



## SPRING 2019 ISSUE

Forum: The Voice of the Mid-South

Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.

45th Annual Meeting:

Jackson, MS

October 24-26, 2019.

Focusing Attention on Intersecting Systems of  
Oppression in the #MeToo Era





# FORUM: The Voice The Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.

## Introduction

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Forum! The purpose of this edition is to disseminate information, motivate participation, promote unity through communication and provide for and celebrate our member accomplishments. To that end, this issue has information about the upcoming meeting in Jacksonville, MS (October 24-26, 2019). Please help spread the word by forwarding this edition of Forum and in particular print, post, scan and forward pages 6-15 (call for papers, awards and submissions).

I would like to thank Dr. Heather Griffiths for her timely submission to Teacher Feature "A Secret About Online Learning" (page 17-21). I also want to call your attention to new opportunities, the travel scholarship sponsored by the committee on racial and ethnic minorities (page 14), and the call for papers for a Spectrum special edition "Intersectional Experiences and Marginalized Voices" (page 15). Finally, a special shout out to Dr. Earl Wright for receiving the "Embodiment of Hope Award" (page 22).

As always I seek your input to help make this a newsletter that we all want to read. Please consider submitting your ideas to the next issue. (see page 16 for more information) and/or send any suggestions or submissions to Tina Deshotels at tdeshotels@jsu.edu

Hope to see all of you in Birmingham, AL!!

Forum Editor, Tina Hebert Deshotels, Ph.D  
Professor and Program Coordinator  
Department of Sociology and Social Work, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL

But the issue of sexual harassment is not the end of it. There are other issues - political issues, gender issues - that people need to be educated about.

(Anita Hill)

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



## **MSSA Forum:** **The Voice of Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.** **Spring 2019**

### **From the Desk of the President**

**Jason Ulsperger, Ph.D.**

I am honored to be the current President of the Mid-South Sociological Association Inc. I was born in a semi-rural area of Arkansas in 1975, about the time our organization was established. I am partial, but I love the Mid-South region. I was driving to the winter meeting in February and took some back roads. I was at a roadside joint near Clarksdale, Mississippi, eating barbecue while listening to blues music, and I reflected on how thankful I am for the resilient, warm-hearted people and cultural uniqueness that surrounds me. As a sociologist, I am certainly aware of historical and current inequalities. They trigger emotional ambivalence. If you were not born here, perhaps you adopted the area as your own and know what I am talking about. Regardless, there is no denying it remains a place to appreciate and enjoy.

My parents were both working class, managing economic pressures, and split when I was young. I spent a lot of time with my grandmother. We would often visit my great-grandmother at her nursing home near Little Rock. My time with them elevated my appreciation for elders and life in general. I did drift in and out of delinquency ending up under the supervision of the juvenile justice system when on the verge of adulthood. Luckily, I developed some personal relationships that altered my life course. I was soon an undergraduate student, and sociology spoke to me. I went to graduate school at Arkansas State University and Oklahoma State University and started speaking back. David Knottnerus took me under his wing and encouraged my scholarship. What would I study? Gerontology and criminology of course.

I attended my first MSSA meeting in 2002 in Memphis. I was hooked. I have not missed many meetings since. While serving as Vice President-Elect last year, President-Elect David May resigned due to circumstances beyond his control. I was asked to step in as President after the fall meeting. Members have gone out of their way to be supportive and offer me guidance, including David and several former presidents. I cannot thank them enough. Due to the efforts of Ruth Chananie, the Executive Council recently updated parts of our bylaws and Operations and Procedures Manual. We are currently developing several important initiatives, including an Inclusivity Statement and the Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun Excellence in Mentoring Award. We are also working hard to establish future conference sites that are affordable and attractive destinations. With conference locations in mind, let me turn my attention to Jackson, Mississippi.

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)





## **MSSA Forum:** **The Voice of Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.** **Spring 2019**

### **From the Desk of the President**

**Jason Ulsperger, Ph.D.**

I am excited about the theme of the conference, “Focusing Attention on Intersecting Systems of Oppression in the #MeToo Era.” I have a feeling that related sessions will be spectacular. On top of that, Jackson has so much to offer conference attendees. Consider the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Mississippi Museum of Art, Blues and Freedom Trail markers, and a stellar food scene that keeps getting better. In fact, there are several restaurants close to the conference hotel that will be donating gift cards to the MSSA. We plan on giving a few out at the President’s reception this year, so do not miss it. It is also worth noting that many HBCUs are in the Jackson area. Considering our organization’s legacy, encourage everyone you know who is associated with a HBCU in the area to come to our meeting. There are so many great things to do in Jackson, so join us, talk about sociology, and appreciate the surroundings. I am looking forward to our time together.

Dr. Jason S. Ulsperger received his B.S. from the University of Central Arkansas and M.A. from Arkansas State University. Focusing his studies on Gerontology, Social Psychology, and Criminology, he received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Oklahoma State University. His article in *Sociological Spectrum*, “The Social Dynamics of Elder Care,” won the Mid-South Sociological Association’s award for publication of the year. Along with his book *Elder Care Catastrophe*, Ulsperger is the co-editor of three oral history collections involving people living in the Arkansas River Valley. He is the primary author of over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles. He has also published over 30 book chapters and encyclopedia entries. Ulsperger is a recipient of Arkansas Tech University’s Faculty Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity. He also recently received the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. He is currently researching the link between ritualized strain and mass homicide. In addition, he is writing a book on structural ritualization theory’s link to criminological theory and another on parental adjustment to child sight disorder diagnoses.



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## **MSSA Forum: The Voice of Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. Spring 2019**

### **From the Chair of Committee on Ethnic and Racial Minorities**

**Dr. Melencia Johnson**

I hope you're planning to attend the annual conference in Jackson, Mississippi this year! This town, known for its struggles and progress during the Civil Rights Movement has been rebranded as "The City with Soul," celebrating its musical character and triumphant spirit. I am especially excited to explore Jackson's Civil Rights History and burgeoning culinary scene. I plan to take a tour that follows the Mississippi Freedom Trail and visit places like Fannie Lou Hamer's burial site, Medgar Eder's home, Tougaloo College, Jackson State University, and the Mississippi State Capitol. The local arrangements committee is working on a plan to provide this tour for conference attendees. I hope you will partake as Jackson is a great place to reconnect with history and reimagine the future.

The Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities is open to anyone who has a vested interest in diversifying MSSA and sociological research in regards to race and ethnicity. This year we formulated three subcommittees to continue our goals set last year. Our *Nuances* subcommittee has begun the behind the scenes work to get ready to produce our newsletter that highlights news from CREM members and supporters. If you have information to submit, be on the lookout for the call in late spring. The Outreach Subcommittee has begun to reach out to HBCUs and other ethnic minority serving institutions in the MSSA member states to personally invite them to attend our annual meeting. We have also convened a Scholarship Subcommittee to solicit and review applications for the CREM Travel Scholarship. Last year, we were able to offer two \$250 travel scholarships. This year we are in the position to do the same. We hope that you consider making a donation to CREM this year when you renew your membership or register for the meeting so that we can continue to offer travel scholarships in the future. Thank you for your continued support.

Onward and Upward,

Dr. Melencia Johnson

Chair, Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Associate Professor of Sociology,  
University of South Carolina Aiken [melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu)

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting October 24-26, 2019

## Call for Papers and Posters

Dr. Jessica Abbott

**Theme:**

**“Focusing Attention on Intersecting  
Systems of Oppression in the  
#MeToo Era.”**

The Jackson Marriott

Jackson, Mississippi

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

<b>ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS</b>	July 5
<b>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION</b>	Sept 15
<b>GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION</b>	Sept 15
<b>STANFORD LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP</b>	Sept 15
<b>STANFORD LYMAN DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD</b>	Sept 1
<b>CREM RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY TRAVEL SCHOLAR- SHIP</b>	Sept 6

Greetings MSSA Members and Friends, I am pleased to be of service as your President-Elect and Program Chair for our upcoming annual Mid-South Sociological Association conference. I look forward to seeing you there!

Take a look at the hotel website here: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/janmc-jackson-marriott/>

We have some very exciting paper session topics! Also consider participation in one of our panels, roundtables, poster sessions, or workshops in addition to the traditional research paper sessions. If you are interested in submitting a poster or being a part of a panel, roundtable, and/or workshop, please see the Call for Papers on the MSSA webpage (listed below).

You can find registration and membership information, in addition to the Call for Papers, on our webpage:

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association's website at: [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



**Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.  
Annual Meeting October 24-26, 2019 Jackson, Mississippi  
“Focusing Attention on Intersecting Systems of Oppression  
in the #MeToo Era.”**

**Call for Participation Dr. Jessica Abbott**

**Deadline July 5, 2019**

As President-Elect, I am excited to invite you to submit research papers and posters from any and all disciplines, including those with an interdisciplinary focus. Please consider submitting your papers early to ensure a spot in the session of your choice. The early deadline is July 5, 2018. Submit your paper or poster title, abstract, and specific session title directly to the session organizer. For more information, go to [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org) Also, feel free to email me if you are unsure where your poster or paper may best fit.

SESSION NAME	SESSION ORGANIZER	CONTACT
Alcohol and Substance Use	Andrew Tatch	<a href="mailto:Ajt277@msstate.edu">Ajt277@msstate.edu</a>
Autoethnographies of Race, Class, and Gender	Robert Michael Spivey	<a href="mailto:Michael.spivey@uncp.edu">Michael.spivey@uncp.edu</a>
Children and Youth	Courtney Heath Windhorn	<a href="mailto:Cjh714@msstate.edu">Cjh714@msstate.edu</a>
Comparative Sociology	Roger Klomegah	<a href="mailto:rklomega@tnstate.edu">rklomega@tnstate.edu</a>
Contested Narratives and Mental Health	Stephanie Hansard	<a href="mailto:smhansar@bsc.edu">smhansar@bsc.edu</a>
Criminology and Deviance	Jason Ulsperger	<a href="mailto:julsperger@atu.edu">julsperger@atu.edu</a>
Disabilities	Kirsten Ostergren Clark	<a href="mailto:kirsteno@uab.edu">kirsteno@uab.edu</a>
Disasters	Lisa Eargle	<a href="mailto:leargle@fmarion.edu">leargle@fmarion.edu</a>
Disasters and Race, Gender, Class, Age Intersections	Francis O Adeola	<a href="mailto:fadeola@uno.edu">fadeola@uno.edu</a>
Discrimination, Stress, and Mental Health	Stephanie Hansard	<a href="mailto:smhansar@bsc.edu">smhansar@bsc.edu</a>
Domestic Violence	Kathy Smith	<a href="mailto:ksmith@vallnet.com">ksmith@vallnet.com</a>
Environmental Justice Within and Across Borders.	Francis O Adeola	<a href="mailto:fadeola@uno.edu">fadeola@uno.edu</a>
Family	Jessica Burke	<a href="mailto:jburke@fmarion.edu">jburke@fmarion.edu</a>
Gender and Health	Elizabeth Baker	<a href="mailto:ebaker@uab.edu">ebaker@uab.edu</a>
Gender Research in Progress	Tina Hebert Deshotels	<a href="mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu">tdeshotels@jsu.edu</a>
Graduate Student Session I	Erin Rider	<a href="mailto:erider@jsu.edu">erider@jsu.edu</a>
Graduate Student Session II	Erin Rider	<a href="mailto:erider@jsu.edu">erider@jsu.edu</a>
Hate Crimes	Lisa Eargle	<a href="mailto:leargle@fmarion.edu">leargle@fmarion.edu</a>
Health Disparities and Social Stratification	Andrew Tatch	<a href="mailto:Ajt277@msstate.edu">Ajt277@msstate.edu</a>
Health, Morbidity and Mortality	Kevin Breault	<a href="mailto:kbreault@bellsouth.net">kbreault@bellsouth.net</a>
Homicide Studies	John Boulahanis	<a href="mailto:jboulahanis@selu.edu">jboulahanis@selu.edu</a>
Identities	Jessica Burke	<a href="mailto:jburke@fmarion.edu">jburke@fmarion.edu</a>
Immigration	Erin Rider	<a href="mailto:erider@jsu.edu">erider@jsu.edu</a>

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**Call For Papers: Dr. Jessica Abbott**

**Deadline July 5, 2019**

RESEARCH SESSION NAME	SESSION ORGANIZER	CONTACT
Intersectionality	Melencia Johnson	<a href="mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu">melenciaj@usca.edu</a>
Latinx Identities	William Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:rodrigw@usca.edu">rodrigw@usca.edu</a>
Media and Inequality	Andrea Hunt	<a href="mailto:ahunt3@una.edu">ahunt3@una.edu</a>
Medical Sociology	Kirsten Ostergren Clark	<a href="mailto:kirsteno@uab.edu">kirsteno@uab.edu</a>
Mothering and Motherhood	Brianna Turgeon	<a href="mailto:bturgeon@jsu.edu">bturgeon@jsu.edu</a>
Political Economy	Steve Panageotou & Aaron Rowland	<a href="mailto:spanageotou@astate.edu">spanageotou@astate.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:arowlan3@utm.edu">arowlan3@utm.edu</a>
Public Opinion	Theresa Davidson	<a href="mailto:tcdavids@samford.edu">tcdavids@samford.edu</a>
Public Sociology	Robert Michael Spivey	<a href="mailto:Michael.spivey@uncp.edu">Michael.spivey@uncp.edu</a>
Race and Ethnicity	Erin Rider	<a href="mailto:erider@jsu.edu">erider@jsu.edu</a>
Reproductive Justice	Melanie Turner	<a href="mailto:Mturner19@gsu.edu">Mturner19@gsu.edu</a>
Service Learning	Erin Rider	<a href="mailto:erider@jsu.edu">erider@jsu.edu</a>
Sex Trafficking	Chloe Parker	<a href="mailto:Cp1218@msstate.edu">Cp1218@msstate.edu</a>
Sexuality and Social Policy	Melanie Turner	<a href="mailto:mturner19@gsu.edu">mturner19@gsu.edu</a>
Sex Work	Chloe Parker	<a href="mailto:Cp1218@msstate.edu">Cp1218@msstate.edu</a>
Social Movements	Ruth Chananie	<a href="mailto:rchill@uni.edu">rchill@uni.edu</a>
Social Psychology	Jessica Burke	<a href="mailto:jburke@fmarion.edu">jburke@fmarion.edu</a>
Sociology at HBCUs	Tom Kersen	<a href="mailto:j00585263@jsums.edu">j00585263@jsums.edu</a>
Sociology of Development & Underdevelopment.	Francis O Adeola	<a href="mailto:fadeola@uno.edu">fadeola@uno.edu</a>
Sociology of Education	Brett Lehman	<a href="mailto:blehman@aum.edu">blehman@aum.edu</a>
Sociology of Food	Justin Martin	<a href="mailto:Jmart140@utm.edu">Jmart140@utm.edu</a>
Sociology of Gender	Sarah Donley	<a href="mailto:sdonley@jsu.edu">sdonley@jsu.edu</a>
Sociology of Religion	Shondrah Nash	<a href="mailto:s.nash@moreheadstate.edu">s.nash@moreheadstate.edu</a>
Substance Use and Misuse	Lauren Norman	<a href="mailto:Lauren.Norman@uncp.edu">Lauren.Norman@uncp.edu</a>
Teaching Sociology—General	Jessica Abbott	<a href="mailto:Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu">Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu</a>
Trans and Nonbinary Health Across the Life Course	Alexandra Nowakowski	<a href="mailto:xnowakowski@fsu.edu">xnowakowski@fsu.edu</a>
Terrorism	Lisa Eargle	<a href="mailto:leargle@fmarion.edu">leargle@fmarion.edu</a>
Undergraduate Student Session I	Patricia Gleich	<a href="mailto:pgleich1@uwf.edu">pgleich1@uwf.edu</a>
Undergraduate Student Session II	Patricia Gleich	<a href="mailto:pgleich1@uwf.edu">pgleich1@uwf.edu</a>
Victimology and Fear of Crime	Jessica Abbott & Shelly McGrath	<a href="mailto:Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu">Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:smcgrath@uab.edu">smcgrath@uab.edu</a>
Women and Rage in Popular Culture	Jackie Eller	<a href="mailto:Jackie.eller@mtsu.edu">Jackie.eller@mtsu.edu</a>
Poster Session/Contest	Jessica Abbott	<a href="mailto:Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu">Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu</a>

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association, Inc. website at::





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**Annual Meeting October 24-26, 2019 Jackson, Mississippi**  
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**Call For Participation: Dr. Jessica Abbott**

**Deadline July 5, 2019**

As President-Elect, I am excited to invite you to participate in the following. Please consider contacting the moderator/facilitator early to ensure a spot in the session of your choice. The early deadline is July 5, 2018. For more information, go to [www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org) Also, feel free to email me at [Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu](mailto:Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu) if you are unsure where your poster or paper may best fit.

PANEL NAME	MODERATOR	CONTACT
Maintaining a Research Agenda while at a Small Teaching Uni-	Aaron Rowland	<a href="mailto:arowlan3@utm.edu">arowlan3@utm.edu</a>
Microaggressions	Melencia Johnson & Race and Minorities Caucus	<a href="mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu">melenciaj@usca.edu</a>
Intersectionality and Inclusivity	Plenary Speaker (TBA)	<a href="mailto:Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu">Jessica.abbott@dixie.edu</a>
ROUNDTABLE NAME	MODERATOR	CONTACT
Roundtable: The Business of Sociology—“Money” Conversations	Earl Wright II	<a href="mailto:wrighte4@UCMAIL.UC.EDU">wrighte4@UCMAIL.UC.EDU</a>
Roundtable: The Unwritten Rules to Successfully Achieving Ten-	Earl Wright II	<a href="mailto:wrighte4@UCMAIL.UC.EDU">wrighte4@UCMAIL.UC.EDU</a>
Sociology Clubs and Teaching from a Feminist Perspective	Tina Hebert Deshotels	<a href="mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu">tdeshotels@jsu.edu</a>
WORKSHOP NAME	FACILITATOR	CONTACT
Interviewing for an Academic Appointment in Sociology/	R. Alan Thompson	<a href="mailto:Alan.thompson@usm.edu">Alan.thompson@usm.edu</a>
Teaching the Stress Process with Hands-On Activities	Alexandra Nowakowski	<a href="mailto:xnowakowski@fsu.edu">xnowakowski@fsu.edu</a>

For more information, see the MidSouth Sociological Association, Inc. website at::



# **MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **2019 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

*Deadline: September 15, 2019*

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 of the Mid-South Sociological Association. A prize of \$100 will be awarded for first, \$50 for second, and 25 for third place. The authors of the papers selected will be presented with certificates of merit after presentations of papers at the MSSA, Inc. Annual Meeting in Birmingham, AL (Oct 24-26, 2019). Students are also free to submit papers for a separate non-competitive session if they do not wish to compete.

### **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). It must also include the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from the student's institution.
- ◆ Only the author's name and title of the paper should be included on the title page. 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 20 double-spaced pages of text, not counting abstract, references, tables, and figures.
- ◆ Papers may be co-authored, but not by graduate students or faculty.
- ◆ Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for this competition.

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 (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 Annual Conference held each fall, and be present at the awards banquet.

Papers (in Word, rtf, or PDF format) should be submitted by email to Dr. Patricia Gleich, MSSA Vice-President Elect, at [pgleich1@uwf.edu](mailto:pgleich1@uwf.edu)

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please contact Dr. Gleich by email.

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



## **MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC**

### **2019 GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION**

*Deadline: September 15, 2019*

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. A monetary award of \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third place will be presented to the author(s) of the winning papers. If such a paper is so identified, the author(s) will be presented with the 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 2019 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 Competition Awards. The letter must include the title of the paper, author(s) of the paper, the school affiliation, telephone number, and email address (if available) of the author(s). It must also include the name and contact information of a faculty sponsor from the student's institution. Only author's name and title of the paper should be included on the title page. The title of the paper must be repeated at the top of the first page of 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 other students but not with faculty.**
- ◆ **Papers must not have been submitted for publication prior to submission for award consideration.**

To qualify for the award, students must meet deadlines, present their papers at Annual Meeting and be present at the awards banquet. Papers should be submitted as a Word document by email to: Dr. Erin Rider, MSSA Vice President, at [erider@jsu.edu](mailto:erider@jsu.edu) If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact Dr. Rider at the email address above.

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[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



## **MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

### **The Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award**

*Deadline: September 1, 2019*

This 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 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 2014 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.

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 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: Andrea Hunt [ahunt3@una.edu](mailto:ahunt3@una.edu)

After the nomination information is received, the committee chair will notify the publisher's contact person of the acceptance of the nomination and provide addresses for the committee members who are to review the book.

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)





## **MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. INC**

*Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship (\$1000.00)*

*Deadline: September 15, 2019*

### Eligibility requirements

- ◆ Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics.
- ◆ Applicant must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships.

### Submission information:

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 – 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. Recipient must be present to receive the award.

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)



2019 Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc.  
Committee on Ethnic and Racial Minorities Travel Scholarship  
**Deadline: September 6th**

**Program Description**

The Mid-South Sociological Association and the Committee on Minorities is pleased to announce the availability of travel scholarships for support in attending the 2019 annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi (October 24-26). 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 (*Early paper and poster submissions due July 5th*)
- 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/LzQqb74KQ33yQcFS7) (or copy and paste <https://forms.gle/LzQqb74KQ33yQcFS7> into your browser).

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you in October.

Dr. Melencia Johnson

Chair, MSSA Committee on Ethnic and Racial Minorities

Associate Professor of Sociology  
University of South Carolina Aiken  
[melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu)  
803-641-3237

## **Call for Papers, Special issue of *Sociological Spectrum*: “Intersectional Experiences and Marginalized Voices”**

Sociological Spectrum <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/sociological-spectrum/> invites papers for a special issue tentatively entitled “Intersectional Experience and Marginalized Voices.” The current cultural climate in US is characterized by struggle between groups attempting to shift cultural norms and scripts surrounding marriage, gender, sexuality, sexual assault, police violence, immigration, race relations, and political economies. This special issue, “Intersectional Experiences and Marginalized Voices,” seeks to provide a collective space to synthesize research from an intersectional lens focusing on identities, experiences, and voices in various social, cultural, political, and occupational contexts within contemporary US society. **Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2019.**

### **Suggested topics include (but are not limited to) the following:**

#BlackLivesMatter	Methodologies/Epistemologies
#MeToo	Occupational Stratification
#SayHerName	Pedagogy
Aging	Social Inequality and Stratification
Crime and Deviance	Socialization
Health and Healthcare	Social Movements
Immigration	Stereotypes and Bias
Intersectionality and Social Institutions	Theoretical Perspectives
Leisure	Women's March
Marginalized Groups/Identities	

Submissions will be peer reviewed. The selection criteria will involve: relevance to the theme, paper clarity, intellectual significance, and originality. Manuscripts should directly be submitted to *Sociological Spectrum*: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sociologicalspectrum>. Please designate in an email or cover letter that you wish for your manuscript to be considered for the special issue. Authors should blind their manuscripts. Submissions should be in ASA format, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Additional submission instructions can be found here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=usls20&page=instructions>

### **Please direct inquiries to the guest editors below:**

Sarah Donley (special issue editor)  
Department of Sociology & Social Work  
Jacksonville State University  
324 Brewer Hall  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
256-782-5352 [sdonley@jsu.edu](mailto:sdonley@jsu.edu)

Melencia Johnson (special issue editor)  
Department of Sociology  
University of South Carolina Aiken  
471 University Parkway Box 26  
Aiken, SC 29801  
803-641-3237 [melenciaj@usca.edu](mailto:melenciaj@usca.edu)

Note: *Sociological Spectrum* is the official journal of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Inc. This special issue is a joint project of the MSSA Women, Gender, and Sexualities Committee and Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities.



## ***MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.***

### **FORUM: The Voice of the Mid-South**

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

In order to represent our members, we need participation from as many members as possible. To that end, please consider submitting to any and all of the following topic/areas. If you have something that doesn't fit the below, please send and let us incorporate your ideas!

#### **LIST OF POTENTIAL TOPICS/AREAS:**

- ♦ Teacher Feature: Featured Article(s) (activities, musings, practical and/or theoretical).
- ♦ Research: Featured Article (a summary of publication or new area of publication, state of the discipline etc.)
- ♦ Service: Featured Article (activities, musings, opportunities, practical and/or theoretical).
- ♦ Member focus (interview with members)
- ♦ Meeting information, including interviews, summaries and speaker bios
- ♦ News and Announcements from Committees (including meet the executive committee articles).
- ♦ Other featured columns eg. i-witness: 500 word reflection on a topic relevant to sociology

If you are interested please send Dr. Tina Deshotels your contact information and area of interest to [tdeshotels@jsu.edu](mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu)

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)





## Teacher Feature: A Secret about Teaching Online

**Heather Griffiths, PhD Fayetteville State University**

I know a secret about teaching online. It is much harder than it looks. It requires constant review and regular updates. When I compare the online courses I currently teach to the online courses I developed ten years ago there is a vast difference in the type of content, the course organization, the course grading, and the instructions I provide for how to interact with the course. When I compare my lower-division courses to my upper-division courses, there is a wide variation in how I deliver the course content. This essay highlights how I changed my online courses to address the issues identified by students in various forums, at various levels, as well as improvements I made in response to recurring issues.

### Look Here First

I strive to create chronologically organized, alphabetized, straightforward and easy to navigate online courses. Naturally, most students entering the course for the first time are completely overwhelmed by the mass of information and can't find anything. I have had students complete the first eight weeks of work without ever realizing that PowerPoint slides were available to supplement assigned readings.

One fact I have confronted over and over again is that students taking my online courses spend a lot of time clicking around, and they don't always click on things in the order I expect them to. Some like to begin and end with the syllabus. Some navigate using the official course subheadings, some look only at what is right in front of them, and never scroll down to see what else the course has to offer. In my first online course I regularly answered questions from students regarding information that I thought was readily available, that students couldn't seem to locate.

One of the biggest improvements I made to my course navigation was a section that appears as prominently as possible, positioned at the top of the course modules page, called "Look Here First." Students who enter a course and just start clicking links will see this section and, at least in theory, look there first. Students who begin with the syllabus are directed to this section. I send out an e-mail to the students listed on the roster, telling them to begin familiarizing themselves with course content by reading this section. "Look Here First" provides students with a detailed course map, instructions regarding



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in what order to review information, and guidelines for where to find assignments instructions, due dates, and rubrics. Students are then required to complete a discussion board essay summarizing the most important information and a class preparedness quiz regarding assignment instructions, when to expect contact from me, how to contact me if e-mails haven't been answered, and what technology is required to take quizzes and exams. If nothing else, "Look Here First" considerably reduced the number of questions I received from students in the first week and provided me with a one line response for the students who did e-mail with a question, i.e. "Review the "Look Here First" module.

### Necessary Course Components

While each course is unique and each professor delivers content and assesses knowledge in their own way, it is useful to have a course shell already filled with content common to all your online courses. The instructional materials will vary, but rules on how students should respond when an exam shuts down before they complete it probably will not. You can have a general content online course shell created for transferring into any future online course, or a general content online course shell for each of the courses you regularly teach.

To begin, if an existing course section does not offer information students need, if it does not direct students to a tool you want them to use, and/or if the information is better organized when accessed in a different way, hide that course section. Set a homepage with no more than four or five direct links to the most commonly accessed parts of the course. Course modules can be created, and populated with specific content in the week before the semester begins. I generally include links for the syllabus, discussion board, quizzes/exams, PowerPoint slides, and a citation guide on the first page that students see when opening the course. You might even start the first week with a single link to the Look Here First section—then replace that link with a more diverse selection in week two.

In the syllabus section of the course, it is a good idea to include a scheduling "cheat sheet" with just the assignment due dates in addition to a downloadable, more detailed, syllabus. It is necessary to tell students to download the detailed syllabus—some will scan the page and completely miss a downloadable file, even one in larger font. I also include instructions on where to find the detailed syllabus in my "Look Here First" module.



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In the assignments section of the course, it can be helpful to at least set up assignment parameters so that students can see every assignments' due date from day one. It is not necessary to populate an exam with questions—just create the exam assignment and set the due date. It is not necessary to have discussion board writing prompts—just create the due date for each board so that each one will appear in the Canvas calendar.

Other general material can be organized into modules, which is the most information-dense area of the courses I teach. In each online course I teach I include a module that collects only the assignment instructions and rubrics describing how assignments will be graded. Another module collects my response to common questions and issues students have. Another module includes class “netiquette” and instructions on how to compose professional e-mails—something I developed after I called a student out for constantly writing discussion boards and e-mails in all caps, only to have that student claim she had no idea that using all-caps for online discourse was considered rude. Whether that was true or not, since I added specific guidelines, the problem has not reoccurred.

The last module I provide in the general content course shell that serves as the base for all my online course is for Academic Support. It includes links to the library, tutoring options, the Writing Center, the Center for Personal Development, and similar links that steer struggling students towards resources that might help them. Remember, every online class is someone's first online class.

Before I consider the course ready to publish, I check for consistency. If an older assignment is appearing in the gradebook at least one student will notice and send an e-mail. To keep all the assignments current, you might need to check the calendar, discussion board, assignments page, gradebook, and the bottom of the syllabus section to ensure that only current assignments appear.

### Details, Details, Detials

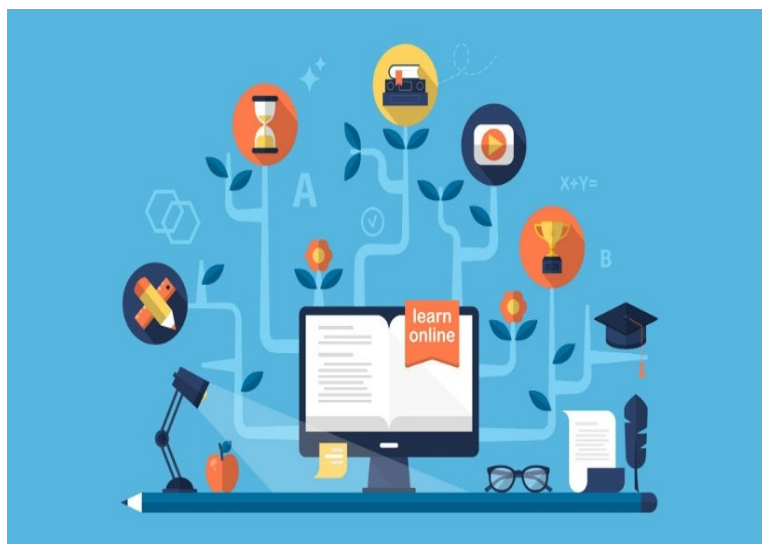
Did you notice the typo in the subheading above? It is there on purpose to illustrate a common error in online course construction, relying on your own review of the course to detect errors and inconsistencies. The nature of online courses demand redundancy. Important information must be available from multiple access points; instructions must be provided in multiple course areas.



## Teacher Feature: A Secret About Online Teaching

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And duplication of information throughout the course can mean duplication of minor errors. We all have a misspelling here or there, but in online courses misspellings can appear here AND there (and over there, as well). During initial creation of materials errors are easier to catch. However, each time course materials are transferred into a new shell and updated for a new semester, errors and inconsistencies creep in. Sure, you will probably remember to change due dates in the syllabus. But will you remember to change the dates for the online assignments in the course management system? What about the dates in the instructions? What about in the scheduling cheat sheet? One due date that is not updated can create confusion and frustration, because students have their own preferences for tracking assignments, and it doesn't always include the use of the syllabus.



A colleague can serve as a second pair of eyes, but crowdsourcing the edit is even more effective. I am always confident that my course is free from errors and inconsistencies, and I always give extra credit for students who can identify issues within the first week of class. Every single online course I ever taught contained errors that slipped through my review. Usually minor misspellings, but occasionally errors in due dates or page numbers, errors that could have generated chaos had they gone unnoticed through the semester. Always have at least one other person review your course content.

The final tip to constructing good online courses is not to reinvent the wheel. You don't need to write brand new content when you can copy it (with proper ASA citation and referencing, of course!) or link to it. When you are developing your course materials, check in to open source course content and sociology wikis—free materials are readily available and high-quality.





## Teacher Feature: A Secret About Online Teaching

**Heather Griffiths, PhD Fayetteville State University**



Heather M. Griffiths, an associate professor of sociology, has taught at Fayetteville State University for twelve years. During this time, she taught classes in the undergraduate program, the graduate program, the sociology department's online degree completion program, and the Cumberland International Early College High School. She challenges her students to understand the interplay of race, sex, gender and class by guiding them

through discussions that focus on the complexity of multiple perspectives and the lack of easy or simplistic answers to social problems. Dr. Griffiths was Senior Contributing author for the OpenStax, Introduction to Sociology 2e, published in 2014. She served as Executive Council Member for the North Carolina Sociological Association and Chaired the Himes Award committee 2014-2017. She was the recipient of the 2016 Board of Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award and the 2017 Fayetteville State University Teacher of the Year Award. Griffiths holds a Bachelor's degree in sociology and a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. She earned her Master's degree from the University of Delaware in 2003, and her PhD from the University of Delaware in 2007. In 2006, she began teaching at Fayetteville State University and was promoted to associate professor in 2013.



**Kudos:**  
**Dr. Earl Wright**

## **Embodiment of Hope Award**

A University of Cincinnati sociologist was honored with the inaugural Embodiment of Hope award during the university's annual tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Earl Wright II, a professor of sociology in UC's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences, was recognized Jan. 17 at a ceremony in Great Hall in Tangeman University Center. The event was sponsored by UC's African American Cultural & Resource Center.

The award recognizes faculty or staff who daily exemplify the highest caliber of spirit and service in implementing the vision espoused by King. Wright, co-editor of the academic journal [Social Problems](#), said he felt extremely honored to be the first recipient of the award. "When I first heard I had won the award I wanted to get a true understanding of its meaning," Wright said. "So, I went to the dictionary. I knew embodiment meant the 'physical manifestation' of a thing. I then looked up hope and found it means 'a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.'" "I put those two words together and concluded that recipients of this award are representative of 'the physical manifestation of something desired to happen.'" Wright connected this definition to his own family history, accepting the award on behalf of his great-great grandmother, Irene Taylor. According to Wright, Taylor was born in Virginia in the 1700's as the property of another human being – eventually being sold to a plantation in Mississippi. Wright accepts the award as the physical embodiment of Taylor's hope. "I am certain it was her hope that her offspring would never endure the inhumane treatment she was exposed to," Wright said. "Moreover, I'm sure it was her hope that her offspring, generations to come, would be able to accomplish things she could only dream of." **By: John(na) Jackson**



## ***Sociological Spectrum: Journal of the MSSA, INC.***

### **Call for Submissions**

#### **Preparation of Manuscripts**

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on all sides and following the current American Sociological Review style.

Submitted manuscripts will undergo an editorial screening and peer review by anonymous referees. All manuscripts submitted to *Sociological Spectrum* from those serving as Board Members or Associate Editors of the journal undergo the same blind review process as do those submitted by other individuals. In addition, any manuscript submitted for review authored or co-authored by the Editor-in-Chief is handled by an independent Special Editor who coordinates a review process and makes the final decision as to the suitability of the manuscript(s) for publication in *Sociological Spectrum*. Authors should avoid placing any form of identification either on the body of the manuscript or on the required abstract of 150 words or less. Manuscripts that do not conform to these requirements will be returned to the authors for correction and will delay the review process.

#### **Submission of Manuscripts:**

Sociological Spectrum receives all manuscript submissions electronically via its ScholarOne Manuscripts site located at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sociologicalspectrum>. ScholarOne Manuscripts allows for rapid submission of original and revised manuscripts, and facilitates the review process and internal communication between authors, editors, and reviewers via a web-based platform. ScholarOne technical support can be accessed at <http://scholarone.com/services/support>. If you have any other requests, please contact Kevin Breault, Editor-in-Chief, at [kbreault@mtsu.edu](mailto:kbreault@mtsu.edu), or Jerry Gonzalez, Associate Editor, at [gag2i@mtmail.mtsu.edu](mailto:gag2i@mtmail.mtsu.edu).

#### **Transfer of Copyright:**

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyrighted material from other sources and are required to sign an agreement for the transfer of copyright to the publisher. This form will be provided by the publisher office.

#### **Where to Submit Manuscripts**

Blind manuscripts should be uploaded via the ScholarOne site as indicated above in MS Word format. Submitting authors should insert abstracts in the appropriate section of the site and enter complete author and co-author information where indicated.

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

[www.midsouthsoc.org](http://www.midsouthsoc.org)