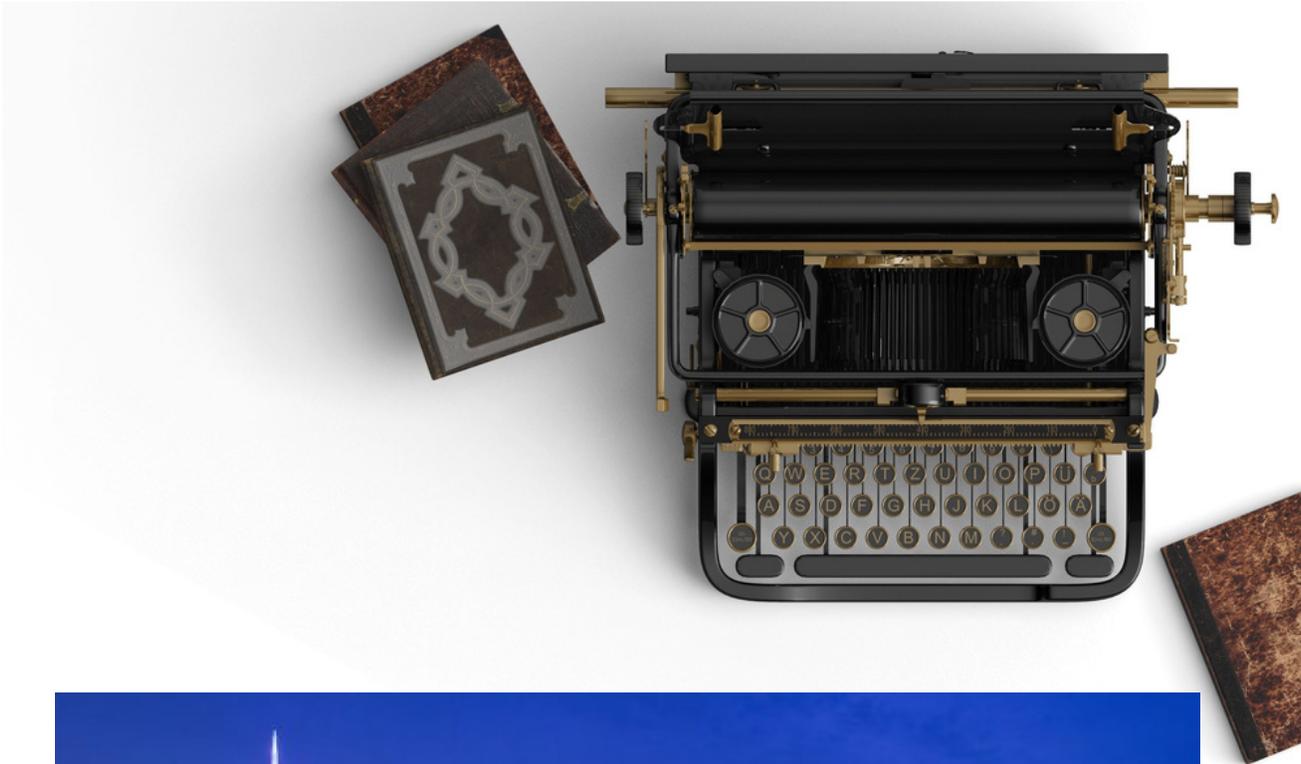


SUMMER 2022

# 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 and an invitation to Nashville

Written by Andrew Tatch

Welcome to the Spring/ Summer edition of Forum, the official bi-annual newsletter of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.

And we are off! The Spring semester is yet again a wrap. Off we go to the Summer season, which means different things for so many of us. Some of us will rest, some are teaching, and others will try and catch up on research or the thousands of emails that have collected in the dreaded inbox. Regardless of your particular Summer path, I hope you had a strong Spring and are excited about the Summer change of pace.

I don't usually know what to write on these intros for the Forum. But this time, it hit me pretty quickly: OUR WORK IS NEEDED!!! I am a pessimistic person, so maybe that is where this is coming from, but now just seems to be a time again to remind you all (and myself) that what we do is important, although it often seem as though people are not listening. In the last month or so, women's reproductive rights have been taken back to the 1970s, and we continue to have conversations on gun reform as we deal with another influx of mass shootings. I had a conversation with a friend the other day about gun reform; in my opinion, it is important that we not only work towards gun reform that minimizes loss of life, but that we also "look upstream" and consider some of the larger, and social/political/ economic drivers pushing individuals to a point where taking innocent lives is an appealing outlet for relieving anger or distress. Neither of these conversations is my area of expertise-- but for some of you, they are. And your voice matters. Use it for good. We are tired. We are upset. But we have work to do.



Speaking of work to do, we are gearing up for our upcoming conference from October 13-15 at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN. We hope that you will consider organizing a session and/ or presenting your work. There are important details on how to do this in this newsletter and on our website. We are at a pretty important juncture in our organization's history and we really want to expand and reinvigorate our great association. We do take pride in being a friendly and welcoming organization, and we hope that you will join us-- and even bring us some newcomers to contribute to our friendly and vibrant culture.

I welcome any ideas or topics that we can include in the newsletter, and I will do my best to get them all in at some point. If you have any ideas, please send them my way via email at [atatch@troy.edu](mailto:atatch@troy.edu).

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- From the desk of the MSSA, Inc. President (p. 4)
  - Introducing a few executive board members (p. 6)
  - Including grad students at our MSSA, Inc. conference (p. 10)
  - MSSA, Inc. member wins (p. 20)

# From the Desk of the President

*SHELLY MCGRATH, PHD*

Greetings MSSA members. As the MSSA President, I am delighted to be writing you. Last year the conference in Charlotte was quite challenging with the first ever hybrid meeting format. Attendance at the conference was strong, especially for the virtual sessions. I am very thankful to Ruth Chananie, Tina Deshotels, and Marcus Brooks for making the virtual format successful as there were many technological challenges we faced to be able to hold a conference in a hybrid format. Many thanks to all of you who organized sessions, recruited new members, and attended the conference. Everyone gave what they were able to during the conference given the uncertainty of the COVID virus. I am very pleased that the organization is able to learn from last year and continue with the hybrid format. I am excited that the Nashville conference will be in person as well as hybrid, giving everyone the opportunity they need to participate.

Dr. Meredith Dye, President Elect and Program Chair is working on organizing the conference in Nashville to ensure the virtual as well as in-person experience is engaging and welcoming. A call for session organizers and paper submissions was sent out recently. There is a wide variety of paper, panel, poster, and roundtable sessions in which you can organize or participate in. This is the second year that the organization will be using the portal for submission.



You can submit your session or paper/presentation through the portal which is found on the MSSA website, <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/conference/callforparticipation/>. Once on that webpage click on the MSSA Online Marketplace Directions for submitting a session through the portal. We encourage all faculty, students, and scholars from the community to participate in this year's conference. The theme of the conference is "Beyond Sundown: Sociologists Seeking Past Truths, Present Justice, And Possible Futures". A reception, banquet, workshops, and other opportunities for informal interaction and socializing are being scheduled.

Continued on next page...

## From the desk of the President, continued...

I also want to draw your attention to the Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished book award, the Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship, the scholarship from the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, the Women, Gender, and Sexualities scholarship, graduate student paper sessions and the Paper of Distinction Award, undergraduate student paper competitions, and a student poster competition. Please make all your students, colleagues and peers aware of the opportunities through the organization to make their work known. This is your organization and its continued success and strength depend on your involvement and support. I encourage you to participate and to invite new members to become involved.

To ensure the success of the conference and the organization the MSSA needs all participants to pay their dues and pre-register for the annual meeting. We encourage you to come in-person as the experience is well worth it. The conference will take place at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville, TN. Ideally, all in-person attendees will stay at the conference site. Help the MSSA continue to be a great regional association with your involvement in the conference as well as the organization. Thank you again for all that you do and I am honored to serve as the 48th President of the MSSA. I hope to see you all in Nashville.

Your President,

Shelly A. McGrath, Ph.D.



# Introducing selected members of the MSSA, Inc. executive board

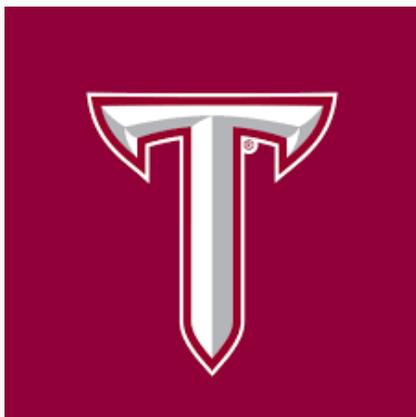
As the Forum editor, it is important to me to recognize our board members who go above and beyond to make sure our wonderful organization runs smoothly. In this issue, we highlight Andrew Tatch and Justin Martin.

## **Andrew Tatch: Forum editor**

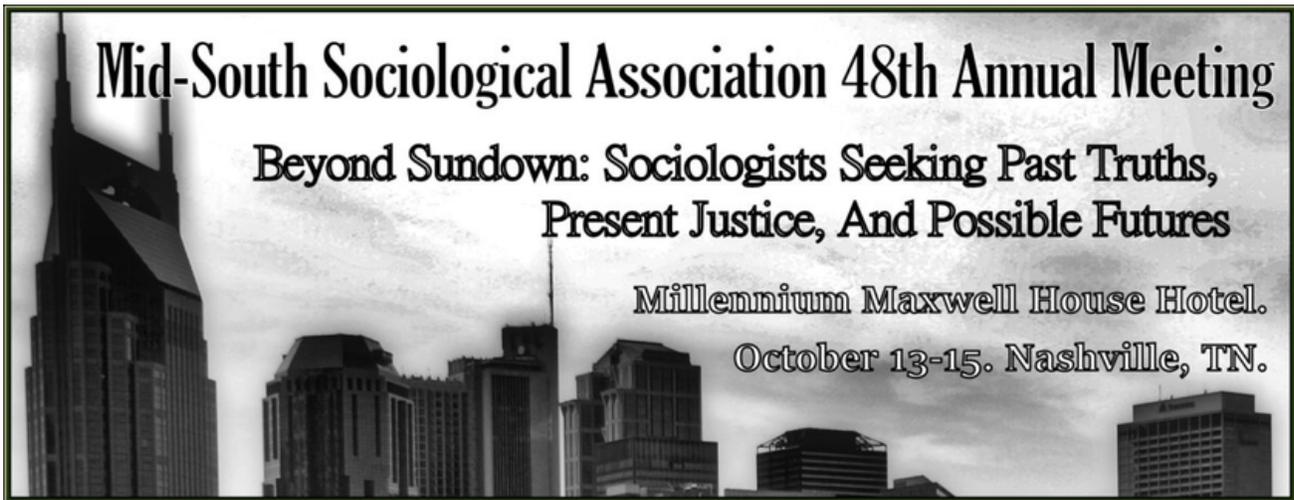
Greetings, Mid-Southerners! My name is Andrew Tatch and I am currently an Assistant Professor at Troy University. I have served as the Forum editor for a few years now, and am grateful that this position has allowed me to engage with so many of you that I may not have otherwise. I came to my first Mid-South conference in 2014 in Mobile, AL- and have been a regular attendee since. My favorite part of Mid-South, by far, is the people. I have yet to find another conference as student and just person-friendly as Mid-South. What I also have found to be do beneficial about Mid-South is the ability to jump in and get involved. Even as a graduate student, I became active on the executive board, have my voice heard, and gain valuable feedback that I was valued. That matters a lot to me. As an academic, I remain interested in any number of topics and ideas and am always interested in collaborating if we have common interests, so please feel free to reach out if interested!

## **Justin Martin: Committee on Membership**

Justin A. Martin received his bachelor's degree in anthropology (2006) from the University of North Florida, his master's degree in sociology (2010) from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and his Ph.D. in sociology (2014) from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. His recent research revolves around the sociology of art and the art world with a particular interest in amateur and professional creators. Justin is currently an associate professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.



# Call for Papers and Posters



The Mid-South Sociological Association is excited to announce that the submission portal for the annual meeting is NOW OPEN! The MSSA Annual Meeting will be held October 13th – 15th in Nashville, TN. We invite research papers from any and all disciplines, including those with an interdisciplinary focus. Please consider submitting your papers/abstracts early, to help ensure a spot in the session of your choice. The final deadline is September 11th, 2022. Submit your paper title and abstract through our new online submission system.

If you are unsure of where your paper might best fit or if it does not fit in any of the listed sessions, please select two – four keywords that fit your topic. Also, consider participation in one of our panels, roundtables, poster sessions, or workshops that will be included in the program this fall.



# Call for papers, continued...

## **Directions for submitting a paper through the online portal system:**

- 1) Access our new member portal: MSSA Online Marketplace
- 2) Enter your email address
- 3) Enter Password (if this is your first visit, select the link to set your password – from the registration page you will be promoted to enter your personal information)
- 4) From the Member Management Portal click “Submit a Paper or Session”
- 5) In the “Papers” section, select “Add New”
- 6) From the “New Presentation” page enter your: presentation title and abstract.
- 7) From the “Submission Type” drop down menu, select your (1) preferred: Paper, Poster, or Roundtable
- 8) From the “Presentation Modality Preference” menu, select your presentation preference: Virtual or On-Site.
- 9) Choose whether you give permission to have your abstract published after the conference in an edition of Sociological Spectrum.
- 10) Select if you want your paper to be considered for either the Graduate or Undergraduate Paper Awards.
- 11) Select up to 4 keyword topics that represent your submission.
- 12) Select “Next” to add author/presenter information.
- 13) Select “Next” to see your Submission Summary where you can choose to edit your session or submit by selecting “Finish”.

You will be notified when your paper has been accepted. You will need to register for the conference before your presentation.

If you prefer, you can send your paper to [meredith.dye@mtsu.edu](mailto:meredith.dye@mtsu.edu).



The Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. (MSSA) is proud to announce our partnership with the Black Nashville Assembly (BNA) for our upcoming 48th Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. October 13-15.

During the conference, BNA will host a workshop, “Building Power in the South”, and host a second plenary session.

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MSSA is sponsoring a fundraising campaign for BNA and will present representatives from BNA a check during our annual conference.

Members can submit donations using our online marketplace, [click here](#). Donation Instructions: 1) Log in to the Marketplace and go to the “E-Store”. 2) On the membership page click “Checkout”, 3) Select donation amount or “Other”, 4) Designate your donation to, “2022 Sponsorship: Black Nashville Assembly”, 5) Selection

Add Donation to Cart”, 6) Click Checkout to complete transaction.

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The Black Nashville Assembly (BNA) is a participatory democracy, Black organizing, and political engagement project. The BNA is a quarterly assembly of Black people in Nashville. At our assemblies, we discuss the issues that impact our lives, create solutions that will transform the lives of Black people in Nashville, and take collective action to implement those solutions.

# Engaging with the Academy: Graduate Student Participation at the 2022 Annual Conference

WRITTEN BY NICOLA DAVIS BIVENS  
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY  
MSSA VICE PRESIDENT 2021-2022

In my best Minnie Pearl voice - How-DEE! In case you did not know, Minnie Pearl was a comedian for over 50 years at Nashville's famed Grand Ole Opry and that was part of her signature greeting.

In the eight years I have had the benefit and pleasure of being an active member of MSSA and serving the organization in various capacities on the executive board, there is little question that this organization is committed to mentoring students, including introducing many of them to the "academy" as they presented their work at our annual conferences. As noted in our organizational identity statement, the MSSA "....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, n.d.). For that reason, I encourage graduate students to attend and participate in the 2022 Annual Meeting in Music City USA (Nashville, Tennessee).

In years past, Alpha Kappa Delta has been an invaluable partner in promoting student participation. As a result, if you have a chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, I would love to collaborate with you on promoting graduate student involvement in the MSSA and our 2022 conference.

Graduate students, please consider presenting on the Graduate Student Paper Panel. It is a great way to get feedback on your work, dissertation, thesis, or capstone data, projects, etc. Keep checking the MSSA website how to submit your work for presentation. Between 1) conference attendance, 2) graduate student paper presentations, and the 3) Graduate Student Paper of Distinction contest, there are a myriad of options for graduate students to participate. If I can assist you in developing a graduate session or panel, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ndbivens@jcsu.edu](mailto:ndbivens@jcsu.edu).

*Continued on next page...*

# Graduate student engagement, continued...

Consider too, the benefits of conference attendance even if you do not present or serve on a panel. According to Gopolan et al. (2018), if you attend panels and presentations on a multitude of topics, you can increase your interest and knowledge in the discipline. Gopolan et al. contend that through conference attendance, you can network with leading researchers in the discipline. Conference attendance is also a great way to create and benefit from invaluable networking opportunities.

I hope to see everyone in Nashville, Tennessee October 13-15, 2022!

## References

Gopolan, C., Halpin, P.A., & Johnson, K.M.S. (2018). Benefits and logistics of nonpresenting undergraduate students attending a professional scientific meeting. *Advances in Physiological Education*, 42, 68-74. <https://doi.org/10.1152/advan.00091.2017>

Mid-South Sociological Association (n.d.). Organizational identity statement. Mid-South Sociological Association. <http://www.midsouthsoc.org>



# Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Deadline is September 15,  
2022

To be eligible for the Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship, you must be a Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics AND must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships.

- Each application should include the following:
- Letter of introduction which includes a brief discussion of how the applicant's work reflects Stanford Lyman's tradition within sociology
- Description of dissertation research project, such as a research proposal – approx. 5 pages
- Letter of support from the applicant's dissertation committee chair which evaluates the dissertation project
- Timetable for completion of the dissertation and degree
- Current vitae



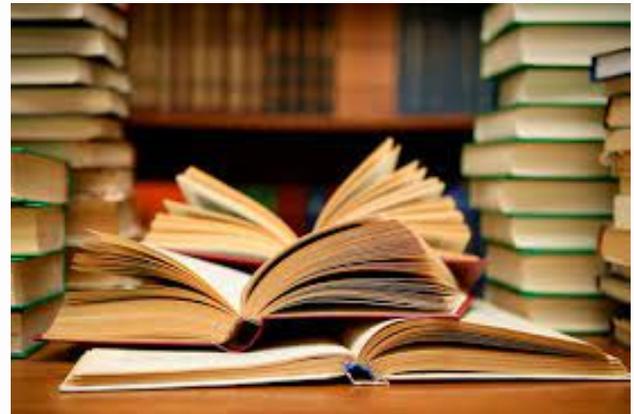
**Applications may be sent electronically to the scholarship coordinator at the following address: Dr. Raymond Barranco, RBarranco@soc.msstate.edu, Chair of the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee The scholarship will be announced at the annual MSSA conference banquet, but the committee does reserve the right not to award the scholarship in any given year.**

# Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

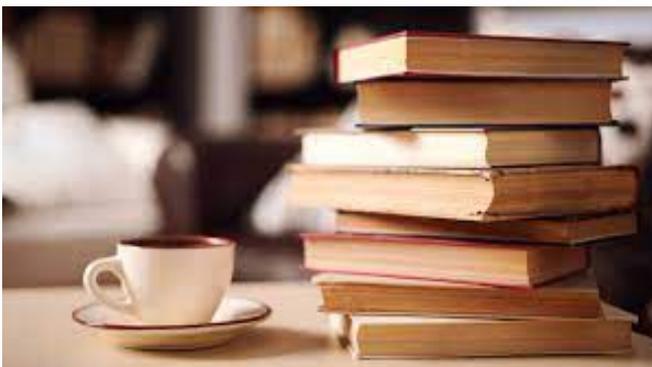
This award was established in memory of Stan Lyman in order to honor MSSA. Inc. members whose recently published work makes a significant contribution to the field of sociology. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for this prestigious award. Keep in mind the following:

- The book must be an original work (and can be sole authored or co-authored)
- The work must have been published within the last three calendar years (during 2019 or since)
- Textbooks and edited editions are not eligible
- The nominated book will be evaluated by the committee based on its sociological relevance, the extent to which it enhances the scholarship or 'body' of knowledge' within the discipline and the inclusion of voices, standpoint and perspective that have often not been heard.



*The following needs to be included in your nomination:*

- The complete citation for the book (author/s, date published, title, publisher)
- Author/s contact information (email, affiliation, phone number if possible)
- Publisher contact information (e.g., contact person, phone number, email and ISBN)
- A brief description of the book and how it addresses the points on which the committee will evaluate it



Nomination information, as outlined above, should be sent (via email) to the Committee Chair: Dr. Theresa Davidson at [tcdavids@samford.edu](mailto:tcdavids@samford.edu)



# 2022 Graduate Student "Paper of Distinction" Award

*DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2022*

Attention all graduate students! The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for the 2022 annual Graduate Student Paper Session and "Paper of Distinction" Award.

The award process is open to graduate students who are members, or become members, of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Among the papers submitted, an award will be presented to any paper that is reviewed and evaluated as possessing a high level of originality and significant potential for contribution to the discipline. If such a paper is so identified, the author(s) will be presented with a "Paper of Distinction" award at the 2022 MSSA Banquet. The award will also include editorial review assistance from suitable persons so identified by the Vice President in coordination with the Editors of Sociological Spectrum. Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

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# 2022 Graduate Student "Paper of Distinction" Award... continued

## Rules for the Paper of Distinction Award Process

- Papers may be submitted by the graduate student or nominated by faculty, but in any case, each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting consideration for the Graduate Student "Paper of Distinction" Award. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, telephone number, and email address of the author(s). In addition, author(s) must submit the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from their institution.
- The author's name and title of the paper should be included on the title page only in order to prepare for an anonymous judging process. The title of the paper must be repeated at the top of the first page of the text.
- The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 25 double spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, reference, tables, and figures.
- Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three student authors, but no faculty.
- Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for award consideration.

There are additional instructions available at:

<http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/graduate-paper-of-distinction/>

A monetary award of \$50.00 will be presented to the author(s) of the winning paper.

Papers should be submitted as a Word document by email to Dr. Nicola Davis Bivens, Vice President, MSSA at [ndbivens@jcsu.edu](mailto:ndbivens@jcsu.edu) by September 16, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Dr. Davis Bivens at the email address above.

To receive full recognition for participation, submission must meet deadlines and participants must be members of MSSA, registered for the annual meeting, present their papers, and attend the banquet at the 2022 Annual Meeting October 14th, 2022 in Nashville, TN.

# 2022 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition

*DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2022*

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for its annual Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. The competition is open to students in the MidSouth Region and to other undergraduate students who are members of the Mid-South Sociological Association. A prize of \$50 will be awarded for the best paper. The authors of the papers selected will be presented with certificates of merit after presentations of their papers at the MSSA annual conference.

## ***Rules for the competition***

- Each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting participation in the undergraduate competition session. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, the email address and the telephone number of the author(s).
- The maximum length of an eligible paper shall be 20 double-spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, references, tables, and figures.
- Papers may be co-authored with a maximum of three undergraduate student authors. Papers that list co-authors who are graduate students or faculty will not be considered in this category.
- Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for this competition.

Each submission will be evaluated by a committee of scholars and members of Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. Evaluation will be based on (1) originality, (2) contribution or potential contribution to the discipline, (3) quality and clarity of arguments, and (4) technical writing (i.e. neatness, use of an appropriate format, grammar, spelling, etc.). To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines and participants must present their papers at the 47th Annual Conference. Winners are also expected to be present at the awards banquet.

Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty guidance prior to submission of papers

Papers (in Word, rtf, or PDF format) should be submitted by email to Dr. Melencia Johnson, MSSA, Inc. Vice-President Elect, at [melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu).

It is the responsibility of the submitter to provide a paper that is readable, in one of the formats noted above.

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Dr. Johnson directly at [melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu).

# 2022 Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. Committee on Ethnic and Racial Minorities Travel Scholarship



## **Deadline: September 16th**

The Mid-South Sociological Association and the Committee on Minorities is pleased to announce the availability of travel scholarships for support in attending the 2022 annual meeting in Nashville, TN (October 13-15). These scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Each scholarship recipient will be offered up to \$250 to defray expenses associated with travel to the MSSA meeting.

## **Eligibility and Application Requirements**

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be:

- A faculty member or graduate student from a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Tribal College or University (TCU), or Native American serving, non-tribal institution; or a faculty member or graduate student that identifies as a member of an ethnic or racial minority group that is currently employed at any college or university located in the Mid-South region.
- An active participant of the annual meeting: presenting a paper, poster, or participating in an invited panel
- A member of the Mid-South Sociological Association at the time of the award.

Applications should be completed and submitted through the Google Form [here](https://forms.gle/vAsf3X7gZDHuMvvcf7) (or copy and paste <https://forms.gle/vAsf3X7gZDHuMvvcf7> into your browser)

For additional information, please contact Dr. Kristie Perry  
Chair, MSSA Committee on Ethnic and Racial Minorities  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
Southern University and A&M College  
Kristie\_Perry@subr.edu  
225-771-4715

# 2022 Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. Women, Gender, & Sexualities Scholarship



The Mid-South Sociological Association and the Committee on Women, Gender & Sexualities is pleased to announce the availability of registration scholarships for support in attending the 2022 meeting in Nashville, TN (October 13-15). These scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Each scholarship recipient will be offered up to \$250.00 to defray expenses associated with travel to the MSSA meeting.

## **Eligibility and Application Requirements**

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must:

- Have a demonstrated need for funding (i.e., the applicant receives minimal or no university funding for travel to the conference)
- Be an active participant of the annual meeting by presenting research on or participating in a panel on gender and/or sexuality.
- A member of the Mid-South Sociological Association at the time of the award.

Applications should be completed and submitted to Sarah Donley by email at [sdonley@jsu.edu](mailto:sdonley@jsu.edu) by October 1, 2022.

**For more information, please email Women, Gender, and Sexualities Committee Chair Sarah Donley at [sdonley@jsu.edu](mailto:sdonley@jsu.edu)**

# Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun Excellence in Mentoring Award

**DR. THOMAS C.  
CALHOUN EXCELLENCE  
IN MENTORING AWARD**

**Criteria:**

1. Serve as a role model for integrity and professionalism within the discipline of Sociology and Sociological Practice
2. Evidence of mentoring that promote the profession/discipline
3. Impact of mentoring

[Nomination form is at  
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AsPRNc\\_qo8j65V6Xm63\\_lvaeXQA19aI4thB3JE7DWk/prefill](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AsPRNc_qo8j65V6Xm63_lvaeXQA19aI4thB3JE7DWk/prefill)

Deadline is August 12, 2022.



# MSSA Member Wins

In recent weeks, I asked our valued members to share some of their recent wins, including publications, promotions, awarded grants, etc. As is always the case, our members did not disappoint. Throughout the year, as you get those wins, please send them my way at [atatch@troy.edu](mailto:atatch@troy.edu)! In the meantime, congrats to the following MSSA, Inc. members on their recent wins!



- **Marcus Brooks** will be starting as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Western Kentucky University this Fall!
- **Matthew Schneider** (UNC Pembroke) recently published a new review essay:
  - O'Neill, Brian F. and Matthew Jerome Schneider. 2022. "Demystifying the Global 'Just Transition' – On Power Struggles and Electric Mountains." Human Geography. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/19427786221098700>.
- UNC Pembroke student **Mattea Sylvester** was recently admitted into several graduate programs and will start the M.A. program in sociology at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in August!
- **Meredith Dye** has had several big wins! First, she was promoted to Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts at Middle Tennessee State University. In addition, she was the recipient of the 2022 Ayne Cantrell Award for Outstanding Service to Women & Gender Studies at MTSU.
- **Meredith** was also recognized for "Making a Difference in Graduating Student's Lives" (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) by MTSU's Division of Student Affairs.

# MSSA Member Wins, Continued...

- **Roger Guy** (State University of New York at Oswego) published a few articles recently:
  - Guy, R. (2022). Southern Identity and Serendipitous Opportunity in Qualitative Research Among Appalachians in Chicago. *Humanity & Society*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01605976221095493>
  - Chomczyński, P. A., Guy, R., & Cortés, R. C. (2022). Weed Central: Cannabis Specialists and Polydrug Vendors in Mexico City. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08912416221085560>
- **Lauren Norman** (UNC Pembroke) has received promotion and tenure and is now as Associate Professor in the Sociology & Criminal Justice!
- **Melencia Johnson** (USC Aiken) recently received two awards:
  - Awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award for 2021-2022  
<https://www.facebook.com/170892766298988/posts/5024422014279348/?d=n>
  - Awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Unity Award by Omicron Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated  
[https://www.postandcourier.com/aiken-standard/news/aiken-fraternity-presents-annual-drum-major-for-unity-awards/article\\_ae8e8c94-8119-11ec-9111-5f76f7253df6.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/aiken-standard/news/aiken-fraternity-presents-annual-drum-major-for-unity-awards/article_ae8e8c94-8119-11ec-9111-5f76f7253df6.html)

# MSSA Member Wins, Continued...

- **Alicia Walker**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Missouri State University, has a chapter in a new reader:
  - Walker, Alicia M. 2022. “We Were on a BREAK!': Men Chasing Masculinity and Women Seeking Pleasure in Affairs.” Introducing the New Sexuality Studies Original Essays, Edited by N. L. Fischer, L. Westbrook, S. Seidman. London: Routledge.
- **Komanduri Murty**, Alma Jones Endowed Professor of Social Justice and Chair of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Fort Valley State University, published a new book:
  - Pharma-Patents in India and the USA—A Juristic Study, Thompson Reuters, 2021 (with A. . Lakshminath and J. Daniel Mehat)
- **Jason Ulsperger** (Arkansas Tech University), published a book:
  - Ulsperger, Jason S. 2022. The 53: Rituals, Grief, and a Titan II Missile Disaster. Lexington: Landham, MD.
- In addition, **Jason** was awarded the Outstanding Alumni of the Year for 2022 by Arkansas State University - Beebe.
- The AKD chapter (ETD) that **Jason** sponsors at Arkansas Tech will be awarded Chapter of the Year award in August!
- **Andrew Tatch** published a guest column in the Valdosta Daily Times: [https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/opinion/columns/tatch-on-pro-life-versus-pro-choice/article\\_16fe9cfl-a0ab-5dbc-9546-97ac94ff23d0.html](https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/opinion/columns/tatch-on-pro-life-versus-pro-choice/article_16fe9cfl-a0ab-5dbc-9546-97ac94ff23d0.html)

# MSSA Member Wins, Continued...

**Xan Nowakowski** (Florida State University College of Medicine), was recently promoted and is now an Associate Professor in the Geriatrics / Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine department!

- **David Brunsm**a (Virginia Tech) and **Jenn Sims** (University of Alabama in Huntsville) co-edited a special issue of the journal Social Sciences on the topic of "Multiracial Identity and Experiences In/Under White Supremacy." The fifteen (15) articles, all open access, are available at: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special\\_issues/multiracial\\_mixed-race](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci/special_issues/multiracial_mixed-race)
- **Theresa Davidson**, Professor of Sociology at Samford University, completed an online graduate certificate in Native American Studies from Montana State University. She has used the knowledge and skills from the program to strengthen her teaching and research in the areas of race and social justice. In addition, Dr. Davidson taught a special topics course at Samford called 'Native Americans in Society', which had full enrollment and will be added to the regular course rotation!
- **Erin Rider** was promoted to the head of the Department of Sociology and Political Science at Jacksonville State University. In addition, Erin now serves as the MSSA Secretary Treasurer.
- Sarah Donley, Tina Deshotels, and Katelynn Shadoan recently published an article in *Deviant Behavior!*
  - Donley, Sarah, Tina H. Deshotels, and Katelynn Shadoan. "It's Pride Y'all: Mechanical and Organic Solidarity's Impact on White LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Deep South." *Deviant Behavior* (2022): 1-18.

We look  
forward  
to seeing  
you in  
Nashville!