven't had a chance, I definitely recommend checking it out.

As a rural sociologist and gender scholar who examines how individuals and communities respond to social and ecological transformations, the podcast prompted me to think about what a sociology class focusing on country music, more generally, could offer undergraduate students. Whether you love it or love to hate it, country is a distinctly American musical genre that has acted as an informal register of major social transformations in the United States over the past century. Urbanization, social unrest, and shifts in the gendered organization of families and workplaces have all been centrally important to the genre. Combined with its status as a multi-billion-dollar industry that is loved and loathed by millions of Americans, country music presents a unique opportunity to prompt students to examine the historic development and contemporary arrangement of major social issues in the United States by examining a unique subset of pop culture.



This coming spring I'll be offering Country Music's America at Mississippi State University. Focusing on country artists such as Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, and Lil Nas X as well as texts by John Eason, Nadine Hubbs, Charles Hughes, and Robert Wuthnow, among others, we'll explore topics such as the prison-industrial complex, political polarization across the rural-urban interface, and shifting gender paradigms in a post-industrial economy. Through these topics, we'll address two main questions. First, what is country about country music? Second, what is country music's America?

Although it is often fiercely defended as the untarnished moral compass of an idyllic America or denigrated as a perfectly regressive genre pushing racism and sexism to anyone ignorant enough to enjoy it, country music is far more complex than either of these views suggest. The belief that country music is a genre with its roots firmly in rural, white musical traditions, for example, is a simplification that obscures more about the genre than it illuminates. Not only have black and Latinx musicians repeatedly contributed to the genre, the first commercially successful country artists in the 1920s were generally professional musicians who lived in urban centers and artistically synthesized pop, blues, ragtime, and minstrel songs with the folk styles associated with rural musicians. Their depictions as country bumpkins who played authentic "old-time" or "hillbilly" music unchanged by ongoing urbanization and industrialization was clever marketing, not reality.

Country Music's America, continued

Braden Leap, PhD

Focusing on the production, distribution, and consumption of the genre over the past century, students will be prompted to question more than just their assumptions about country music. They'll also be asked to consider our country and their unique places in it. At a historical moment when a global pandemic and election cycle have prompted a tumultuous reckoning on the racial, gender, and class inequalities that structure our lives and communities, I am anxious and excited to hear what my students have to say.

MSSA, Inc. member profile:

One of the perks of being the Forum editor is that I get to highlight some of our impressive members. While serving on the tech committee for the recent conference as a Zoom host, I was able to listen to a ton of presentations. One of those that I attended included Pam Holiday, a student at Dixie State University. In the beginning of her presentation, she mentioned that she was a senior at DSU. After her wonderful presentation, I again verified that I heard correctly, because of how well and confidently she shared her research during the session. Because of the impression Pam left on me and others in the session, I asked her for a brief write up of her and some of the work. Members of MSSA, Inc., welcome Pam Holiday!

Written by: Pam Holiday

Pamela O. Holiday is an Applied Sociology senior at Dixie State University (DSU) in St. George, UT. Pamela is a proud member of the Navajo Nation tribe and was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in Monument Valley, Utah. As a first generation higher education student, she found the Applied Sociology program at DSU to fit her interests and passion in academia and personal growth.



MSSA, Inc. member profile, continued...

Pam Holiday

While at DSU, Pamela has had many opportunities and experiences that have contributed to her overall academic success and goals. Within the Applied Sociology program, she has been privileged to apply social research skills while serving as an active student researcher for the Institute for Social Research (ISR). In the academic year 2019-2020, the ISR studied under the 'Quality of Life Initiative', a case study: "A New Era : Teaching and Accepting Burnout in a Techno-Reliant Society." This study was later published in summer 2020. Consequently from her participation in the 2019-2020 study, Pamela was offered and accepted the current position as the Project Coordinator for the 2020-2021 case study, "How Intersectionality, Lack of Diversity and Inclusion Affects Outdoor Recreation Use: An Examination of Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA) and Underrepresented Social Groups."

Other areas that Pamela is currently involved in are being an active member in the Applied Sociology club, a Prevention Specialist at Southwest Behavioral Health Center (SBHC) and an intern/researcher for the DSU Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA). As a Prevention Specialist, Pamela aids in developing and presenting public awareness programs while cooperating with various community groups, agencies, and coalitions for prevention education and youth programs within Washington County, UT. While OLA's mission is to provide outdoor education and opportunities to marginalized youth, Pamela assists their mission in developing, assessing, and implementing outdoor recreation activities and training. Further, her position with both organizations has provided opportunities to open and bridge a relationship between SBHC and OLA. This relationship has also been beneficial in providing opportunities and resources to the local Shivwits Southern Utah Band of Paiute Indian Tribe. Pamela's relationship with all groups motivate and inspire her to better serve the local communities and their youth.

While embracing who she is and where she comes from, Pamela's educational goals are to enhance her knowledge, skills, and experience so that she may better serve the Indigenous communities upon completing the necessary licenses, degrees, and/or other qualifying accreditations. After completing her B.S. degree in May 2021, she plans to continue to work with the Southwest Behavioral Health Center and other Southern Utah coalitions, non-profits, and other organizations with the common mission that aims to promote social equity and equality. Further, Pamela plans to enroll in a master's program in Social Work and Public Administration that would allow her to facilitate beneficial change to Indigenous communities. As a current student of the social sciences, she has learned that the degree of social change depends on the type of approach taken, there are two types: micro (person-person, individual-based) and macro (community, state, social systems); her goals are to be capable and educated to do both approaches.

Related Resources:

Pamela's writing includes: Dixie State University Institute for Social Research 'Quality of Life Initiative' Journal Volume 2 case study: "A New Era : Teaching and Accepting Burnout in a Techno-Reliant Society," (2020).

This can be found online at <https://campusstore.dixie.edu/home>.

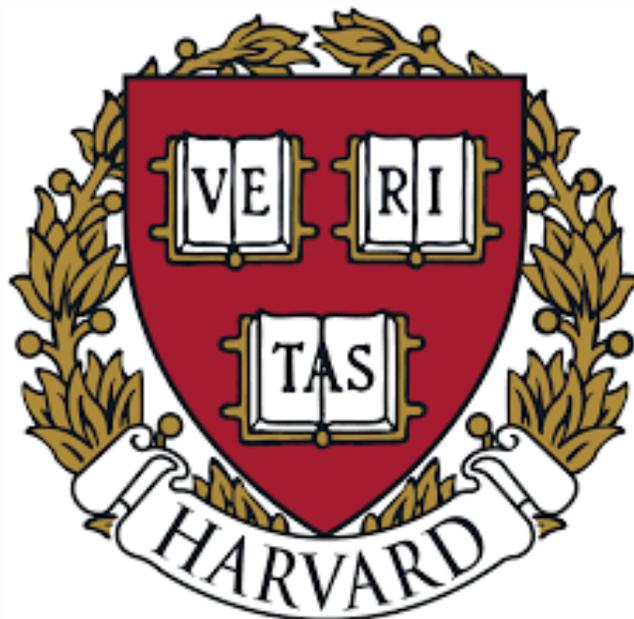
MSSA member profile: Roman Johnson, PhD

I met Roman a few years back at our Jackson conference, and we had some great conversation about some of our shared research interests. After we connected on social media, I was able to follow his graduation and his big move to Boston. I asked him to write up a bit about the important work he is doing now for an MSSA member profile.



Affiliation: Harvard Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University
Email: rjohnson@hsph.harvard.edu

Roman Johnson is a Harvard Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Fellow with affiliations at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In 2020, he received his Ph.D. in medical sociology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he was supervised by Dr. Mieke Thomeer-McBride. In 2019, he was the winner of the Mid South Sociological Association's Graduate Paper Competition. His scholarship can be found in *Cancer and Health Equity*. His current projects revolve around prostate cancer screening, neighborhoods, and COVID-19 health disparities.



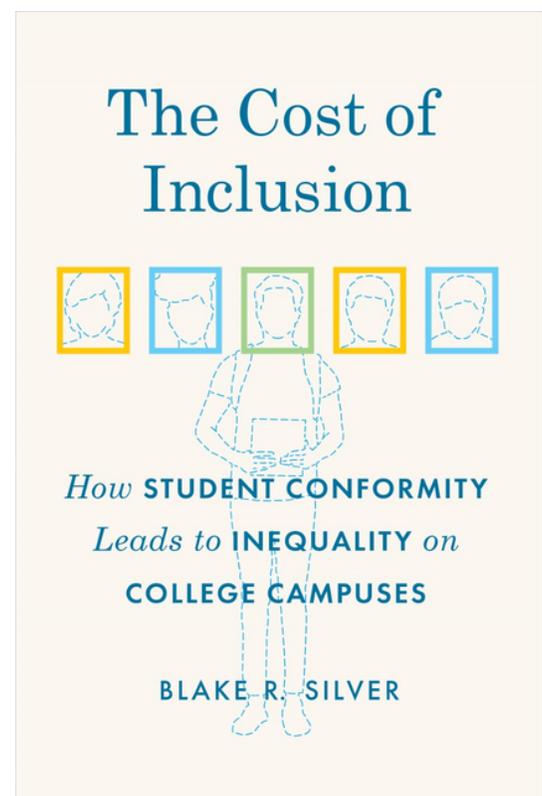
Mid-South Sociological Association wins

Blake Silver, at George Mason, recently had his book [The Cost of Inclusion: How Student Conformity Leads to Inequality on College Campuses](#) published with the University of Chicago Press!

Overview:

Young people are told that college is a place where they will “find themselves” by engaging with diversity and making friendships that will last a lifetime. This vision of an inclusive, diverse social experience is a fundamental part of the image colleges sell potential students. But what really happens when students arrive on campus and enter this new social world? *The Cost of Inclusion* delves into this rich moment to explore the ways students seek out a sense of belonging and the sacrifices they make to fit in.

Blake R. Silver spent a year immersed in student life at a large public university. He trained with the Cardio Club, hung out with the Learning Community, and hosted service events with the Volunteer Collective. Through these day-to-day interactions, he witnessed how students sought belonging and built their social worlds on campus. Over time, Silver realized that these students only achieved inclusion at significant cost. To fit in among new peers, they clung to or were pushed into raced and gendered cultural assumptions about behavior, becoming “the cool guy,” “the nice girl,” “the funny one,” “the leader,” “the intellectual,” or “the mom of the group.” Instead of developing dynamic identities, they crafted and adhered to a cookie-cutter self, one that was rigid and two-dimensional. Silver found that these students were ill-prepared for the challenges of a diverse college campus, and that they had little guidance from their university on how to navigate the trials of social engagement or the pressures to conform. While colleges are focused on increasing the diversity of their enrolled student body, Silver’s findings show that they need to take a hard look at how they are failing to support inclusion once students arrive on campus.



MSSA, Inc wins, continued...

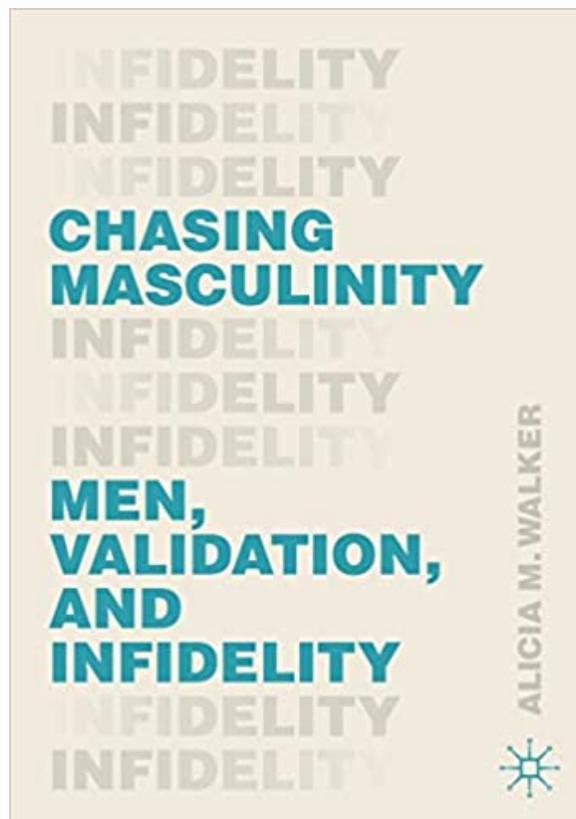
Alicia Walker at Missouri State University recently had her book Chasing Masculinity: Men, Validation, and Infidelity published!

Overview:

This book analyzes men's experiences and perceptions regarding their participation in infidelity and offers a glimpse into the inner workings of their most intimate relationships, as well as the ways men negotiate marriages that fall short of their expectations.

Using a sample collected from the online dating service Ashley Madison, this book finds that contrary to gendered social scripts, the men in this study described motivations for outside partnerships that were not rooted in the desire for sexual pleasure or variety. Rather, men described those relationships as an outlet to soothe their bruised egos, receive attention and validation from a romantic partner, and to fight their feelings of emasculation. These infidelities thus provide support and praise, and aid in the processing of complex emotions.

This in-depth analysis provides a unique insight into men's experiences of sexuality and masculinity, and will be of keen interest to those seeking to understand male infidelity from a sociological perspective, across gender studies, psychology, counselling, and beyond.



MSSA, Inc. wins, continued...

Shaun Respass at Virginia Tech published the following:

- “Suffering in Science: Care and Recovery in Evidence-Based Psychiatric Treatments.” *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health* 15 (October 1, 2020): 100532.
- “Expert Care in Mental Health Paternalism.” In *Epistemic Paternalism Reconsidered: Conceptions, Justifications, and Implications*, edited by Amiel Bernal and Guy Axtell, 107-122. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2020.

Shane Gunderson at Broward College recently got a book chapter published!

Gunderson, S. (2021) Sexual deviance theory, generation Z, and the LGBTQ community. *Deviance today*. (Second edition) Adrain Conyers, Thomas C. Calhoun (Eds.), Abington: Routledge.



Roger Guy at the State University of New York at Oswego published the following:

Piotr A. Chomczyński and Roger Guy, “Our biographies are the same:” *Juvenile Work in Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations from the Perspective of a Collective Trajectory* forthcoming in the *British Journal of Criminology*.

Andrew Tatch finally landed that ever elusive tenure track job after waiting so impatiently. Andrew will be starting as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminology at Troy University in Spring 2021. Andrew is excited to get started and thrilled to be able to stay in the southern region and to stay involved with MSSA, Inc.

Christi Mackey at Rogers State University was awarded the Faculty Recognition Award for Excellence in Service and received promotion to Assistant Professor in the last academic year! She was also named Oklahoma Sociological Association President for 2021 and Chair of the Board of Directors for Safenet Services, Inc., a local domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention agency.



Continued MSSA, Inc. wins

Dr. Komanduri S. Murty at Fort Valley State University has been quite busy, recently publishing the following:

- Komanduri S. Murty and Diane Byrd, "Chapter 7—Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) and the Intersection of Race and Class," Pp. 118-136. In: Ashraf Esmail, Lasa Eargle, and Perry Lyle (Eds.). *Old Problem, New Paradigms: The Tragedies of Human Trafficking and Exploitation*. Sulphur City, LA: Wise Publications, 2020.
- Komanduri S. Murty and Tamara Payne, "Chapter 8—Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children: The Role of Media in its Plight and Fight," Pp. 137-154. In: Ashraf Esmail, Lasa Eargle, and Perry Lyle (Eds.). *Old Problem, New Paradigms: The Tragedies of Human Trafficking and Exploitation*. Sulphur City, LA: Wise Publications, 2020.
- Komanduri S. Murty, "Chapter 16: Minority Student Participation in International Programs," pp. 269-287. In: J. Singelmann and D.L. Poston (eds.) *Developments in Demography in the 21st Century*. The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population 48, Springer publications, 2020.
- Komanduri S. Murty, Ronald Craig, and Ashwin Vyas, "Chapter 7—"Orwellian" Society—The Transformation Era," Pp. 107-129. In: Ashraf Esmail, Lasa Eargle, and Perry Lyle (Eds.). *Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes? Equilibrium between Secrecy, Transparency, and Individual Freedoms*. Sulphur City, LA: Wise Publications, 2020.
- Komanduri S. Murty, "Politics of Trump's Pardon of Susan B. Anthony in the Wake of 19th Amendment Centennial: Struggle for Women's Suffrage Far From Over," *Journal of Law and Judicial System* 3(3):1-9, 2020.

Dr. Murty has also served as the Editor-in Chief of *Journal of Education and Social Sciences* since July 2020.



The wins just keep coming!

Nik Lampe at the University of South Carolina got multiple publications, including the following:

- Nowakowski, Alexandra C. H., J. E. Sumerau, and Nik M. Lampe. 2020. Transformations in Queer, Trans, and Intersex Health and Aging. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793616340/Transformations-in-Queer-Trans-and-Intersex-Health-and-Aging>
- Lampe, Nik M. and Alexandra C. H. Nowakowski. 2020. "New Horizons in Trans and Non-Binary Health Care: Bridging Identity Affirmation with Chronicity Management in Sexual and Reproductive Services." International Journal of Transgender Health. DOI: 10.1080/26895269.2020.1829244. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/26895269.2020.1829244>
- Besse, Margaret, Nik M. Lampe, and Emily S. Mann. 2020. "Experiences with Achieving Pregnancy and Giving Birth Among Transgender Men: A Narrative Literature Review." Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine 93(4):517-528. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7513446/>
- Lampe, Nik M. 2020. "Book Review: Trans Men in the South: Becoming Men, by Baker A. Rogers." Men and Masculinities. DOI: 10.1177/1097184X20959395. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1097184X20959395>

Reshmi Chowdhury, researcher, grant writer, and board member of the Austin Asian Community Health Initiative was invited for an interview with Austin Public Radio KOOP 91.7 FM in their award-winning talk show "Reflections of Community Outreach." The theme of the segment was the Dewali festival. However, the interview reflected sufficiently on her background in community engagement work, passion for community-based participatory action research and her Sociological insights on South Asian religious-cultural festivities, as a member of the South Asian diaspora in the American society. It is available at <https://www.facebook.com/KOOPradio/posts/3683023135062506>

Reshmi also organized and hosted a virtual fundraiser musical event, as a civic initiative for COVID affected population in Central TX and in Bangladesh (her native country). The event was acknowledged by the Asian American Quality of Life Commission under the City of Austin, archived by Austin History Center, and featured by UT Austin, South Asian Institute. The title of the event was: Celebration of Love: A Civic Fundraiser for COVID -19 pandemic. It is available here: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/southasia/events/celebration-of-love-a-civic-fundraiser-for-covid-19-on-koop-radio-s-passport-to-india>

Our members are doing a lot... more wins

David Knottnerus at Oklahoma State University wrote two 'Forewords' in several forthcoming books focusing on ritual, trauma, and grief. The books are below:

- Knottnerus, J. David. Forthcoming (2020/2021). "Foreword" in *Ritual in Fearful Times: An Unexplored Resource for Coping with Trauma*, edited by Jeltje Gordon-Lennox. New York City: Springer Publishing Company.
- Knottnerus, J. David. Forthcoming. "Foreword" in *The 53: Long-term Grief and the Titan II Missile Disaster*, Jason S. Ulsperger. Lanham: Maryland: Lexington Books.

Giselle Greenidge at Northwest Missouri State University recently received a small grant from her university to do research on Black sentiment in the U.S. from 1910 to 1930.

Cassandra Nolen graduated from The University of Alabama in Huntsville with a BA in Sociology. She also presented research at the MSSA conference this fall, and has recently begun a new job as Office Manager at Athens Internal Medicine and Nephrology. She also volunteers at Crisis Services of North Alabama as a Rape Response Advocate and on the suicide hotline. In addition, a paper written by she and Dr. Jennifer Sims at UAH, titled *"I Wouldn't Trust the Parent to 'Do No Harm' to a Queer Kid": Rethinking Parental Permission Requirements for Youth Participation in Social Science Research"*, is on track to be published Summer 2021.



As COVID (hopefully) fades away and we shift back to an in-person conference, we will celebrate these wins extra hard!