



SPRING 2015 ISSUE

**FORUM:
The Voice of
The Mid-South
Sociological Association**



FORUM: The Voice of The Mid-South Sociological

Introduction

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Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of
Forum:

The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association. The purpose of this edition is to give voice to the happenings of our organization. In the past few editions, Forum has primarily been used as advertising for the upcoming meeting. As you can see from the table of contents, advertising is also a part of this edition. However, the goal is that Forum be used to disseminate information, motivate participation, promote unity, and supplement records. The goal is for FORUM to become something that we all look forward to reading and as such will serve as a way for us to communicate. To that end, please consider not just reading but also how you can submit to the Fall 2015 edition. Do you have something you want to see Forum cover? Send any and all suggestions/submissions!!! In the mean time, enjoy this edition and look forward to being called on to give your input to the next one.

The next edition of Forum will cover meeting highlights and interviews with members asking their favorite memory of MSSA. Think about submitting your favorite memory or you might just find yourself mentioned in another member's response!! Please send all submissions to Tina Hebert Deshotels, Forum Editor at: tdeshotels@jsu.edu



MSSA Forum:
The Voice of the Mid-South Sociological Association
Spring 2015 Volume 7, Number 2

Message From the President

41st Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association

The Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) has a long standing history of research, leadership, scholarship, and service throughout the continental US and abroad. This years' conference commemorates the 41st year of such professionalism and servitude. As President, it is my commitment to strengthen the niche of MSSA by: 1) increasing membership among small and community colleges who operate under more ridged financial structures than their counterparts; 2) creating scholarship opportunities for students in teaching and learning institutions; and 3) expanding the visibility of the Mid-South Sociological Association to institutions who have not traditionally attended past meetings.

The Mid-South Sociological Association continues to serve as a conduit producing some of the best scholars both nationally and internationally in the variant areas of sociology. This years' conference theme "On the Edge of Theory and Practice: A Sociology Without Borders" provides a platform for scholars and practioners to demonstrate how theory and practice intersect in the 21st century without boundaries.

On behalf of the Executive Council, I am overwhelmed with enthusiasm to invite you to Lafayette, LA and I strongly encourage you to submit your papers, posters, and workshops proposal to President-Elect and Program Chair, Dr. Dawood Sultan at midsouthsoc@gmail.com . I am confident that you will have a magnificent experience at the 41st meeting of Mid-South Sociological Association. Equally important, I hope that you will enjoy learning about the rich history of Cajun culture, as well as take the opportunity to explore the beautiful sites in and around Lafayette such as Avery Island (home of the Tabasco Makers)! This is a conference that you do not want to miss!

Respectfully.

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Ph.D.

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Ph.D.

President, MidSouth Sociological Association

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at::

www.midsouthsoc.org

About our President: Dr. Bledsoe Gardner



“Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner is an Assistant Professor of Criminology at Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte, North Carolina). Bledsoe-Gardner has worked as principal investigator and co-principal investigator to facilitate research projects in the substantive areas of community safety (in concert with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department), victimology, and juvenile delinquency. With her educational experiences and business acumen, she also currently serves as a consultant for the United States Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Education. Notwithstanding, Dr. Bledsoe-Gardner has served as a research consultant for the Minister of Education in St. Kitts, Basseterre, West Indies. In 2002, she developed and implemented an international mentoring program for the Minister of Education of St. Kitts, Basseterre. Her work with youth is also underscored by serving as a School Crisis Counselor for Gwinnett, Rockdale and Union Counties where she served as court liaison for a tri-county area. While serving as a School Crisis Counselor, Dr. Bledsoe-Gardner developed enrichment and anger management programs for teens.”

“Dr. Bledsoe Gardner has presented and published several professional papers during her tenure as a university professor; recent examples of such work found in *Community Disasters and Community Disaster Recovery and Resiliency: Exploring Global Opportunities and Challenges*, *Journal of Faculty Development*, Sage Publications, and *The Researcher*. She has also secured grant funding ranging over 3 million dollars for non-profit organizations. She serves as a faculty research mentor to several undergraduate students. Additionally, Anita is the 2013 recipient of the Social Scientist of the Year Award from Brookhaven Mississippi Alumni Association, Incorporated. Dr. Bledsoe-Gardner is also a member of several professional and social organizations, including but not limited to, American Criminal Justice Association, Southern Sociological Association, Mid-South Association, and South Carolina Probation and Parole Association. She also serves on the Executive Board for Give and Go, North Carolina Public Safety Advisory Board, and Les Gemmes, Incorporated—nonprofit organizations.”

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

www.midsouthsoc.org



2014 Distinguished Career Award
Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
And Associate Provost

As with award recipients in the past, the sociologist we honor this year has had, and continues to have, an illustrious career. To date, his sociological career spans nearly 50 years. It includes studies and work at ten institutions of higher education throughout the mid-west and the mid-south. He has applied his considerable sociological talent as a practicing sociologist, as an academic sociologist and as a leader of academic programs and institutions. This year, we present our award to Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun in recognition for his dedication and his service.

Regardless of what position he has held, Dr. Calhoun has been the epitome of the teacher-scholar. His scholarship maintains a focus on experiences of diversity as well as the diversity of experiences in our social world. Through his rigorous studies using an interactionist approach, he examines the outcomes and important considerations of a society stratified by race and ethnicity, and through his work we delve into the lived experiences of among other things, amateur strippers, male prostitutes, and street hustlers. In addition to his work on specific examples of deviance, Dr. Calhoun has made major contributions to the ongoing development of deviance studies in general. Perhaps the best example of this effort, and again, an indication of his commitment to the teacher-scholar model, is the textbook he coauthored with Alex Thio *Readings in Deviant Behavior*. First published in 1995, Dr. Calhoun has worked to ensure that it is continually kept up to date, and is now in its sixth edition!

As a teacher-scholar, Dr. Calhoun has helped guide an enormous number of students through the undergraduate and graduate processes of becoming sociologists - some of whom are in the room this evening. Indeed, if you'll allow me, my own experiences in sociology would not have been possible without the guidance of Dr. Calhoun. I first met Tom in 1992 here at a MSSA conference, and when searching for a master's program a few years later, it was Tom who invited me to apply at Ohio University where he was working - although I should point out that he left a couple months after I got there - and when I got to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, there he was again. His counsel and guidance have been invaluable and at the end of my degree program, it was Tom who draped the doctoral hood around my shoulders and sent me on my way. He has touched the lives of his students in countless ways, always encouraging them to be better thinkers, better researchers and - notable - better writers - I can recall receiving papers back from Dr. Calhoun nearly dripping with the red ink of his editorial comments.

Dr. Calhoun leads and we see his leadership in the example he sets, in the mentoring he provides and through the many leadership positions he has been called upon to occupy. He has served as President of four different professional associations including the MSSA in 2005. Known and respected for his skills, his trustworthiness and the kind but firm hand he applies, he is continually drawn upon by his institutions in their times of need and has served his colleges as an associate dean, and as a dean, as an associate provost, as an associate vice chancellor, and as an associate vice-president of academic affairs. In fact, despite his best efforts to establish a date for retirement, he keeps being called on to serve and he answers that call willingly and enthusiastically.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Calhoun to the stage of honor for his accomplishments, thus far, to thank him for his service, and in recognition for his illustrious and most distinguished career.

Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware, 2014 MSSA President had the pleasure of presenting the 2014 MSSA Distinguished Career Award at last year's meetings in Atlanta, GA. Above is his presentation to Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun.



IN MEMORIAM DR. SHANTA SHARMA

Dr. Shanta Sharma, Professor. Sociology and Director of the Gerontology program, Henderson State University, Arkansas, passed away suddenly on October 25, 2014. She had been honored in April 2014 for over 25 years of service to colleagues, faculty and the sociology and gerontology programs at Henderson. Dr. Sharma had also taught in Chandusi, India. The last three weeks of her life in the hospital and Hospice she was attended to by many of her students who had graduated. Caring for Shanta was a labor of love.

Among the many associations, Dr. Sharma had been active in were the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the MidSouth Sociological Association, The Gerontological Society of America and others. She also held committee positions in the MidSouth Sociological Association, and was always active in advancing the organizations' membership and bringing new colleagues into the organizations.

Throughout the years Dr. Sharma was the springboard, creator and chair of various panels for the gerontology conferences, and presented papers at national and international seminars, including Oxford University. Involving diverse aspects of research on the elderly, they included nutrition and religion, Elderly Abuse, Meditation and the Elderly, statistical analyses involving the diversity of aging, both in India and the United States, including housing, poverty, retirement and new beginnings, victimization, issues of disabilities, displacement mentally, physically, and economically.

Dr. Sharma was a "scholar's scholar," always developing new concepts and topics for enlarging the field of gerontological research. She helped to combat strategies for changing the nature and philosophy of ageism. She was a strong advocate and an international leader in the changes advancing the field of gerontological education and community outreach. Dr. Sharma held masters, doctorate, and post doctorate degrees in gerontology from Wayne State University, Michigan.



A LOOK AT OUR HISTORY

FEATURING

Dennis R. McSeveney, Ph.D.

When did you attend your first MSSA meeting and what was it like? I attended the founding meeting of MSSA held in Monroe, Louisiana in 1975. While I was at the founding of MSSA, I was not a founder. I leave that to the more senior members who were the leaders of the initial meeting. It's been a long time since then, but my recall is that we stayed in dormitory rooms at Northeast Louisiana State University (now the University of Louisiana at Monroe). I shared a room with Hugh Floyd who is still active in MSSA and now teaching at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Jerry Salomone, my department chair at the University of New Orleans and became MSSA's sixth president, encouraged the faculty to attend the founding of MSSA because he saw it as an opportunity for professional growth and development. That inaugural meeting was exciting with a number of noted southern sociologists, several who were past or future presidents of the Southern Sociological Society, in attendance. Many of the leaders of this meeting became Presidents of MSSA. One the most important aspects of this meeting that I think is still a core of MSSA was the desire to create an organization that encouraged high standards of scholarship, fostered excellence in teaching, and, I think most important for MSSA, was inclusive especially with respect to race and gender.

Why did you continue your attendance? As I wrote, a core value of MSSA is and has been from the first meeting, inclusiveness. A challenge was how to create an organization that was not only open to women and people of color, but made it clear that they were a valued and critical component. MSSA did this by creating a Committee on Women and a Committee on Minorities whose chairs were members of the association's governing body, the council. Another aspect of MSSA that has encouraged my continuing attendance is the nurturing tone of the sessions. MSSA presenters received strong, constructive comments, criticism, and suggestions from other panelists and participants, but it is always done in a way that has improved my work and, at the same time, left me feeling that the work was valued.

What is your favorite MSSA memory? It's hard to isolate a single MSSA memory. As mentioned, one aspect of MSSA that I value is its inclusiveness. For example, MSSA's first Secretary-Treasurer was Emory Davis from Bishop College in Texas who was a strong voice and leader for the minority caucus. Emory was followed as Secretary-Treasurer by Dean Johnson from Northwestern State University. In the early 1980 I became the third person to hold this office. For me that symbolizes MSSA – the first three Secretary-Treasurers were, in order, and African-American male, a white female, and a white male. Thinking further about inclusivity, at some point between the end of my term as Secretary-Treasurer in 1986 and by becoming President in 1997 the Council noted the number of MSSA members from small and community colleges. We wanted to find a voice for these valued members. The two lunch slots were already taken by the Minority Caucus and the Women's Caucus so the Council initiated a breakfast for the participants from small and community colleges and soon a representative from this group became a permanent member of the Council.

One final and vivid memory is from the banquet where I presented my presidential address. The meeting was in Lafayette, Louisiana. Several people presenting and receiving awards before my slot on the program took much more time than expected. After the banquet we were going to have music by Zydeco Joe. As the program dragged on, I could hear Zydeco Joe warming up through the curtain wall behind me. I wanted the banquet to end on time for both the audience and me so I began scratching through portions of my presidential address. By the time I took the podium it was quite late, but I finished speaking on time so we all got enjoy all of Zydeco Joe's performance.



**On the Edge of Theory and Practice:
Sociology without Borders
October 21-24, 2015 Lafayette, LA**

Call for Session Organizers

IMPORTANT DEADLINES	
ANNUAL MEETING SESSION PROPOSALS	April 20
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION	July 31
GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER OF DISTINCTION-STANFORD LYMAN	July 31
STANFORD LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP	July 31
STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD	June 1

**Extended deadline for submissions is April 20, 2015
Program Chair: Dr. Dawood H. Sultan, University of South Florida**

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites proposals for sessions, poster presentations, and workshops to be held at the 41st Annual MSSA Conference in Lafayette, LA. In addition to the important standard sessions, we encourage the development of thematic sessions that address ways in which sociology as a discipline can be mobilized to affect further theoretical and practical advances in [1] other scientific disciplines, [2] community change interventions, [3] societal development, [4] human rights (broadly defined to include such things as cultural, ethnic/racial, health, political, environmental, identity, sexual preference rights), [5] healthcare practice and policy, [6] health promotion, and [7] advocacy (broadly defined to include all aspects of social life). This year, we invite MSSA members to organize poster presentations on the conference theme and any of the seven areas of interest identified above.

In addition, we are seeking individuals who would be willing to help organize short workshops on professional development topics. Such workshops may include a single speaker, a panel of experts and/or other activities. Topics may include, but not limited to: Grant Writing, Mentoring, Balancing Work/Life, Balancing Research/Teaching/Service, Chairing Small/Large Departments, Graduate Student Mentoring, The Post-Doc Experience, Surviving Graduate School,

Please send all session and workshop proposals directly to Program Chair, Dr. Dawood H. Sultan, at midsouthsoc@gmail.com. Proposals must include your name, institutional affiliation, contact information, a tentative session/poster presentation/workshop title, and a very brief description of what the session will attempt to include.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at: www.midsouthsoc.org



Message from Chair of the Committee on Professions:

Dr. Earl Wright II

Dr. Wright was appointed as Chair of the Committee on Professions midway thru the 2014-2015 academic year in lieu of the resignation of the previous chair. Prior to resigning, the previous chair had articulated a very clear set of issues to be addressed by this committee. Dr. Wright's agenda for this year is to move forward with recommendations on how to improve this committee. Concerning the Committee on Professions, we will work to become more visible during the annual meeting and the entire academic year; work with the webmaster and Editor of Forum to maintain an online employment exchange; work with the book exhibit organizer to create a book display at the annual meeting and a graduate student information center at each annual meeting. Concerning the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), a sub-committee of the Committee on Professions, we will work to reestablish and reconfigure the membership of this committee such that its objectives may be accomplished. In addition to aforementioned information on employment, at the annual meeting the committee will work with hiring institutions to create a space for interview opportunities. The committee is planning to sponsor two sessions at the 2015 meeting. One session will emphasize strategies/techniques for having long term success in academia. The second session/workshop will serve more as an informational on issues related to professional ethics.

While there are no specific issues that rise to any level of concern at this point. However, the committee, as is the American Sociological Association, are re-examining our code of ethics to assure that we are consistent with updates/trends within this area.

"Earl Wright II is Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, he graduated with the diploma from Trezevant High School in 1989. Later that year he entered college on a football scholarship at Kentucky State University (K-State). Upon his return to Memphis he earned a BA (1994) in History and MA (1997) in Sociology from the University of Memphis. In 2000 Earl took the doctorate in Sociology at the University of Nebraska, where he founded a chapter of the Black Graduate Student Association. Later that year he joined the Department of Sociology at the University of Central Florida. Over his career Dr. Wright has served as faculty at the University of Central Florida, Fisk University, Texas Southern University (as chairperson of the Department of Sociology) and, now, at the University of Cincinnati. He has received numerous awards and been featured in print and media outlets throughout the country. Without question, Dr. Wright's greatest academic pleasure is bringing to this nation's attention the contributions of early and unknown/little known African American Sociologists and social scientists who contributed to the development of one of the greatest tools for social advancement in the world - the social sciences!" <http://earlwrightii.com/about/>



Message From the Women's Caucus

Dr. Melissa Powell-Williams

Associate Professor Sociology, Criminal Justice and Social Work Georgia Regents University

Dr. Williams is happy to report that women were well represented at the 2014 conference in Mobile, Alabama and as members of the association. Women represented 52.4% of the 170 those attending the 2014 conference and 51% of 162 members for 2015. The issues she sees as important to address this year are Increasing inclusivity in regards to gender and sexual identities within the organization and building networks were the main issues discussed at the Caucus meeting. In order to address these issues she has already moved forward by extending the gender identification on the registration forms. We have also included a proposed name change for the caucus to be Women, Gender and Sexuality on the spring election ballot. Once the item is approved we will work to align the mission statement with this more inclusive focus.

Her vision for the committee specifically and women in the profession of sociology generally is that. With our broadened focus on gender sexuality, the committee hopes to help increase the visibility of members and issues related to not only ciswomen, but also trans/nonbinary and non-hetero members as well. The committee hopes that the caucus will serve as a place for open discourse regarding pathways to inclusion throughout the association and network building and resource sharing for relatively marginalized communities within the association.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

www.midsouthsoc.org



Message From our Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Ruth Chananie

Thank you for your support of our organization. Your support is paramount to our continued success. In this issue of *Forum*, I'd like to provide an overview of the state of our finances.

Although we consider last year's conference in Mobile to be a smashing success, we still lost money overall. In 2014, our net loss for the entire fiscal year was over \$11k. This year your faithful and hardworking executive council will be looking for ways to increase income and reduce expenditures. Although we are known as a very affordable organization (especially for students), it is imperative that we find ways to reduce our losses so as to keep MSSA viable for future years. As of the present, we have approximately \$44k in total assets, \$30k of which is earmarked for the Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each year, the annual meetings cost us from \$17-21k to organize. We depend on registrations, sponsorships, and donations to offset those costs. Thus, as you can see, we do not have a healthy enough general fund to work with. Therefore we appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work to balance our budget this year.

In Mobile in 2014, we had 172 registrants for the conference. In Atlanta in 2013, we had 245 registrants for the conference.

Thus, your support makes a huge difference! There are several ways you can help:

Register early for the conference. This enables us to better plan for banquet and other expenditures.

Book your stay at the conference hotel. If you do this, your room nights count towards the total room nights required in our hotel contract. When we fall short on our contracted room nights, we pay a penalty (called "attrition") that accounts for a third or more of our yearly deficit.

Donate to MSSA. If you are able, please consider donating to the General Fund, the Minority Caucus, or the Stanford Lyman Fund. We greatly appreciate those who have donated. Increase in donations would be helpful.

Become a member. Even if you cannot attend the annual conference, your yearly membership dues help keep us afloat.

Spread the word! Forward calls for papers and other information to your colleagues and friends. Get involved in the organization as a session organizer, committee chair, or officer! We need your energy, your ideas, and your help to grow the organization.

(Continued)

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:

www.midsouthsoc.org



Message From our Secretary-Treasurer (cont.)

Dr. Ruth Chananie

Sponsor an advertisement in our program. Every year, we offer ad space for undergraduate and graduate sociology programs and other relevant organizations in our annual meeting program. Please consider asking your department or organization to become a sponsor this year! For details, please contact President-Elect Dawood Sultan at dsultan@health.usf.edu.

The MSSA prides itself on providing a welcoming and safe space for students to gain presentation experience and network with other academics. Membership in the MSSA includes a year's subscription to our journal, *Sociological Spectrum*. We hope that the 2015 year brings even more members!

Our membership for 2015 includes 51 student members and 115 regular active members.
Our membership in 2014 included 62 student members and 138 regular active members.

Last year, we initiated an online registration system for the convenience of our members. So far, it has been very well received! Although it costs the organization a bit for the transactions and site maintenance, we are very pleased to be able to offer a payment option for credit/debit card users. We are hopeful that this option will increase membership and registration numbers overall. You can access the online payment site through the MSSA website, www.midsouthsoc.org. We still accept paper checks and money orders – the membership and registration hard copy forms are also available on our site. Thank you for your patronage, and we look forward to seeing you in Lafayette! If you have questions, please contact me at mssa.sec.treasurer@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Chananie, MSSA Secretary-Treasurer

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at:
www.midsouthsoc.org

2015 GRADUATE STUDENT “PAPER OF DISTINCTION” AWARD

The Mid-South Sociological Association invites the submission of student papers for the 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 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.

Rules for the 2015 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. Additionally:

- ◆ 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/>

Papers should be submitted as a Word (or rtf format) document by email to Dr. Shelly McGrath, Vice President, MSSA at smcgrath@uab.edu by **July 31, 2015**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Dr. Miller by email or phone at (205)934-8503.

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 2015 Annual Meeting October 21-24 in Lafayette, LA.

Students are strongly encouraged to seek faculty advice prior to submission of papers.

2015 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

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 Mid-South Region and to other undergraduate students who are members or become 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 papers at the 2015 MSSA Annual Meeting. Each of the submissions will be evaluated by a committee of scholars based on (1) originality, (2) contribution or potential contribution to the discipline, (3) clarity of arguments, and (4) mechanics

Rules for the 2013 Competition

Papers may be submitted by the undergraduate student or nominated by faculty. Whether the submission is from student or faculty the submission must include the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from their institution.

- ◆ Each paper must be accompanied by a cover letter requesting consideration. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, mailing address, 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 student authors, but not by graduate students or faculty.
- ◆ Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for this competition.

Additional instructions can be found at:

<http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/undergraduate-paper-competition/>

To receive full recognition for participation, submissions must meet deadlines, and follow instructions posted here and on the website. Participants must also present their papers at the 2015 meetings in Lafayette, LA (October 21-24, 2015).

Papers (in word or rtf format) should be submitted by email to Dr. Jeremy Ross, jeremyros@gmail.com **by July 31, 2015**. If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Dr. Ross by email.

MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Mid South Sociological Association Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the

Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000.00)

Eligibility requirements:

1. Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics.
1. Applicant must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states (see <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/> for more information) or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships.

Submission information:

1. Each applicant is to submit 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 – approximately 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, and
 - ◆ Current vitae.
2. **Deadline July 31, 2015.** The scholarship will be announced at the fall MSSA conference banquet, but the committee does reserve the right not to award the scholarship in any given year.
3. Applications may be sent electronically to the scholarship coordinator at the following address:

Dr. David Knottnerus
Chair of the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee
david.knottnerus@okstate.edu

MSSA Awards 2015

The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award

Deadline July 1, 2015

The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award was established in memory of Stan Lyman in order to honor MSSA members whose recently published work makes a significant contribution to the field of sociology. Please consider nominating yourself or one of your colleagues for this prestigious award. Keep in mind the following:

- ◆ The author must be a current member in the Mid-South Sociological Association, and must have been a member for at least three years.
- ◆ 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 years (thus a book published in 2011 or later is eligible).
- ◆ Textbooks and edited editions are not eligible.

Be sure to include the following in your nomination:

- ◆ The complete citation for the book (author/s, date published, title, publisher)
- ◆ Author/s contact information (email, affiliation, phone number).
- ◆ A brief description of the book and why you believe it should be nominated.

The publisher, author, or individual who makes the nomination should provide a copy of the nominated book to each member of the selection committee.

Nominations should be sent (via email) to the committee chair.

Dr. Erin Rider (Jacksonville State University) by email at erider@jsu.edu

Copies of the nominated book will be sent to each of the six committee members.

- Chair: Dr. Erin Rider (Jacksonville State University)
- Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Jackson State University)
- Dr. Jackie Eller (Middle Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware (University of Wisconsin – La Crosse)
- Dr. Melanie Sberna Hinojosa (University of Central Florida)
- Dr. Dennis McSeveney (University of New Orleans)

For specific address and information Contact Dr. Erin Rider at erider@jsu.edu

Additional Instructions and contact information see: <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/opportunities/42-2/>

Note: The deadline for submitting a book for consideration by the Book Selection Committee is July 1, 2015.



Presenting 2014

MSSA Awards

2014 STANFORD M. LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK

Sociocultural Systems: Principles of Structure and Change (2013. Athabasca University Press) by Frank W. Elwell.

2014 STANFORD M. LYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

“No Taxation without Discrimination: The Racial Politics of American Property Taxes.” by Kasey Hendricks, Loyola University Chicago

2014 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

“Who’s to Blame? Poverty Attributions as Predictors for Abortion Approval for Low-Income Women.” by Karlye Burson, Samford University

2014 SOCIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

“The Role of Social Networks in the Recruitment of Youth in an Islamist Organization in Pakistan.” (Sociological Spectrum 34(6): 469-288) by Akhlaq Ahmad

2014 GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER OF DISTINCTION

“No Taxation without Discrimination: The Racial Politics of American Property Taxes.” by Kasey Hendricks, American Bar Association & Loyola University – Chicago, Leighton Kenji Vila, Virginia Polytechnic & State University, and Louise Seamster, Duke University.

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association’s website at:

www.midsouthsoc.org



THE CONGRATULATION STATION MSSA MEMBERS

You have made us all proud!!!

Member Awards/promotions/accolades

Dr. David Hunt earned tenure and promotion to associate professor at Georgia Regents University effective July 1, 2015.

Dr. Melissa Powell-Williams of Georgia Regents University was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi on March 20, 2015

Dr. Jackie Eller, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Middle Tennessee State University

Dr. Jason Ulsperger, Associate Professor of Sociology, won the 2013 Arkansas Tech Faculty Award of Excellence in the scholarship and creative activity category.

Dr. C. Patrice Lockett, recently hired at Jacksonville State University

Dr. Sarah Donley, recently hired at Jacksonville State University

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Member Publications

Smith, Jason. 2015. Review for *The White Savior Film: Content, Critics, and Consumption* by Matthew W. Hughey. *Humanity & Society*, 39(1).

Smith, Jason. 2015. "Blood, Sex, Sand, and Mills: The Sociological Imagination Between Gladiators." *Spartacus in the Television Arena*, edited by M.G. Cornelius. McFarland.

Foley, Allison, Todd Powell-Williams, and Kim Davies. 2015 "Engaging Boys in Eradicating Gender- Based Violence: A Pilot Study of a Promundo-Adapted Program." *Masculinities and Social Change* 4(1): 26-43.

Hunt, David, Kim Davies, Deborah Richardson, Georgina Hammock, Maureen Akins, and Laura Russ. 2014 "It is (more) about the students: Faculty Motivations and Concerns regarding Teaching Online." *Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration*. Summer.

Ulsperger, Jason S., J. David Knottnerus, and Kristen Ulsperger. 2014 "Bureaucratic Rituals in Nursing Homes: The "CARE Model" and Culture Change." *The International Journal of Aging and Society* 3(3):21-33. <http://ijj.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.212/prod.99>

Walker, Lisa and Jackie Eller. Forthcoming "Raising Capital: Claims of Masculinity Among Men on Match.com" in *Men and Masculinities*

Adeola, Francis O. and J. Steven Picou (2013). "Environment and Technology." Pp. 255-264 in David L. Brunσμα, et al, *Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.



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Member Publications

Nicholls, Keith and J. Steven Picou (2013). "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Trust in Government." *Social Science Quarterly* 94(2): 344-361.

Steven B. Scyphers, J.S. Picou, and S. P. Powers (2014). "Participatory Conservation of Coastal Habitats: The Importance of Understanding Homeowner Decision making to Mitigate Cascading Shoreline Degradation." *Conservation Letters*. DOI:10.1111/conl.12114.

Gill, Duane, L.A. Ritchie, J.S. Picou, J. Langhinrichsen-Rohling, M.A. Long, and J.W. Shenesey (2014). "The Exxon and BP Oil Spills: A Comparison of Psychosocial Impacts." *Natural Hazards* 74(3): 1911-1932.

Scyphers, S. B., J. S. Picou, R. D. Brumbaugh, and S. P. Powers (2014). Integrating societal perspectives and values for improved stewardship of a coastal ecosystem engineer. *Ecology and Society* 19(3): 38. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-06835-190338>

Knottnerus, J. David. 2014. "Religion, Ritual, and Collective Emotion." Pp. 312-325 in *Collective Emotions: Perspectives from Psychology, Philosophy, and Sociology*, edited by Christian von Scheve and Mikko Salmela. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

_____. 2014. "Emotions, Pride and the Dynamics of Collective Ritual Events." Pp. 43-54 in *Understanding Collective Pride and Group Identity: New Directions in Emotion Theory, Research and Practice*, edited by Gavin Brent Sullivan. London and New York: Routledge.



THE CONGRATULATION STATION MSSA MEMBERS

Member Publications:

Transcending the Color Line: The Sociology of Black Experience in America

Bobby Eugene Mills, PhD

Morgan James Publishing's (www.Morgan-James.com) release *Transcending the Color Line: The Sociology of Black Experience in America* by Bobby E. Mills provides readers with a new perspectives to ponder as they think about what America needs to change.

A regular columnist for the Forward Times Newspaper in Houston and advocate for social change, Mills created *Transcending the Color Line* to address the main issues he feels that Americans need to fix, including racism. Because of its hidden nature, this issue is more difficult to pinpoint, but Mills sheds a lot of light on the issue, highlighting many of its problems and also ways to fix it. As an activist for historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and a professor at Texas Southern University for many years, Mills uses his experience to analyze the effectiveness of HBCUs and to describe ways they can increase their success.

Transcending the Color Line encourages readers to acknowledge the racism that still exists and to look for ways to move past it and to eradicate it. Mills explains how these divides will eradicate the governmental system and prevent America from fixing its problems and thriving. Many people are unaware of hidden racism and hold many misconceptions without realizing it. *Transcending the Color Line* helps readers to understand and eradicate their misconceptions and to realize the importance of all cultures within America and how to accept them.

Mills also examines other politically charged issues such as dysfunctional family problems, school violence, and homosexuality. Taking a Biblical stance, *Transcending the Color Line* explores what needs to be changed in order for society to prosper the way that it should. Writing with kindness and truth, Mills does not attack people, but stands firmly to his convictions.

Not only does *Transcending the Color Line* illuminate the problems in American society today, but it also encourages everyone to work together to restore it. Mills demonstrates how the Constitution and the Bible align. He claims that Americans should embrace the different cultures and establish political parties that are free from corruption. *Transcending the Color Line* is a call to action that will challenge readers across the continent.

If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Bobby E. Mills, please call Rick Frishman at 516.620.2528 Ext.101.

About the Author: As an accomplished college professor and a social advocate for racial harmony, Bobby E. Mills advocates for peace and social change. He earned his bachelor's degree in theology from Colgate Rochester-Crozer Divinity School and his doctorate in sociology from Syracuse University. His previous books include, *Corporate Christianity: How Double-Minded Pastors are Hi-jacking Christianity* and *Let the Church be the Church*. Mills has also written and published numerous articles concerning the pressing social ills confronting American society. Mills currently lives in Texas and travels as a keynote speaker.



Why I Wrote *Transcending the Color-Line* Bobby E. Mills, PhD

Member Publications:

In the early days of my youth, I was taught to obtain intellectual capital by being a ferocious reader and writer. I taught college level sociology courses at various major universities for thirty-five years. Professionally, I studied theology at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School after undergraduate studies at a Historically Black College (HBCU), Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina.

My task in writing, “*Transcending the Color-Line*” was to shed light on what sociologists already know: We need another way of teaching and modeling how we overcome institutional racism. Education is an extremely important tool in the process. However, education is not the ultimate tool in the process of transcending the color-line. The greatest tool in the process of becoming a “color-line” overcomer is a positive self-concept and a positive “who am I experience” based upon a spiritual encounter with a living God. Without a doubt, sociologists must be acutely aware of the social fact that the foundation of sociology is theology. On the one hand, sociology is about human behavior patterns and relationships in a given social context that are characterized by moral-horizontal-relationships. While, on the other hand, theology is about moral-conscience and the ability of individuals to have a “positive who am I experience” with a living God.

Over the years I have simply developed the moral conscience necessary to help me overcome the color-line by including theology in my pursuit of this academic equation. It is my observation that integrating theology into sociology is critical “for such a time as this.” I propose that you ponder this Biblical thought: “Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness” (2 Timothy 2: 19, The American Standard Open Bible).

Theology and sociology are academic disciplines that teach us how to embrace enlightened social behaviors, rather than dysfunctional and anti-social behaviors. Therefore, when theology and sociology are taught in relationship to each other, individuals can expand their intellectual horizons to not only transcend the color-line, but improve socio-economic conditions in the Black community. This is our reward for diligently seeking an understanding of sociology through theology. Otherwise we are hustling backwards as a people as well as a society.



SOCIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sociological Spectrum publishes papers on theoretical, methodological, quantitative and qualitative research, and applied research in areas of sociology, social psychology, anthropology, criminology and political science. The journal's impact factor for 2013 was .379 with a five-year impact factor of .690. For calendar year 2014 Spectrum received 119 original manuscripts with an acceptance percentage of 14.4. Spectrum's average turnaround time from original submission to final editorial decision is approximately 38 days. The Spectrum editorial staff invites authors to submit original papers through the newly implemented ScholarOne system accessible at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sociologicalspectrum>.

The journal is always looking for new, interesting, and innovative paper of contemporary relevance, so please consider submitting your work.