

NUANCES

Updates for the members and friends of
MSSA'S Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities



Nashville, Tennessee



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Alexis Moore
Doctoral Student
Georgia State University



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Doctoral Student
University of Cincinnati

Message from the Chair of CREM

What a year it has been. Since our last issue, we have endured even more struggles than we could have imagined. Many of us made it, some of us did not. The unexpected deaths connected to the two warring pandemics of COVID-19 and white supremacist racism lay heavy on my heart. I find myself waking up every day, pausing to remember the fallen and wanting today to be better. That extra pause prepares me for the worst while hoping for the best. While we were hoping for a great time in Nashville, Tennessee full of meetings, greetings, and fun at the brand-new National Museum of African American Music; we have prepared for our first ever all virtual conference. The good thing is that we are here and will find ways to thrive, regardless of the circumstances. I hope that you engage in multiple sessions just as you would have in person.· Encourage young scholars with emojis and chat box accolades.· Exchange contact information with scholars that have similar research interests.· Reconnect with those who you have not communicated with since last year. This is my final year as Chair of the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities. It is my hope that someone is prepared to step into this space, continue the work we have started, and chart a new path for the committee. This year we were able to provide \$250 in registration scholarships to presenting scholars through our competitive application process. We continued our efforts to reach out to HBCUs to encourage their faculty and students to participate in the meeting. We also produced this wonderful newsletter once again to keep you informed. Thank you for all of your support through my two terms as Chair of this committee. I will see you around!



Dr. Melencia Johnson
Associate Professor of Sociology
University of South Carolina Aiken

Tennessee's HBCU Legacy

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic MSSA chose to move our annual conference location from Nashville, Tennessee to an online format. While this change means participants won't be able to physically explore Tennessee's rich history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), we offer here a brief introduction to the history and legacy of Tennessee's seven HBCUs. These schools have housed the ingenuity, resilience, and talent of generations of Black students whose legacies are built into the foundations of these institutions. Before merging with Owen College in 1968 to form LeMoyne–Owen College, LeMoyne Normal Institute (est. 1862) was a college for free Black people. The Memphis school was burned down in 1866 but was rebuilt and reopened the following year. Tennessee HBCUs have a legacy of building and resiliency, from students at Knoxville College (est. 1875) literally making the bricks used to construct the buildings to Lane College (est. 1882) founders surviving the yellow fever epidemic to open their school. From the struggles of those early years, Tennessee HBCUs developed many leaders in the ongoing movements for Black liberation. Prominent figures like W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington, and Ida B. Wells were on faculty at Fisk University (est. 1866) and students at American Baptist College (est. 1924), including recently passed representative John Lewis, were actively involved in the Nashville Student Sit-In movement. Tennessee HBCUs also have deep roots with southern sociology. Beyond Du Bois, sociologist, Charles S. Johnson, established the Fisk University Race Relations Institute in 1944, which held conferences seeking solutions to the problem of the color line. Tennessee is also notable for being home to the first medical school for Black people in the South, Meharry Medical College (est. 1876). Graduates from Tennessee's largest HBCU, Tennessee State University (est. 1912), have gone on to be leaders in the local Nashville community, including current state representatives Vincent Dixie and Thelma Harper. The Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities is proud to present this short history and look forward to exploring these histories further when MSSA returns to Nashville for our annual conference in 2022.



KNOXVILLE COLLEGE



Sessions of Interest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

11:30AM-12:45PM

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD): Introduction and AKD Statement on Racism in America: Implementing Change

4:00PM – 5:15PM Breakout Sessions

Session 9: Police & Citizen Brutality

Session 12: Interracial Solidarity with Black Activism for Racial Justice (panel)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00AM – 10:15AM Breakout Sessions

Session 19: International Migration: Through an Intersectional Lens

Session 20: State Violence: Pandemic of Racism

10:30AM – 11:45AM Breakout Sessions

Session 21: Intersectional Experiences and Marginalized Voices

11:45AM – 1:00PM

Mentoring/Networking Session: Sociology in Interdisciplinary Fields with Reshmi Chowdhury

1:00PM – 2:15PM Breakout Sessions

Session 27: Intersectionality in the Higher Education Context

2:30PM – 3:45PM Breakout Sessions

Session 32: An Analysis of the Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA) for Underrepresented Groups

Session 35: Shaping Perceptions of the Immigrant Community

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

10:30AM – 11:45AM Breakout Sessions

Session 44: Immigrant Identity and Communities

Session 47: The 150th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment

Friday 11:45AM – 1:00PM

Racial and Ethnic Minorities Lunch and Annual Committee Meeting

1:00PM – 2:15PM Breakout Sessions

Session 50: Immigration

2:30PM – 3:45PM Breakout Sessions

Session 56: Race/Ethnicity I

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00AM – 10:15AM Breakout Sessions

Session 63: Race/Ethnicity II

12:00PM–1:00PM

Session 76: HBCU Experiences: Cyber Intelligence (panel)

Registration Scholarship Winners

For the past three years we have made available scholarships to help support conference attendees who are members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups or faculty members or students at an HBCU, HIS, or TCU. This year we set aside \$250 to cover the registration fees for winners. We are excited to award six scholarships this year. We will be awarding one faculty scholarship, one undergraduate scholarship, and four graduate scholarships. We will formally celebrate these awardees at the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Lunch on Friday, October 16 from 11:45am – 12:45pm. Please check your program for the Zoom link.



Dresden Lackey
Graduate Student
Georgia State University



Saman Nazir
Faculty Member
Pakistan Institute
of Development Economics,
Islamabad, Pakistan



Jasmine Gibbs
Undergraduate Student
North Carolina Agricultural
and Technical State University



Shannell Thomas
Graduate Student
Howard University



Debadatta Chakraborty
Graduate Student
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Anas Askar
Graduate Student
Howard University

Past Scholarship Winners



Emerald Jones
Ph.D. Candidate

Sociology Department, Howard University

I still don't believe I actually won a travel scholarship and had the opportunity to travel to a new state and be a part of a panel that discussed current societal crises. The award is framed and a daily reminder that hard work and perseverance always win. The travel scholarship allowed me to attend the MSSA conference, network, form lasting partnerships, and grow as a new Ph.D. candidate that focuses on daily social inequalities. Lastly, I'm just honored that I was selected and now have the opportunity to give back.

The travel allowance awarded by MSSA's Council on Race and Ethnic Minorities was beneficial in several ways. First, it provided me with the opportunity to attend the regional conference. In my previous position, I was allotted a very small amount for travel that would cover the expenses to flight to attend a conference, let alone pay for other items associated with conference attendance. Second, the award permitted me to present my research relating to federal sentencing; conference presentation is an essential component to maintaining a tenure-track position. Finally, the award paved the way for me to meet other racial and ethnic minorities who are members of the organization and council. Prior to this conference, I did not know many of the members I met. In my opinion, this was the most beneficial aspect of receiving the award because it allowed me to network with people who had a similar background.



Dr. Makeela J. Wells
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Auburn University

Job Ad

The Department of Sociology at the University of Houston invites applications for an Assistant Professor to begin in the Fall Semester of 2021. Applicants should be engaged in research on the sociology of organizations, occupations, and work, broadly conceived. Research areas could include: workplace disparities, occupational roles, organizational challenges, changing workforces, labor demography, or related topics. This position is aligned with one of the Department's areas of concentration, that of workplace diversity.

The applicant must hold a PhD in Sociology at the time of the appointment. Scholarly publications are required, and success in generating external funding is preferred. In addition to a course in sociology of work or formal organizations, the applicant must also be able to teach undergraduate research methods. This is a 9-month benefits-eligible position, with salary based upon qualifications and experience. The UH Department of Sociology has a research-focused, highly active faculty. The Department offers undergraduate degrees (B.A. and B.S.) and an M.A. in Sociology, with approximately 225 majors and 150 minors in the undergraduate program and approximately 20 in the graduate program. Undergraduate and graduate students receive a strong foundation in sociological theory, research methods, and both qualitative and quantitative methods.

UH is a growing urban research institution and its student body reflects the racial, ethnic, and international diversity of the Houston metropolitan area. Located in the fourth largest city in the U.S., Houston is home to one of the largest medical centers in the world, numerous global energy corporations, and a vibrant arts community, all of which provide exciting research opportunities. In Fall 2020, the University of Houston is projected to welcome the first incoming class to its medical school, which will focus on primary care and underserved populations. Candidates should apply online at <http://www.uh.edu/human-resources/uh-careers/> The position number keyword is FAC001462.

Application materials should include a cover letter describing research agenda and teaching experience; curriculum vitae; and copies of recent publications. Review of applications will begin on October 31, 2020, but the position will remain open until an acceptable short list is compiled. Questions about the position should be directed to the Search Committee Chair, Prof. Samantha Kwan at skwa2@Central.UH.edu The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity employer. Minorities, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Qualifications: The applicant must hold a PhD in Sociology at the time of the appointment. Scholarly publications are required, and success in generating external funding is preferred.

*See you
next year!*