

~NUANCES~

Newsletter of the Minority Caucus

Committee on Minorities Chair--Dr. Melencia Johnson

When I was elected as the Chair of the Committee on Minorities in 2017, I really did not know what to expect. In my first year as Chair, I wanted to bring more visibility to the racial and ethnic minority membership in the Mid-South Sociological Association. My first task was to work with a committee to brainstorm ways to make MSSA more welcoming. We decided to do personal invitations to present at the conference to members of minority groups through listservs and outreach to Minority Serving Institutions. We also discussed changing the name of the committee to the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities (this will come to a vote by the membership at the general body meeting). Additionally, we decided to use all of the money in our account to award two travel scholarships to members of ethnic or racial minority groups or who worked for racial minority serving institutions. Lastly, the group proposed a revival of Nuances, the newsletter of the Minority Caucus, to provide members with an opportunity to promote themselves.



As I head into year two of my position, I look forward to working with others in the Minority Caucus and Executive Board of MSSA to make MSSA more appealing to people of color. The Committee has goals to increase funding for minority student attendance and participation during the MSSA annual meetings, and increase donations to support the (soon to be renamed) Minorities Fund.

Thank you for your support of the Committee on Minorities.

Member Spotlight--Dr. Earl Wright, II



One of the proudest accomplishments in my life was my selection as president of the Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) and service during the 2012-13 academic year. My participation at MSSA began when I was a master's level graduate student in 1996 and my love for the organization has only grown exponentially since then. What I love most about MSSA is its warm embrace of graduate students and new professors. I remember sitting at the knee of unsung sociological giants like

Thomas C. Calhoun (Jackson State University), John Moland Jr. (Alabama

State University), Charles U. Smith (Florida A&M) and Lena Wright Myers (Ohio University) and receiving wisdom and, more importantly, time from these persons who knew nothing of me except that I was attending that year's meeting. What I also love about MSSA is its deep passion for centering sociology by and about the South. More specifically, the *Deep South*. This is why I am looking forward to attending this year's meeting in Birmingham, Alabama.

The theme of this year's meeting, "Revisiting Dr. King's Dream Five Decades After His Death: Facts, Fallacies and Fears about the Future," is a call to sociologists to reassess the progress, or lack thereof, made on issues regarding race, class and inequality since Dr. King's passing. My understanding of this year's theme, impacted by the location of the meeting, is more expansive. I view this year's meeting in the state of Alabama, which is located in the Deep South, as an opportunity to convey to this nation and international sociological communities what Andre 3000 expressed to the hip hop community some years ago, "The South's got something to say." For too long sociologists and sociological institutions in the South have not been properly recognized as significant contributors to the discipline. This year's conference is an opportunity for "us" to begin our "resistance" to this narrative.

I look forward to presenting my new research on an early contributor to the development of sociology in this nation. It was at a late 1990's MSSA meeting when I first presented my groundbreaking research on the Atlanta Sociological Laboratory – the moniker bestowed on persons engaged in sociological activity at Atlanta University (now known as Clark Atlanta University between 1895 and 1924). I made the argument that Atlanta University, not the University of Chicago, housed the first American school of sociology. My work was warmly received and MSSA members encouraged me to continue this line of research. Their support propelled me forward in my career. This year I look forward to presenting new groundbreaking research challenging stereotypical notions of Booker T. Washington and his thoughts on the liberal arts. Not only do I argue that Washington supported the liberal arts, I declare that the first program of applied rural sociology was established at an historically Black college and university (HBCU), Tuskegee Institute, in 1892. This notion runs counter to every understanding of sociology at HBCUs and what we know to-date about Washington. What we NOW know without doubt or equivocation, is that the first American school of sociology and program of urban sociology was established at an HBCU and the first applied rural sociology program was established at an HBCU. MSSA is where this information was first released. MSSA is one of the few spaces that allows for the true development of this type of research to take place. Consequently, my research on the (Deep) South has always made me appreciate the scholarship and works taking place at MSSA.

This year's MSSA meeting in Birmingham should be a clarion call for us to (re)embrace the significance of this region and promote the great works emanating from within our midst. Moreover, let us never forget that, arguably, our greatest strength is the mentoring of up and coming scholars and commit ourselves to doing all we can to continue this tradition. I look forward to this year's meeting and welcome the opportunity to see old friends, make new friends and learn more about the greatness of the region we collectively celebrate each year, The South.

Vote YES on Committee Name Change

On Friday, at the Annual Banquet and Business Meeting, Dr. Melencia Johnson will make the following motion, "I make a motion to change the name of the Committee on Minorities to the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, change the name of the Minority Caucus to Racial and Ethnic Minority Caucus, change the name of the Minorities Fund to Racial and Ethnic Minorities Fund, and to add the phrase "racial and ethnic" before mentions of minorities in the committee charge."

We hope that you will support the motion. The rationale for changing the name is to bring the title in alignment with the charge. Since the creation of the Committee on Minorities, we have created the committee on Women, Gender, and Sexualities. The broad name of Committee on Minorities no longer serves its purpose, especially as many already assume the committee's charge is geared toward racial and ethnic minorities. Those who met at the Minority Caucus in 2017 all agreed that in order to more visibly meet the needs of racial and ethnic minority members of the MSSA, the name should be changed.

Minority Caucus Lunch



Please join the Committee on Minorities at the Minority Caucus Lunch on **Friday, October 26** in **South Meeting Room J** from **11:45am to 1:00pm**. Lunch will be free for first 20 attendees. We have several items to discuss:

1. Discuss ways to increase racial and ethnic minority membership in MSSA.
 2. Review proposed committee name change.
 3. Select committee members.
 4. Choose an editor for *Nuances*.
 5. Collect donations for (hopefully) soon to be named Racial and Ethnic Minorities Fund.
-

Birmingham Civil Rights Tour



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION TOUR

Thursday 10/25/2018

3:00 PM – BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth was the Pastor for many years and fought for the equality of African Americans here in Birmingham. He is credited with influencing Dr. Martin Luther King coming to Birmingham and beginning the historic Birmingham children's marches. Dr. Martha Bouyers, recently name as a Fellow for the Alabama Humanities Foundation, gives an in-depth study of the civil and human rights struggle from her own personal standpoint beginning with the early days of segregation to the present. She is the education director for this historic church. Her presentation is centered on the "Stony the Road We Trod" project of which she has been the director for the past 12 years.

4:00 PM – BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

This is a large interpretive museum and research center depicting the struggles of the Civil Rights Movements in the 1950's and 1960's. The institute showcases a walking journey through the "living institution" displaying the lessons of the past as a positive way to chart new directions for the future. It is located within the Civil Rights District which includes the historic 16th Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, the Fourth Avenue Business District and the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame located in the Carver Theater. It also houses the Odessa Woolfolk Gallery which showcases traveling exhibits of civil and human rights issues throughout the world.

5:00 pm – WINDSHIELD TOUR OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

This will include the Kelly Ingram Park, 16th Street Baptist Church, the original A.G. Gaston Motel, Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and the Carver Theater. All are located within the historic district.

5:30 PM – WINDSHIELD TOUR OF REGIONS PARK AREA

Prior to your return to the Sheraton Hotel, this tour will showcase, as time permits, the historic and newly developed Parkside area located next to the University of Alabama Hospital and School Complex. Located here is the Southern Negro League Museum, Regions Field Baseball Park, Railroad Park, and Rotary Trail.

The cost is \$45 total--\$30 for the tour guide and bus and \$15 for entry into Bethel Baptist Church and the Civil Rights Museum. If we do not have 25 people or more sign up by Friday, October 19, we will have to cancel the tour. Sign up [HERE](#). Contact [Theresa Davidson](#) if you have any questions.

MSSA Sessions of Interest

Wednesday, October 24

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. South Meeting Room E
SESSION 2: FOOD, INEQUALITY, AND CHANGE: STRATIFICATION AND CULTURAL MOBILITY
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 3: COLLECTIVE ACTIONS SHAPING OUR WORLD
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. South Meeting Room E
SESSION 4: FEATURE SESSION: SURVIVING

MSSA Sessions of Interest

Friday, October 26

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 33: INEQUALITIES IN TIME AND PLACE: EXPLORATIONS OF HOW DISPARITIES PERSIST BY LOCATION
9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room G
PLENARY SESSION- SESSION 37: THE ACTIVISM OF REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room I

KATRINA: THE EXPERIENCES OF LOW INCOME AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 5: MEDICAL SOCIOLOGY: EXPLORING CHALLENGES IN HEALTH FOR IMMIGRANTS AND OTHER POPULATIONS
3:30 – 4:45 p.m. South Meeting Room I
SESSION 6: RACE AND ACTS OF RESISTANCE

Thursday, October 25

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room F
SESSION 9: CONSIDERING MARGINALIZED STUDENT POPULATIONS AND CONCEPTS IN PEDAGOGY
9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 10: TOPICS IN VICTIMOLOGY
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 12: FREE TRADE AND COMMUNITY AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 14: FEAR OF CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room I
SESSION 15: THE SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBAL MIGRATION: UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES
1:00 – 2:15 p.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 18: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
1:00 – 2:15 p.m. South Meeting Room F
SESSION 20: ROUNDTABLE: THE UNWRITTEN RULES TO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVING TENURE AND PROMOTION
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. South Meeting Room F
SESSION 23: FEATURE SESSION: REFLECTIONS ON 50 YEARS SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF MLK AND THE DEATH OF DU BOIS
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 24: INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL CLASS
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. South Meeting Room I
SESSION 25: CHALLENGES IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY
4:00 – 5:15 p.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 27: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY
4:00 – 5:15 p.m. South Meeting Room E
SESSION 28: HEALTH AND GENDER: AN EXPLORATION OF GENDER EFFECTS ON HEALTH OUTCOMES
4:00 – 5:15 p.m. South Meeting Room F
SESSION 29: INEQUALITY IN PROFESSIONAL, SOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS
4:00 – 5:15 p.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 30: INSTITUTIONAL DECISION-MAKING AND REGULATION

SESSION 38: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SESSION II-FILM, WORK, AND LEISURE
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 39: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room E
SESSION 40: CHALLENGES AROUND SEXUAL IDENTITY
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room G
SESSION 41: STUDENT SESSION: HOW SHOULD WE REMEMBER REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING?
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room F
SESSION 42: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SESSION III- IMMIGRATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND CIVIL RIGHTS
1:00 – 2:15 South Meeting Room Meeting Area
Session 43: PLENARY SESSION THE ROLE OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER IN ADVANCING CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SOUTH
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. South Meeting Room E
SESSION 45: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Saturday, October 27

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 49: SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL IDENTITY
10:30 – 11:45 a.m. South Meeting Room C
SESSION 52: SCHOOL CLIMATE, FEAR, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Visit

<http://www.midsouthsoc.org/conference/mssa-conference-schedule/> to see the full conference program.



Job Advertisement

Two Tenure-Track Positions, in African American Studies and U.S. Latina/o Studies (Assistant or Associate Professor)

Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, Texas Christian University

The Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) at Texas Christian University invites applications for two tenure-track faculty positions: one in African American Studies and one in U.S. Latina/o Studies. One of the two appointments can be made at the Associate level; the other will be an Assistant Professor. Both will begin in fall 2019.

Successful candidates will demonstrate evidence of an ambitious research agenda centered on race/ethnicity. Candidates who wish to be considered at the Associate level must be tenured in their current institutions and exhibit an existing record of

scholarship, teaching, and service commensurate with the requirements for tenure and promotion in the Department of CRES.

We especially seek scholars who apply comparative or relational approaches to the study of race/ethnicity and/or scholars who meaningfully integrate the intersectional study of women, gender, and sexuality.

Faculty in these positions will be expected to incorporate community-engaged pedagogy into their teaching and to take part in the wider Fort Worth and Texas communities as civic-minded scholars. Additionally, the faculty will serve as campus leaders in the development of CRES and larger university initiatives surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Required qualifications:

- A Ph.D. completed by August 15, 2019, in an interdisciplinary field or a traditional humanities or social science discipline with significant demonstrated background and experience related to race and ethnicity.
- Ability to teach undergraduate and graduate courses on critical theoretical approaches to race and ethnicity and/or courses on applied inquiry, methods, and activism.

Preferred qualifications:

- A Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies, African American or Africana or Black Studies, Latina/o Studies, American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, with a primary focus on the United States
- Experience in community-based participatory research or creative activity
- Experience in activism, community engagement, or critical service learning
- Experience in curriculum development, strategic planning, and/or academic leadership roles

To apply, upload a letter of application, complete CV, syllabus for one proposed upper-division CRES course (junior- or senior-level), and a 1-page statement explaining how the applicant will contribute to diversity and inclusion in CRES and at TCU to https://tcu.igreentree.com/CSS_faculty. Three confidential letters of recommendation should be sent by recommenders or dossier service to hrtalentacquisition@tcu.edu. Candidates for terminal degrees must submit one of their letters from their primary advisor. All questions regarding the application process may be directed to Human Resources at hrtalentacquisition@tcu.edu or 817-257-7790. Questions about the Department of CRES and its curriculum may be directed to cres@tcu.edu.

Review of applications begins October 1, 2018, and will continue until the position is filled. The position start date is in August 2019.

Minority Travel Scholarship

We are happy to announce Dr. Jeannice Louine of Clifflin University and Graduate Student Taylor Darks from Florida A&M University are the recipients of our \$250 travel scholarship this year. Congratulations!

Please continue to contribute to the Minority Caucus so that we can continue to offer this opportunity.

Selected Birmingham Happenings for October 24-27

Thursday, October 25th

5-11pm | Railroad Park

Classic Kickoff Block Party and Concert presented by Amazon and Birmingham Urban League

Purchase Tickets [HERE](#).

5pm | Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Taste of the Magic City 2018

Purchase Tickets [HERE](#).

11pm - 3am | Perfect Note 1845 Monrformwey Hwy S, Hoover, AL

Magic City Classic Fusion
Purchase Tickets [HERE](#).

Friday, October 26th

5am - 10am | Birmingham Jefferson Concert Hall 2011 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N

Rickey Smiley Morning Show Live

11am - 6pm | 1st and 23rd 2300 1st Ave. N

Magic City Classic Free Friday Day Party

12pm - 3pm | The Courtyard 2025 2nd Ave N

Finale Friday "Magic City Classic 2018" Day Party

Purchase Tickets [HERE](#).

Saturday, October 27th

8am | Downtown Birmingham

Magic City Class Parade with Ambassador Don Cheadle

10am | Historic Legion Field West Side Parking Lot

Pre-Game Tailgate

2:30pm | Historic Legion Field

77th Magic City Classic: America's #1 HBCU Classic

Alabama A&M University vs. Alabama State University

12pm-8pm | 2098 1st Ave. S

Dia de los Muertos at the Rotary Trail (full of altars, art, dance and music performances, food, and views of downtown) FREE!

Black and Latin American Owned Restaurants to Try

- Waffleworks at the Pizitz Food Hall
- Yo Mama's
- Perfect Note
- Tillie's Southern Kitchen
- American Ranch House
- El Barrio
- Rojo
- Miami Fusion Cafe



MEMBER NEWS



Social Problems

The official journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Annulla Linders, Co-Editor
Earl Wright II, Co-Editor

SPECIAL ISSUE - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois

Social Problems invites submissions for a special issue on the contemporary relevance and application of works following in the tradition of W. E. B. Du Bois. During his tenure as a practicing sociologist at Atlanta University, Du Bois spearheaded groundbreaking sociological and social science advancements in research methods and substantive areas including, but not limited to, race, social inequality, education, family and religion. His school's research agenda emphasized how sociology could be used as a tool to improve society's ills. With this legacy as a guidepost, we are seeking empirical and theoretical papers that address contemporary manifestations of Du Boisian research. The objective of this effort is to demonstrate the contemporary significance and relevance of the sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois to the discipline. Thus, we are not accepting purely historical analyses of Du Bois. Instead, papers should use a Du Boisian lens to examine social problems and social justice solutions in all areas relevant to the broader mission of *Social Problems* and its parent organization, the Society for the Study of Social problems (SSSP).

Papers are limited to a maximum of 35 pages including references. Extra material including, tables, figures, photos, appendices, etc., should be kept to a minimum. All manuscripts should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font and double-spaced (including indented quotes and references). Leave one-inch margins. Avoid the generic use of male nouns or pronouns. All manuscripts are subject to the normal anonymous peer-review process. The deadline for submitting papers is Friday, March 1, 2019. Please submit at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/socpro> and choose "Du Bois Special Issue" at "step 6" of the submission process.

This special issue is edited by Earl Wright II (earl.wright@uc.edu) and Aldon Morris (amorris@northwestern.edu). If you have any question(s) concerning this special issue feel free to contact either editor.

SOCIOLOGY OF W. E. B. DU BOIS CO-EDITORS

Earl Wright II
Professor
University of Cincinnati
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Aldon Morris
Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and
African American Studies
Northwestern University

Department of Sociology • 1018 Crosley Tower, University of Cincinnati • Cincinnati, OH 45221-0378
SocialProblems@uc.edu • (513)-556-4710 • <https://academic.oup.com/socpro>

Send us your news!

Nuances is a newsletter for the friends and members of the Mid-South Sociological Association's Minority Caucus. If you have any announcements for the Fall 2019 newsletter, email them to Chair of the Committee on Minorities, Melencia Johnson at melenciaj@usca.edu.

