



Mid-South Sociological Association

51st Annual Conference

Disasters: Understanding the Textures of Loss, Love, and Recovery Amidst Forced Social Change

Melencia Johnson, Ph.D., President

Jessica Warner Pardee, Ph.D., President-Elect
and Program Chair

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1060 Center Street
North Augusta, SC
October 15-18, 2025



ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

“Returning to New Orleans.” © 2005. J. Pardee

Jessica Pardee is an Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Society at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She has served the MSSA as WGS Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, and Program Chair. She holds a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Sociology from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA





Purpose

The Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) is a nonprofit professional organization which promotes the study and understanding of sociological and related issues and problems. Professional interests include crime, aging, deviance, demography, environment, family, education, race and ethnic relations, religion, global and community development, occupations, health, inequality, gender, corrections, community, political economy, science and technology, urban/rural, law, ecology, and others.

Membership

The membership comprises sociologists and other social scientists who come from colleges and universities, various levels of government, and nonprofit social agencies. Membership policy imposes no geographical restrictions. All professionals with interests in sociological and social science topics are welcome as members. Membership dues include a subscription to the journal, *Sociological Spectrum*, and the Forum newsletter.

Meetings

Membership in the MSSA and participation in annual meetings offer advantages to sociologists, social scientists, related professionals, and students of sociology. These advantages include exposure to current research on various social topics with opportunities for interactions, networking, and engagement in dialogue on social research issues and problems of mutual interest. The meetings provide a medium for dialogue on research and professional development issues of concern to the discipline and the larger community. Meetings of the MSSA are held annually and are hosted by colleges and universities in different states in the mid-South region.

Publications

The scholarly, refereed journal, *Sociological Spectrum*, is published six times per year. Manuscripts are submitted to the editor and then enter the review process. Articles focusing on the sociological analysis of various social conditions, problems, issues, and solutions in the United States and abroad are welcome. Forum, the MSSA newsletter, is published twice per year.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

(All times are Eastern Standard Time)

NUMBER	TITLE	START	END	ROOM
	Registration Desk	12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Foyer
	Executive Council Meeting	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	1906
1	Welcome: An Introduction to this Year's Conference Theme from the Program Chair	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
	Presidents' Welcome Reception (Complimentary appetizers and beverages)	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Foyer
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16				
	Breakfast for the Caucus on Small and Community Colleges	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2
	Registration Desk	7:45 AM	5:00 PM	Foyer
	MSSA Runs! (Or Walks!)	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	Lobby
2	Work/Life Balance: I Don't Have It!	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	1906
3	Bringing Civil Debates & Deliberative Dialogues in the Classroom	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	Taft
4	Roundtable: Disaster Discussions	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	Greene
5	Centering Love in a Disaster Framework	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	1906
6	Theory Mini-Conference; Capturing "Society": Theorizing an Obsolescent Concept?	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Greene
7	Criminology and Crime	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Hampton Terrace 3A
8	Publishing in Academic Journals: Tips & Tricks to Avoid a Desk Reject	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Hampton Terrace 3B
9	Teaching Mini-Conference: Teaching across the Sociological Spectrum	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Sesame
10	Language, Power, and Belonging: A Sociological Perspective on Code-Switching Among Black Youth	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Taft
11	Panel: Economic Inequality, Vulnerability, Public Policy and Evacuation: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina: Challenges and Consequences	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	1906
12	Theory Mini-Conference; Sociological Theory	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Greene
13	Identity Work	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
14	Undergraduate Student Session Presentations	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Hampton Terrace 3B
15	Medical Sociology and Mental Health	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Sesame
16	MSSA Community Roundtable Discussions	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Taft
	Women, Gender, and Sexualities Caucus Luncheon	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
	Lunch	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	On Your Own
17	Plenary: Embracing Complexity: Navigating the Human Experience Through Disasters with Cultural Competence	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2
18	Thematic Session: Framing Disaster Knowledge	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	1906

19	Theory Mini-Conference; Bridging the Widening Gap between Reality and Sociological Tools: A Panel Discussion	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Greene
20	Graduate Program Symposium	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
21	Global and Domestic Inequalities	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Hampton Terrace 3B
22	Migration and Displacement	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Sesame
23	The Threads of Society: A Sociological Dungeons & Dragons	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Taft
24	Environment, Climate Change, and Future Directions	5:00 PM	6:15 PM	1906
25	Generative AI: Teaching and Scholarship	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
26	Religion, Politics, and Social Movements	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Sesame
27	Book Proposal Preparation	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Taft
28	Alpha Delta Kappa Student Mixer	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Foyer
29	Grad Program Meetups	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Greene
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17				
	<i>Breakfast for the Committee on the Profession</i>	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2
	Registration Desk	7:45 AM	5:00 PM	Foyer
	MSSA Runs! (Or Walks!)	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	Lobby
30	Undergraduate Research in Progress	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	Sesame
31	I'm Hiring/I'm on the Job Market: Candidate Meets Search Chair	8:00 AM	9:15 AM	Taft
32	Presidential Thematic Session: First Responder Frameworks of Disaster Knowledge	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	1906
33	Getting Published: Acquisitions Editor Meet and Greet	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Greene
34	Criminology and Crime II	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Hampton Terrace 3A
35	Education As Empowerment	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Sesame
36	Navigating the Academic and Applied Job Market	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Taft
37	How to Navigate Academia Through These Troubling Times	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	1906
38	Gender and Culture	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
39	Graduate Research	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Sesame
40	American Incarceration: A Social Disaster's Devastating Impact on Families, Communities, and the Need for Reform	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Taft
41	MSSA Community Poster Session	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Greene
	Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Caucus Luncheon	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
	Lunch	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	On Your Own
42	South Carolina and Regional History: African American Experiences	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	1906
43	Violence and Healing	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Hampton Terrace 3A
44	Young Adult Health and Well Being	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Hampton Terrace 3B
45	Undergraduate Research	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Sesame

46	Toolkit for Supporting Immigrant College Students in the U.S.	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Taft
47	Race and Empowerment	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	1906
48	Loss, Death, and Birth	3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Greene
49	President's Closing Reception	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	Foyer
	Awards Banquet and Business Meeting	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18				
50	Virtual Saturday - Climate Change	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday A
51	Virtual Teaching Mini-Conference: Session Saturday - Pedagogy	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday B
52	Grant Writing with Special Focus on Non-Profit Organizations	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday C
53	Virtual Sessions Saturday: Intersectionality and Wellbeing	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday D
54	Theory Mini-Conference; Theorizing Modalities of Alienation and "Late" Capitalism	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday E
55	Undergraduate Research in Progress: Crime and Deviance I	9:30 AM	10:45 AM	Virtual Saturday USCA
56	Virtual Session Saturday-Disaster	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Virtual Saturday A
57	Virtual Session Saturday - Technology Studies	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Virtual Saturday B
58	Virtual Sessions Saturday: Labor and Organizations I	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Virtual Saturday C
59	Virtual Saturday: Looking Back to Leap Forward: The Bill Anderson Fund's Vision for Disaster Research	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Virtual Saturday D
60	Theory Mini-Conference; Theorizing An Upside-Down World	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Virtual Saturday E
	Welcome Lunch for New Executive Board Members	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	Parlor Bar
61	Virtual Session Saturday - Lived Experiences	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Virtual Saturday A
62	Virtual Teaching Mini-Conference: AI From the Criminology and Sociology Classroom to Careers and Workplace	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Virtual Saturday B
63	Virtual Session Saturday: Violence and Healing	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Virtual Saturday C
64	Virtual Sessions Saturday: Labor and Organizations II	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Virtual Saturday D
65	Theory Mini-Conference; Sociology and Social Theory at the Precipice: A Panel Discussion	2:00 PM	3:15 PM	Virtual Saturday E

WELCOME FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSSA Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA). For 50 years, MSSA has encouraged excellence in teaching, research, and service. Just as important, our association has embraced the richness of diversity in our membership and leadership. It was not until 2009–2010, however, that we celebrated our first Black woman president, Dr. Ollie Christian. I am deeply grateful for her leadership, which paved the way for Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, myself, and others to follow.

It is a joy to welcome you to Aiken County, South Carolina—my home since 2012. This community has embraced me like family, and I am excited for you to experience its warmth. This region is resilient, having endured more than its share of disasters—from the Hamburg Massacre of 1876 and the displacement of Ellenton residents in 1952, to the Graniteville Train Derailment in 2005, the historic flood of 2015, Winter Storm Pax in 2014, and most recently, Hurricane Helene in 2024.

Although Helene passed a year ago, our region still feels its impact. Neighbors live with reminders—tarps on roofs, trees waiting to be cleared—while others lost homes, businesses, and livelihoods. Yet, true to the spirit of this community, people continue to rebuild and support one another. As we gather this year, I am mindful that similar struggles—environmental, political, and economic—are being felt across the globe.

In times like these, I am reminded why organizations like MSSA matter. Together, we create a space where diverse voices are heard, and knowledge is shared. Just as our region shows resilience in adversity, MSSA thrives because of the strength and dedication of its members.

As we look ahead, let us continue to build on MSSA's proud history—embracing diversity, advancing scholarship, and supporting one another as colleagues and friends. I am grateful to walk alongside you in this work and confident that the future of our association is as strong and vibrant as the community we celebrate today.

With gratitude and warm regards,
Melencia Johnson, Ph.D.

WELCOME FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PROGRAM CHAIR

Welcome to the 51th Mid-South Sociological Association's Annual Conference and Meeting! I'm so excited to present the program to you! Reading your abstracts, learning about your work, I'm reminded about the importance of sociology for understanding our social world. Without you—the session organizers, participants, officers, past officers, committee chairs, contributors, and members—we wouldn't have this excellent program. It's *your* hard work, dedication, contributions, and commitment to the MSSA that imbues every page with new opportunities for learning, documenting lived experiences, and developing the knowledge base that informs future policy.

This conference's theme, ***Disasters: Understanding the Textures of Loss, Love, and Recovery Amidst Forced Social Change***, is close to my heart. This year we observed the twentieth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. At the time of the storm, I was a graduate student and resident of New Orleans working on my dissertation to study public housing reform. I evacuated to Houston, expecting to spend a weekend with friends and edit my dissertation proposal. Instead, what unfolded was a true catastrophe, one which took the city and myself years of recovery. The winds tore roofs from houses, the levees broke from storm surge, oil and other contaminants coated the city, and weeks went by with flood waters saturating 80% of the entire housing stock of New Orleans. The recovery phase, marked by the militarization of a humanitarian crisis, was a social disaster on to itself. It was in this context of disaster as a process that I shifted my research to understand how marginalized Black women—disaster survivors, living in poverty, as the heads of household in completely segregated New Orleans public housing projects—managed to rebuild their lives in the face of absolute devastation. In the process of documenting their experiences, it became clear that disasters serve as a magnifying glass of societal relationships. They enlarge the disparities, yet also reveal the fine-grained nuances of care, love, and deep-seeded humanity.

In response, I wanted this conference to move beyond the numbers used to quantify the impacts of disasters, and instead to highlight the rich and deep textures of love and loss that also imbue them. For, in the end, the numbers are simply an aggregation of human experiences such that we should never ignore the individual experience—it is the starting point for the community's recovery as well.

Many thanks for all you do for the MSSA,

Jessica Pardee

Jessica Pardee, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Science, Technology, and Society
Rochester Institute of Technology



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(Founded in 1975)

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PLENARY SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

Embracing Complexity: Navigating the Human Experience Through Disasters with Cultural Competence

Dr. Kareema J. Gray, Ph.D.



Associate Professor of Social Work | Co-Chair, Department of Social Work |
BSW Program Director | Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina
kgray@jcsu.edu | (704) 378-1064

In our interconnected global landscape, the inevitability of encountering disasters—be they natural, technological, or social—is becoming an integral part of the human experience. This plenary session will delve into the multifaceted impacts of disasters, focusing on how they forcibly reshape societal structures and individual lives.

This discussion explores the profound textures of loss, love, and recovery that emerge in the

wake of devastation. It examines how disasters highlight and exacerbate existing social inequities, including gender disparities, economic inequalities, and civil rights challenges. Central to this exploration is the importance of culturally competent responses that respect and incorporate the diverse values, traditions, and needs of affected communities. Such approaches are crucial for effective recovery efforts, ensuring that interventions are not only empathetic but also relevant and sustainable.

By drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives, the session aims to deepen our understanding of disaster theory and its application to novel social contexts. Attendees will gain insights into bridging disciplinary gaps and crafting inclusive, compassionate responses that honor the human spirit's capacity to adapt and thrive. This exploration serves as a call to action for all who respond to disaster situations to engage critically and empathetically with the complex narratives of disaster, ultimately contributing to more equitable and sustainable pathways forward for all communities. Emphasizing cultural competence ensures that these efforts are sensitive to the unique cultural dynamics that shape every community's experience and response to disaster.

Biography

Dr. Gray exemplifies the scholar-practitioner model that defines excellence in social work education, seamlessly blending rigorous academic scholarship with direct clinical practice and community involvement. As an Associate Professor of Social Work and Co-Chair of the Department of Social Work at Johnson C. Smith University, she oversees one of the region's most respected Bachelor of Social Work programs while actively practicing as a medical social worker at Atrium Health. Her diverse career includes international disaster response, community-based poverty reduction efforts, social justice advocacy, and innovative uses of social work principles in non-traditional settings.

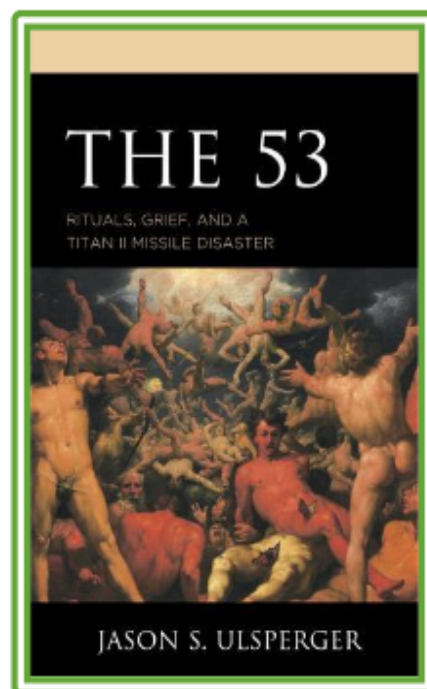
Dr. Gray's commitment to social justice and community empowerment extends far beyond the classroom, as evidenced by her leadership roles in local and national organizations addressing systemic inequities and her groundbreaking research on community-driven solutions to complex social problems. Her unique background combining biological sciences with social work provides a distinctive perspective on health disparities, environmental justice, and the intersection of medical and psychosocial interventions.

2024 Award Winners

Jason Ulsperger, Arkansas Tech University,
Stanford M. Lyman Distinguished Book Award Winner

The 53: Rituals, Grief, and a Titan II Missile Disaster

On August 9, 1965, 53 men died in the impoverished hills of rural Arkansas. Their final breaths came in a government facility deep underground while their loved ones were at home expecting their return. The incident at Launch Complex 373-4 remains the deadliest accident to occur in a U.S. nuclear facility. *The 53: Rituals, Grief, and a Titan II Missile Disaster* analyzes the event. It looks at causes but more importantly at how the mishap has affected daughters and sons for nearly six decades. It gives new sociological insight on technological disasters and the sorrow following them. The book also details how surviving family members managed themselves and each other while benefiting from the support of friends and strangers. It describes how institutions blame the powerless, and how powerful organizations generate distrust and secondary trauma. With an analysis of the event and post-disaster life, their children share stories on what went wrong and how they keep moving forward. (<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793609762/The-53-Rituals-Grief-and-a-Titan-II-Missile-Disaster>)



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Consider becoming a Friend of the MSSA today! I am inviting you to participate in future conferences by becoming a “Friend of MSSA.” As a “Friend of MSSA,” your department, research institute, center, research collective or civic organization has several opportunities to make conference participants aware of your activities.

For a one-time fee of \$500 you will receive:

- Receipt of a plaque and letter from the MSSA President recognizing your achievement
- Half off your next year’s membership
- Upon completion of payment, the opportunity to donate \$200 of your total membership payment to a specific MSSA effort (e.g., MSSA General Fund; MSSA Minority Fund; Sponsored Undergraduates; and Stanford Lyman Scholarship Fund)

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Ollie Christian	Jessica Abbott	Ruth Chananie
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Lifetime members enjoy the following benefits:

Receipt of a plaque and letter from the MSSA President recognizing your achievement. No yearly membership fee payment. Reserved seating at the annual dinner/banquet. Special recognition in the annual printed program.

Interested in becoming a lifetime member? You may do so at anytime at www.midsouthsoc.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Let us take time to remember the members we have lost over the last 50 years. Their contributions, mentorship, and presence have left an indelible mark on our lives and communities. As we gather on Friday, let us share stories that celebrate their achievements, recount moments that made us smile, and cherish the lessons they imparted. Through our memories, they continue to light our path and inspire us to live fully and meaningfully. In honoring them, their research and pedagogy, we not only pay tribute to their lives but also strengthen the bonds that unite us, reminding us of the importance of connection, compassion, and legacy.

Jackie Eller (2023)

Hugh Floyd (2023)

Julian Roebuck (2023)

Marc Riedel (2019)

Tom Calhoun (2019)

Marc Matre (2018)

Alpha Morris (2014)

Harry J. Hale Jr. (2011)

Clifton Bryant (2010)

Alvin Bertrand (2006)



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David May

DeMond Miller

Jessica Pardee

Erin Rider

Jason Ulsperger

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PAST PRESIDENTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTIONS**

Jessica Abbott

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner

Ruth Chananie

Ollie Christian

Theresa Davidson

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GENEROUS DONORS TO THE PAINE COLLEGE
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Middle Tennessee State University
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DISASTER SCIENCE &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Disasters and emergencies demand experts

For students intent on protecting critical infrastructure, crisis management, enhancing cybersecurity, disaster public health and pandemic response, and recovery from natural disasters, the program in Disaster Science & Emergency Management at Rowan University offers a world of options at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Exceptional classroom experiences, coupled with practical research opportunities and internships, prepare tomorrow's sought-after professionals and respected leaders in the field of Emergency Management.



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*Consider submitting a manuscript to a **Special Issue of Sociological Spectrum** titled:*

Disaster Impacted Communities: What They Teach Us

Editors:

DeMond S. Miller, Ph.D., LCADC
Program in Disaster Science and Emergency
Management; Co-Director, Center for Disaster
Science, Risks, and Community Resilience
Rowan University

Jessica W. Pardee, Ph.D.
Department of Science, Technology, and Society
Rochester Institute of Technology

In today's world, where disasters are interconnected and recurrent, communities are confronted with a complex and ever-evolving set of challenges to address as they enter recovery. For many communities, these challenges are all too familiar; however, for others, disasters present a new dynamic environment that poses both significant obstacles and unprecedented opportunities that test communities' capacities amid change. In this special issue, we seek papers that develop nuanced approaches to understanding disaster recovery in various contexts. Moving beyond a one size fits all recovery model, we acknowledge disaster recovery is situational, historical, non-linear, and differentially experienced in the same community. We hope to fill a literature gap that exists in understanding the commonalities, as well as unique struggles communities face as they navigate the complexities of a disaster(s). If societies do not act on the mounting evidence regarding population composition, migration, inequality, and disaster vulnerability, we will continue to experience disasters with greater regularity, intensity, and longer lasting damages (Donner and Rodríguez, 2008). As such, what lessons have we learned from disasters? What community-based strategies have been developed to build resilience? What mechanisms at all levels are put into place to foster communities that thrive after their disaster? By bringing together cutting-edge research in this emerging area, we aim to provide timely insights that are vital for understanding and shaping the future of disaster social science research.

We seek empirical research, systematic reviews, case studies, and theoretical papers that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- long-term resilience among survivors;
- community-embedded resilience and recovery processes;
- disaster recovery innovations in impacted communities;
- comparative studies of pre- and post- disaster response and preparedness measures;
- social policy and lessons that embrace growth, challenges, and recovery;
- analysis of "best practices" that emerge to promote lasting social change and enhance the lives of survivors;
- how social and technological advancements help communities address new post-disaster realities; and
- Inquiries into the theoretical utility and contextual applicability of key disaster concepts.

All methodological approaches will be considered. We expect some of the chapters to be qualitative as well as quantitative (surveys, census data, focus groups, case studies, cross-cultural comparisons, etc...).

For more information, email Jessica Pardee at jwpgss@rit.edu with 'Sociological Spectrum Disaster Issue' as the subject.

2025 MSSA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 15

Registration Desk

Wednesday | 12:00 pm-5:00 pm | Foyer

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | 1906

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

1. Welcome: An Introduction to this Year's Conference Theme from the Program Chair [Plenary]

Wednesday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology

Presidents' Welcome Reception

(Complimentary appetizers and beverages)

Wednesday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Foyer

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Thursday, October 16

Registration Desk

Thursday | 7:45 am-5:00 pm | Foyer

Breakfast for the Caucus on Small and Community Colleges

Thursday | 7:30 am-9:30 am | Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2

Organizer: Ashraf Esmail, Dillard University

MSSA Runs! (Or Walks!)

Thursday | 8:00 am-8:15 am | Lobby

MSSA members can meet up with other conference goers to jog or walk on the riverway trail. Group meets at 8am.

2. Work/Life Balance: I Don't Have It! [Workshop]

Thursday | 8:00 am-9:15 am | 1906

Organizer: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Chair: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

This workshop provides an open, relaxed discussion on how to achieve a work/life balance including pointers and tips, as well as what not to do.

3. Teaching Mini-Conference: Bringing Civil Debates & Deliberative Dialogues in the Classroom [Workshop]

Thursday | 8:00 am-9:15 am | Taft

Organizer: Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Chair: Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke

With the increasingly divisive social and political climate we face today, the classroom offers a transformative space to teach students how to engage in civil discussions and disagree better. This session invites faculty to learn more about the power of "Braver Angels style" debates through an immersive workshop experience. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a mini-debate and gain tools to implement this innovative pedagogical practice into their own classrooms. The session is chaired and organized by Dr. Melanie Escue, who is a Lee Barnes Faculty Fellow for the College Debates and Discourse (CD&D) Alliance in North Carolina.

Discussants:

- Ciara Smith, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- Ronnie Williams, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

4. Roundtable: Disaster Discussions

Thursday | 8:00 am-9:15 am | Greene

- *Attitudes about Climate Change and Corporate Feedlots: A Survey of North Carolina.*Christopher Green, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Brock Ternes, University of North Carolina-Wilmington
- *Cultural Sensitivity and Ethical Practices.*Rosalyn Harrington, Johnson C Smith University, Laytiffa Williams, Johnson C. Smith University

5. Centering Love in a Disaster Framework [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | 1906

Organizer: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology

Chair: James Ainsworth, GSU

- *Devastation and Recovery: Hurricane Helene and the Appalachian Trail.*[James Ainsworth, GSU](#)
- *The War That Follows: Trauma, Displacement, and the Ongoing Disaster of Exile.*[shahd alasaly, University of South Florida](#)
- *“Wounds Beyond the Battlefield, Collateral Healing: War, Health, and the Struggle for Recovery”.*[Darrell Walsh, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga](#)

6. Theory Mini-Conference; Capturing “Society”: Theorizing an Obsolescent Concept? [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Greene

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Anthony J. Knowles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- *Hollow at the Core: Fromm & MacIntyre on Ethics, and Crises in Late Capitalism.*[Sarah MacMillen, Duquesne University](#)
- *The Pacification of Critical Thought: Artificial Intelligence and the Post-Ingenuity Society.*[Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University](#)
- *Beyond New Materialism: The New Technology Approach.*[Christopher Elliott, University of North Carolina-Wilmington](#)
- *Sociology between Lonely Crowd and Anxious Mass: The Costs of Circumnavigating Dialectical Thinking.*[Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville](#)

7. Criminology and Crime [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Brett Lehman, Auburn University at Montgomery

- *The Far-Reach of Whiteness Ideologies and their Harm Across Racial and Ethnic Lines: A Theory of Whiteness and Crime Approach.*[Deena Isom, University of South Carolina](#)
- *Excluded and Afraid: Relational Victimization and Adolescent Fear at School.*[Brett Lehman, Auburn University at Montgomery](#), Courtney Waid, Auburn University at Montgomery
- *Immigrant Generational Status and Everyday Deviance: A Sociological-Criminological Analysis Using NLSY97.*[Alican Ibacik, Middle Tennessee State University](#)

8. Publishing in Academic Journals: Tips & Tricks to Avoid a Desk Reject [Workshop]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Hampton Terrace 3B

Whether submitting a paper to a journal, understanding peer review, or getting your work accepted and published, publishing for academic audiences can seem a mysterious process. To demystify publishing your Sociology research, Taylor & Francis hosts workshops throughout the year to elucidate the process, the several steps involved, and the ways researchers at any stage in their career may pursue their writing plans, achieve their goals, and create value from the work they publish. Some of the topics we seek to cover include: 1) Choosing the Best Journal for Your Paper 2) Publishing Your Work 3) Preparing Your Paper [and What to Avoid] 4) Navigating Peer Review 5) Connecting With Your Readers 6) Publishing & Advancing One's Career There will be considerable time at the end for a full discussion around questions from the audience. Attendees are encouraged to come with questions, ideas, and conversation points that will help them with their own plans and pursuits. James D Carr has been with Taylor & Francis for the last three years, working as the Portfolio Manager for a host of Sociology journals ranging from *Society & Natural Resources* and *Deviant Behavior* to more generalist journals like *The Social Science Journal*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *Sociological Spectrum*. He has advanced degrees in Criminology and Psychology from Michigan State University, worked as a Managing Editor for an international criminal justice journal for five years, and published research on police-community relations prior to joining Taylor & Francis.

Panelist:

James Carr, Taylor & Francis

9. Teaching Mini-Conference: Teaching across the Sociological Spectrum [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Sesame

Chair: David C. May, Mississippi State University

- *Qualitative Analysis of Student Perceptions of Native and Non-Native Writing Tutors.*[Greg Marcus, Mississippi State University](#)
- *Assessment of Communication Skills Among Engineering Undergraduate Students: Qualitative and Quantitative Data.*[Zhibek Baktybekova, Texas Tech University](#), Patricia Maloney, Texas Tech University, Weilong Cong, Texas Tech University, Meng Zhang, Texas Tech University
- *In The Absence of Collective Efficacy: Examining Academic Dishonesty Through the Lens of Social Disorganization.*[David C. May, Mississippi State University](#), David Oluwashina Ademule, Mississippi State University

10. Language, Power, and Belonging: A Sociological Perspective on Code-Switching Among Black Youth [Workshop]

Thursday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Taft

Organizer: Lee Anna Price, Grambling State University

Code-switching among African American youth can be interpreted through a sociocultural lens as a strategic response to navigating racially stratified environments. Rather than viewing this linguistic

adaptation as mere conformity, it reflects a nuanced choreography of identity, where youth negotiate authenticity, belonging, and safety across institutional and interpersonal contexts. Drawing from symbolic interactionism, this phenomenon underscores how language becomes a site of resistance, resilience, and cultural capital within educational, professional, and peer domains.

11. Panel: Economic Inequality, Vulnerability, Public Policy and Evacuation: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina: Challenges and Consequences [Workshop]

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | 1906

Organizer: Ollie Christian, Southern University

Chair: Ollie Christian, Southern University

This panel discusses the challenges, consequences, and lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina with a special emphasis on economic inequality, vulnerability, public policy, and evacuation.

- *Economic inequality, vulnerability, public policy, and evacuation: Lessons learned from Hurricane: Katrina: challenges and consequences.*[Ollie Christian, Southern University](#)

Panelists:

- Ollie Christian, Southern University
- Crystal Culberath, Southern University
- Chaka Griffin, Private Clinical Practice
- Cassandra Shepard, Xavier University of Louisiana

12. Theory Mini-Conference; Sociological Theory [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Greene

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

- *Theorizing the South: The Case of Electric Vehicles.*[Anthony J. Knowles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville](#)
- *Inside-Out, Outside-In: A Critical Approach to World-Systems Analysis.*[Adam Benjamin, University of Tennessee](#)
- *Leadership in the face of unconstitutional calamities: The responses of street activists and community organizers in social justice and animal rights movements to police and the threats of military infringements on Constitutional rights..*[Stephen Davis, Arizona State University](#)

13. Identity Work [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Tina Deshotels, Jacksonville State University

- *Pole Dancing for the Soul: Reclaiming the Black Body Through Pole Practice.*[Mary Virginia Holiman, Howard University](#)

- *“You Become Your Trail Name”: Trail Names and Identity Construction among Appalachian Trail Long-Distance Hikers.*[Jamie MacLennan, Georgia Southwestern State University](#)
- *Migration as Resistance and Identity Preservation: Understanding International Migration of Indigenous Youth from the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh..*[Basu Mittra Chakma, Texas Tech University](#)
- *Inconspicuous vs. Conspicuous Consumption: Alcohol, Class, and Cultural Performance in Country and Rap.*[Jeremy A Ross, Jacksonville State University](#), Tina Deshotels, Jacksonville State University

14. Undergraduate Student Session Presentations [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3B

Organizer: Ashraf Esmail, Dillard University

Chair: Kristie Perry, Southern University and A&M College

Student Presentations: 1) Chasity Joseph, Southern University Baton Rouge - Building a Framework for Student Experiential Learning: Engaging with Socio-ecological Systems at Southern University. 2) Jareh Buchanan, Southern University Baton Rouge - The role of art in shaping religious identity. 3) Markayla Ellis, Southern University Baton Rouge - The Role of Local Governments in Implementing National Housing Policy – A case study approach. 4) Camron Idusuyi, Southern University Baton Rouge - Language and Identity: Nigerian Languages Among Urban Youth. 5) Veijah Johnson, Dillard University - The Effect of Virtual Learning on Students. 6) Leah Moore-Webber, Dillard University - Effects of Drug Use on Individuals. 7) Dailyn Crowley, Southern University Baton Rouge - Which is more effective at reducing recidivism: rehabilitation programs or punitive measures?

15. Medical Sociology and Mental Health [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Sesame

Organizer: Sarah Beth Donley, Jacksonville State University

Chair: Sarah Beth Donley, Jacksonville State University

- *Self-Rated Health and Vulnerability Among Older Adults.*[Abolade Oladimeji, Samford University](#)
- *A Sociological Examination of Long COVID Disparities in the U.S..*[Bita Nezamdoust, Georgia State University](#)
- *Gender, ethnicity and SES disparities in self-rated health in Nepal.*[Sanjeev Acharya, Arkansas State University](#)
- *The Impact of Religiosity on Subjective Well-being: Analyzing the Comparative Role of Religious Beliefs and Practices from the World Values Survey.*[Tahmid Ul Islam, Texas Tech University](#)

16. MSSA Community Roundtable Discussions

Thursday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Taft

Chair: Giselle C. M. Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University

- *Teaching about Natural Disasters: From the Individual to the Global Levels of Inquiry.*[Diane Zablotsky, UNC Charlotte](#)
- *Crisis in Slow Motion: Reclaiming Black Male Futures Through Career Readiness and Mental Health in Higher Education.*Frank Wood, Norfolk State University, Austin W Ashe, Norfolk State University, [Robert K Perkins, Auburn University at Montgomery](#)
- *The Consequences of Anti-DEI Initiatives in Academia.*[Giselle C. M. Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University](#)
- *On the Evolution of Jeffersonian Democracy through Natural Selection: The Endurance of Spencerian Darwinism in the Pursuit of American Exceptionalism.*Asa Gordon, Research Historian and Consulting Curator, African American Civil War Memorial Museum, [Keith Parker, National Education & Empowerment Coalition](#)

Women, Gender, and Sexualities Caucus Luncheon

Thursday | 12:30 pm-1:30 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Jennifer Ann Cheek, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Lunch

Thursday | 12:30 pm-1:30 pm | On Your Own

17. Plenary: Embracing Complexity: Navigating the Human Experience Through Disasters with Cultural Competence

Thursday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Hampton Terrace Ballroom 2

Summary: In our interconnected global landscape, the inevitability of encountering disasters—be they natural, technological, or social—is becoming an integral part of the human experience. This plenary session will delve into the multifaceted impacts of disasters, focusing on how they forcibly reshape societal structures and individual lives. This discussion explores the profound textures of loss, love, and recovery that emerge in the wake of devastation. It examines how disasters highlight and exacerbate existing social inequities, including gender disparities, economic inequalities, and civil rights challenges. Central to this exploration is the importance of culturally competent responses that respect and incorporate the diverse values, traditions, and needs of affected communities. Such approaches are crucial for effective recovery efforts, ensuring that interventions are not only empathetic but also relevant and sustainable. By drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives, the session aims to deepen our understanding of disaster theory and its application to novel social contexts. Attendees will gain insights into bridging disciplinary gaps and crafting inclusive, compassionate responses that honor the human spirit's capacity to adapt and thrive. This exploration serves as a call to action for all who respond to disaster situations to engage critically and empathetically with the complex narratives of disaster, ultimately contributing to more equitable and sustainable pathways forward for all communities. Emphasizing cultural competence ensures that these efforts are sensitive to the unique cultural dynamics that shape every community's experience and response to disaster.

Panelist:

Kareema Gray, Johnson C. Smith University

18. Thematic Session: Framing Disaster Knowledge [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | 1906

Organizers: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology; DeMond Miller, Rowan University;

Chair: DeMond Miller, Rowan University

- *Decolonizing Resilience in Approaches to Disaster Research.*[Julian Miller, University of Louisville](#)
- *Protracted Displacement as Disaster: Burmese Refugees, Statelessness, and the Politics of Care in Thailand.*[Selena Slaughter, University of Central Florida](#)
- *Politic(s) and Trauma(s) in Response to Disaster.*[DeMond Miller, Rowan University](#), Sotirios Chtouris, University of The Aegean
- *Rethinking Disaster Recovery.*[Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology](#)

19. Theory Mini-Conference; Bridging the Widening Gap between Reality and Sociological Tools: A Panel Discussion [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Greene

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Panelists:

- Sarah MacMillen, Duquesne University
- Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University
- Anthony J. Knowles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Christopher Elliott, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

20. Graduate Program Symposium [Workshop]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Organizer: Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Chair: Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke

This graduate program symposium will provide the opportunity for students to learn more about how to create competitive applications, what to expect in graduate school, and tips from graduate program directors! The moderated panel session will cover the most pressing questions about how to apply to and succeed in graduate school. There will be plenty of time for Q&A!

Panelists:

- Ugur Orak, Middle Tennessee State University
- Cindy Brooks Dollar, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
- Chris Ponticelli, University of South Florida
- Marieke Van Willigen, Georgia Southern University

21. Global and Domestic Inequalities [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Hampton Terrace 3B

Organizer: Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken

Chair: Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken

- *The Brutality of Sugar.*[Hayle Sharpe, University of South Carolina Aiken](#), Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken
- *Women's Reproductive Health: Life on a Seesaw.*[Jewell Russell, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- *The Corporate Mirage: Barriers to Mobility in the United States.*[Benjamin Weeks, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)

Panelists:

- Hayle Sharpe, University of South Carolina Aiken
- Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken
- Jewell Russell, University of South Carolina Aiken
- Benjamin Weeks, University of South Carolina Aiken

Discussant:

Christine Wernet, University of South Carolina Aiken

22. Migration and Displacement [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Sesame

Chair: Matthew Jerome Schneider, University of North Carolina Wilmington

- *Education and Escape: Student Migration to the US from Bangladesh After the July 2024 Revolution.*[Naim Bin Hasan, Florida Atlantic University](#)
- *Morphological Changes of the Padma River and Their Impact on Livelihood Patterns: A Case-Based Study Using Satellite Imagery.*[Fahim Tahsan, Oklahoma State University](#)
- *Crossing the Line: Felani Khatun's Tragedy and the Gendered, Racialized Politics of the Bangladesh-India Border.*[Mashaekh Hassan, Florida Atlantic University](#)

23. The Threads of Society: A Sociological Dungeons & Dragons [Workshop]

Thursday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Taft

Organizer: Vaun Baltimore, Middle Tennessee State University

Chair: Vaun Baltimore, Middle Tennessee State University

This workshop invites participants to engage with core sociological ideas through a custom-designed Dungeons and Dragons adventure set in the city of Baldur's Gate. Participants will become adventurers who have been hired by a local sociology professor to investigate three distinct districts: the Market

District, the Undercity, and the Noble Quarter. Each location presents unique challenges and social dynamics, offering opportunities to explore meaning and interaction, inequality and power, and the roles and institutions that shape urban life. Through immersive roleplay, participants will examine how individuals construct meaning through symbols, how power and inequality shape urban experience, and how institutions contribute to social cohesion. The adventure incorporates theoretical analysis, character interaction, and strategic decision-making to foster deeper understanding of sociological concepts. This session is designed for educators and students who are interested in experiential learning and creative pedagogy. No prior experience with tabletop gaming is required. All supplies, including character sheets and dice, will be provided. The adventure will feature six active participants, with additional attendees welcome to observe, reflect, and engage in discussion throughout the session. Participants will leave with new insights into sociological theory and practical ideas for integrating roleplay into teaching and outreach.

24. Environment, Climate Change, and Future Directions [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:15 pm | 1906

Chair: Matthew Jerome Schneider, University of North Carolina Wilmington

- *The Costs of Outsourcing Climate Solutions to Artificial Intelligence from an Environmental Justice Framework.*[Katie Capuano, University of North Carolina Wilmington](#)
- *Producing Techno-Optimism: The Alternative Energy Transition as Spectacle.*[Matthew Jerome Schneider, University of North Carolina Wilmington](#)
- *Beyond Alternative Energy Markets without Morals: Solar Energy and (In)Equity in Robeson County, NC, USA.*[Sebastian Boute, University of North Carolina Wilmington](#)
- *Cascading Disaster Imaginaries.*[Brandon Folse, University of Wyoming](#)

25. Teaching Mini-Conference: Generative AI: Teaching and Scholarship [Workshop]

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Organizer: Kimberly Michelle Murray, Texas A&M University Texarkana

Chair: Kimberly Michelle Murray, Texas A&M University Texarkana

This workshop will offer faculty the opportunity to present and discuss scholarship and teaching during the rise of generative AI. In 2024, a group of colleagues met during a workshop at the Mid-South Sociological Association's annual conference to discuss generative AI. The session was so helpful and engaging that we agreed to hold a similar session to continue our conversation during the 2025 annual conference. All are welcome, especially those working on scholarship featuring generative AI and developing teaching strategies in response to generative AI.

- *Understanding Faculty and Administrative Perspectives on Generative AI at a Regional University.*[Kimberly Michelle Murray, Texas A&M University Texarkana](#)
- *"This is What Kills the Joy in Teaching": Understanding Artificial Intelligence in Academia using r/Professors.*[Amanda Heitkamp, Troy University](#), [Emilie Wiedenmeyer, Troy University](#), [Andrew Tatch, Troy University](#)

Discussant:

Kimberly Michelle Murray, Texas A&M University Texarkana

26. Religion, Politics, and Social Movements [Regular Paper Session]

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Sesame

Organizers: Shelly McGrath, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Ruth Chananie, University of Tampa;

Chair: Shelly McGrath, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- *Sociology in Times of Political Disruption*.[Shelly McGrath, University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)
- *Rebels and Reformers: Political Deviance Within the Miami Valley Socialist Newspaper (1912-1920)*.[Stanley Adam Veitch, Tuskegee University](#), Tierra James, Auburn University
- *The Corporate Mirage: Barriers to Mobility in the United States*.[Benjamin Weeks, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- *To Be or Not to Be American: A Discourse Analysis on the Puerto Rican Status Act*.[Diego Cordova, University of Tampa](#)

Discussant:

Ruth Chananie, University of Tampa

27. Book Proposal Preparation [Workshop]

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Taft

Organizer: Jennifer Patrice Sims, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Chair: Jennifer Patrice Sims, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Sociological research has the potential to positively influence both the general public and policy makers. Although journal articles are the most standard type of academic publication, publishing research in book form can disseminate sociological insights far beyond the Ivory Tower and online paywalls. Submitting a book proposal is the first step in the academic book publishing process; however, how to write an effective book proposal is not a skill that is typically taught in graduate school. As a scholar who is a “book person” (I have published three books and have a fourth forthcoming), I have helped numerous colleagues craft their book proposals and land academic book contracts. In my proposed Book Proposal Preparation Workshop, I will provide graduate students and junior faculty with insight into (1) how to think about publishing one’s work as a book (2) what acquisition editors at academic presses are looking for in a book proposal, and (3) concrete steps for turning in-session brainstormed ideas into an effective book proposal.

28. Alpha Delta Kappa Student Mixer

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Foyer

Chair: Faith Myers, Virginia Tech University

29. Grad Program Meetups

Thursday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Greene

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Friday, October 17

Registration Desk

Friday | 7:45 am-5:00 pm | Foyer

Breakfast for the Committee on the Profession

Friday | 7:30 am-9:30 am | Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2

Chair: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

MSSA Runs! (Or Walks!)

Friday | 8:00 am-8:15 am | Lobby

MSSA members can meet up with other conference goers to jog or walk on the riverway trail. Group meets at 8am.

30. Undergraduate Research in Progress [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 8:00 am-9:15 am | Sesame

Organizer: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

- *Mental Health and Incarceration.Tiffany Carnell, University of South Carolina Aiken*
- *Immigration Detention and Deportation.Jasmine Martinez, University of South Carolina Aiken*

31. I'm Hiring/I'm on the Job Market: Candidate Meets Search Chair [Workshop]

Friday | 8:00 am-9:15 am | Taft

Organizer: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Chair: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Panelists:

- Lisa A. Eargle, Francis Marion University
- J. Porter Lillis, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

- Andrew Tatch, Troy University
- Marcus Brooks, Western Kentucky University
- Giselle C. M. Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University

32. Presidential Thematic Session: First Responder Frameworks of Disaster Knowledge [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | 1906

Organizer: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology

Chair: Katherine Sweeney, University of Alabama-Birmingham

- *“We Are More Than Just Nurses”: Navigating Gendered Professions, Motherhood, and the COVID-19 Pandemic..*[Autumn Rena Martin, University of Louisville](#)
- *Waiting for the Hurricane: Katrina and Kinfolk.*[Wesley Monroe Shrum, Louisiana State University](#)
- *Emotion Work in Emergency Communication Workers: A Mixed-Methods Analysis on Wellbeing.*[Katherine Sweeney, University of Alabama-Birmingham](#)
- *How Artists from the Sacrifice Zone Cope with Climate Change: A Coastal Louisiana Case Study.*[Brandon Folse, University of Wyoming](#), Sara Crosby, The Ohio State University
- *Action or Apathy: Comparing Indigenous and Mainstream News Media Narratives about the Climate.*Mary Kate Baker, Samford University, Jennifer Rahn, Samford University, [Theresa Davidson, Samford University](#)

33. Getting Published: Acquisitions Editor Meet and Greet [Workshop]

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Greene

Organizer: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Chair: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Panelist:

Michael McGandy, University of South Carolina Press

34. Criminology and Crime II [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Brett Lehman, Auburn University at Montgomery

- *Intersecting Inequities: The Role of Race and Socioeconomic Status in Juvenile Recidivism Patterns.*[Beatrice Aduko, Texas Tech University](#)
- *The Impact of Community Based Reentry Programs.*[Jessica Yohey, University of North Carolina Wilmington](#)
- *Cost and Constitution: Reframing Reform in Alabama Prison Oversight Committee Hearings Transcripts.*[Kirstin Paulk, Auburn University at Montgomery](#), Brett Lehman, Auburn University at Montgomery

- *Interpersonal Conflict and Lethality in Mass Shootings: A Multivariate Analysis*.[Marissa Dunn](#), [University of North Alabama](#), Quinn Gordon, [University of North Alabama](#), Christopher Purser, [University of North Alabama](#)

35. Education As Empowerment [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Sesame

Organizer: Katrice Crawford, Alabama State University

Chair: Katrice Crawford, Alabama State University

- *Talladega College History: Power, Media Representations, and Criminalization in Higher Education*.[Ashla H. Roseboro](#), Alabama State University, [Katrice Crawford](#), [Alabama State University](#)
- *The Evolution of American Higher Education*.[Frank Elwell](#), [Rogers State University](#)
- *Student Enrollment Trends at HBCUS: Implications for Black Science and Engineering Doctorate Recipients*.[Willie Pearson, Jr.](#), [Georgia Institute of Technology](#), Cheryl Leggon, [Georgia Institute of Technology](#), Yu Tao, [Stevens Institute of Technology](#)
- *Racial Minorities and Student Loan Debt: A comparative study on loan taking-behaviors*.[Jennifer Knudsen](#), [Delta State University](#)

36. Navigating the Academic and Applied Job Market [Workshop]

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Taft

Organizer: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Chair: Melanie Anne Escue , [University of North Carolina at Pembroke](#)

Panelists:

- Deanna Gore, [University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- Benjamin Wallace, MDRC
- Melanie Anne Escue , [University of North Carolina at Pembroke](#)
- Ashraf Esmail, [Dillard University](#)

37. Quiet Space

Friday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Hampton Terrace 3B

38. How to Navigate Academia Through These Troubling Times [Workshop]

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | 1906

Organizer: Earl Wright II, [Rhodes College](#)

Chair: Earl Wright II, [Rhodes College](#)

Panelists:

- Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, [Johnson C. Smith University](#)

- DeMond Miller, Rowan University
- Earl Wright II, Rhodes College

39. Gender and Culture [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Organizer: Andrea Hunt, University of North Alabama

Chair: Jennifer Ann Cheek, Metropolitan State University of Denver

- *The LGBTQIA+ Tattoo: Stories of Identity, Affiliation, and Restoration.*Jerome Koch, Texas Tech University, Patricia Maloney, Texas Tech University
- *Exploring the Experiences of Lesbians, Queer Women, and Non-Binary Individuals in LGBTQ+ Spaces: An Examination of Inclusivity and Navigation in the Absence of Lesbian-Centered Venues.*Mack Hall, Middle Tennessee State University
- *Unforgivable Curses: Identity Dilemmas and Emotion Work in a Fractured Fandom.*Jacob Church, Jacksonville State University, Brianna Turgeon, Jacksonville State University, Addie Lott, Jacksonville State University
- *Black and Queer Women's Experiences with Abuse and Purity Culture in the Evangelical Church.*Ashleigh McKinzie, Middle Tennessee State University, Patricia Richards, University of Georgia
- *I Don't Trust These Gays: Deception and Queer Relationships in Popular Film.*Eryn Grucza Viscarra, Georgia College

40. Graduate Research [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Sesame

Organizer: Giselle C. M. Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University

Chair: Giselle C. M. Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University

- *Mobility and the American Dream: Intergenerational Shifts in Education, Occupation, and Belief in Hard Work.*Waris Ahmad Faizi, Virginia Tech
- *Curated Realities: Algorithmic Bias and Youth Engagement Across Popular Media Platforms.*Vaun Baltimore, Middle Tennessee State University
- *We're Guessing: The Data Crisis in Maternal Mortality Research in the United States.*Cassie Sistros, Middle Tennessee State University
- *Human-Leopard Conflict in Community Forests of Nepal.*Ashra Kunwar, University of Florida

41. American Incarceration: A Social Disaster's Devastating Impact on Families, Communities, and the Need for Reform [Workshop]

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Taft

Organizer: Katrice Crawford, Alabama State University

Chairs: Destiney Crawford, The University of Alabama; Katrice Crawford, Alabama State University

The United States incarcerates more individuals than any other country. The result is often broken families left in dire predicaments due to absent members. Beyond this, incarceration leaves

communities with intergenerational socioeconomic consequences, especially impacting minority communities. This proposed workshop is intended to inform participants of the ills of incarceration and analogize indefinite separation from loved ones to the devastating effect an unprepared hurricane can have on a community. While individuals experience incarceration itself, consideration is not given to the myriads of issues, problems, and responsibly retained by those who must pick up the pieces of the debris - the families and communities. Like in the aftermath of a natural disaster, all that is left are the remnants and memories of what used to be. This workshop will introduce attendees to the concepts of stigma and social exclusion associated with incarceration for family members, the burden of financial hardships, the disruption of family dynamics, mental stress, loneliness, and the impact on children (Dehart et al., 2018). Additionally, there are hidden harms of extortion from other incarcerated individuals, lack of communication as protective barriers, or fear that their loved ones may not survive the ordeal (Amali et al., 2021). The workshop will demonstrate how incarceration can directly relate to catastrophes and how the lack of aid can be detrimental to all parties, such as the lack of response for offenders and their families during sickness or death (Purdum et al., 2021). The workshop will highlight the complexities of incarcerated individuals and families.

42. MSSA Community Poster Session

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Greene

Chair: Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke

- *Hand Up, Not Hand Out: Empowering Rural Communities to Combat Addiction and Mental Health Crisis.*Ciara Smith, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- *To Police or Protect? Calling into Question the Legitimacy of Campus Police in the U.S. Rural South.*Savannah Brown, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Melanie Anne Escue , University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- *Unseen Scars and Silent Battles: The Mental Health Burden Veterans Carry.*Trey Watson, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- *Disaster Without End: Rethinking Homelessness and Displacement.*Shantija Francis, University of Louisiana
- *Housing Tenure and Safe Drinking Water Access: An Analysis of Predictors of Water Source Choices in the USA Households.*Monisha Alam, University of North Texas
- *Active Learning and Its Impact on Academic Success Among Minoritized Students.*Jas Harris, Tuskegee University, Vivian Carter, Tuskegee University
- *Party at the Polls.*Jaycob Beasley, Tuskegee University
- *The Importance of Mentoring: Past, Present and Future.*Crystal Culberath, Southern University
- *The Relationship Between Disasters and Mental Health: A Review of Literature.*Amy Skinner, Shelton State Community College

43. Quiet Space

Friday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3B

Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Caucus Luncheon

Friday | 12:30 pm-1:30 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Lunch

Friday | 12:30 pm-1:30 pm | On Your Own

44. South Carolina and Regional History: African American Experiences [Plenary]

Friday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | 1906

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

This panel will focus on the South Carolina history, with panelists Jennifer Curtis from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission and historian Wayne O'Bryant from the Center for African American History, Art and Culture.

45. Violence and Healing [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3A

Chair: Kristie Perry, Southern University and A&M College

- *Sexual Violence Risk Factors among Indigenous Women and Girls in the U.S. and Canada: A Social Ecological Review.*[Sara Tehrani, University of Central Florida](#)
- *Education and Public Awareness Campaigns Addressing Violence Against Women.*[Lisa A. Eargle, Francis Marion University](#), Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University, Ashraf Esmail, Dillard University
- *The Prevalence of Limerence and Abuse in Neurodiverse Pairings.*[Cassie Sistros, Middle Tennessee State University](#)
- *Resilience and Risk: A study of Terrorism Threats and Prevention on HBCU Campuses.*Kristie Perry, Southern University and A&M College, [Ashraf Esmail, Dillard University](#), Tia Suggs, Dillard University
- *Durkheim in Dixie: Social Solidarity and the Structure of Hate Crime Reporting.*[Jacob Church, Jacksonville State University](#), Tina Deshotels, Jacksonville State University

46. Young Adult Health and Well Being [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Hampton Terrace 3B

Chair: Andrew Tatch, Troy University

- *Young Adult Chronic Disease and Subjective Midlife Well-being and Mental Health: Does Social Milestone Achievement Mediate the Link?*[Hannah Lindl, University of Alabama-Birmingham](#)
- *Examining generational differences in young adult mental health with the General Social Survey.*[Andrew Tatch, Troy University](#), Soheil Sabriseilabi, Troy University, Geo Gardner, Troy University
- *Voices of the Campus: JSU Sociology Club's Student Issue Survey.*[Jaliyah Hamilton, Jacksonville State University](#), Gabrielle Kinnion, Jacksonville State University, Landree Jones, Jacksonville State University, Lauren Gonzalez, Jacksonville State University

- *Concerted Cultivation: Examining Family Fun as Family Work.*[Julie Mikles-Schluterman, Arkansas Tech University](#)

47. Undergraduate Research [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Sesame

Organizer: Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University

Chair: Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University

- *Addressing the Decline of Men in Higher Education: The Experiences of Men in College in the U.S. Rural South.*[Ronnie Williams, University of North Carolina-Pembroke](#), [Melanie Anne Escue, University of North Carolina at Pembroke](#)
- *Collard Wraps, Grape Ice Cream, Ribbon Skirts—Oh My! Growing Up Lumbee.*[Michaela Locklear-Bass, UNC Pembroke](#)
- *Youth Political Engagement: A Review of Theoretical Frameworks.*[Jaycob Beasley, Tuskegee University](#)
- *Media and its Influence on Death Penalty Opinions.*[Sophia Revis, Samford University](#)
- *Effects of Family Size on Imprudent Behavior in Adulthood.*[Abigail Kizziah, Samford University](#)

48. Teaching Mini-Conference: Toolkit for Supporting Immigrant College Students in the U.S.

[Workshop]

Friday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Taft

Organizer: Melanie Anne Escue, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Chair: Melanie Anne Escue, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

This interactive workshop offers participants a space to learn and grow their knowledge of immigration laws and policies that impact college students in the United States. Drawing from my own professional, research, and advocacy work on immigration issues, particularly supporting college students who are undocumented and temporary status holders, I offer strategies for allyship and a scholarship toolkit to support students unable to access federal and, in some cases, state-based aid. Moreover, audience members will be invited to engage in "fact vs. fiction" trivia to enrich their understanding of this complex and critical topic facing differently documented students in higher education today. Participants will be provided with a scholarship guidebook to share with their own universities, colleagues, and students.

49. Race and Empowerment [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | 1906

Chair: Ruth Chananie, University of Tampa

- *Why White Isn't Enough: Theorizing a Multiracial Christian Nationalism.*[Marcus Brooks, Western Kentucky University](#)
- *The Racialization of Radicalism: Communism and Racial Imagery.*[Jade Tran, Loyola University New Orleans](#)

- *African American Male Voter Apathy in an Age of Unrelenting Trauma: Policy Implications.*[Kecy Merant, Southern University A&M](#)
- *In Reference to Memory: The Black Seminole Indians.*[Keith Parker, National Education & Empowerment Coalition](#)
- *How Suspicion 911 Calls in New Orleans Reshape Our Understanding of the Power Threat Hypothesis.*[Benjamin Wallace, MDRC](#)

Discussant:

Shelly McGrath, University of Alabama at Birmingham

50. Loss, Death, and Birth [Regular Paper Session]

Friday | 3:30 pm-4:45 pm | Greene

Chair: J. Sumerau, University of Tampa

- *Ambiguous Loss and Remorseless Progress: Untethered Grief.*[J. Porter Lillis, University of North Carolina-Pembroke](#)
- *"I can still feel them in that sound": Generic Processes of Memorializing Others.*[J. Sumerau, University of Tampa](#), [Teresa Roach, Florida State University](#)
- *Death Advocates and Dying Mediators: Conceptualizing Doula's Role at the End of Life.*[Sarah Beth Donley, Jacksonville State University](#), [Sassy Pilkington, Jacksonville State University](#)
- *Cultivating Informed Consumers: Doula Work at the Intersection of Biomedicalization and Neoliberal Health Governance.*[Katie Knop, Wingate University](#)
- *Son Preference and Its Impact on Modern Contraceptive Method Choices among Married Women in Bangladesh.*[Israt Sultana Nishe, Texas Tech University](#)

51. President's Closing Reception

Friday | 5:00 pm-6:30 pm | Foyer

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Awards Banquet and Business Meeting

Friday | 6:30 pm-9:00 pm | Hampton Terrace Ballroom 1 + 2

Saturday, October 18

52. Virtual Saturday - Climate Change [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday A

Chair: Marjorie Prokosch, Rochester Institute of Technology

- *Reflexivity and Anti-Reflexivity of Climate Change in the United States: A Review of the Literature.*[Emily Katherine Swanson, University of Florida](#)
- *Prototypes of Climate Impacts Predict Threat Appraisals and Pro-Environmental Intentions.*[Marjorie Prokosch, Rochester Institute of Technology](#), [Ashley Krause, University of Florida](#)
- *Examining the Effects of Religion and Sociodemographics on Attitudes toward Claims of Environmental Threats.*[Shea Leary, University of North Florida](#), [Mandi N. Barringer, University of North Florida](#), [Brenda Savage, Louisiana Tech University](#)
- *Divided by Belief: Political Ideology and Trust in Technology as a Climate Solution.*[Maliha Mahbub, University of North Texas](#)

53. Virtual Teaching Mini-Conference: Session Saturday - Pedagogy [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday B

Chair: Abigail Reiter, University of North Carolina-Pembroke

- *Exploring the Role of Generative AI as a Research Assistant in Undergraduate Sociology Research Methods.*[Makeela Johari Wells, Auburn University](#)
- *Intersectional Experiences of First Gen College Students at a Rural MSI: Examining Experiences of Imposter Syndrome, Cultural Capital, and Resilience.*[Abigail Reiter, University of North Carolina-Pembroke](#)
- *Fostering Connection in the Digital Classroom: Online Teaching and Learning Relationships.*[Liz Mount, Texas Tech University](#)
- *Reimagining the Senior Thesis: AI in Sociological Inquiry.*[Deborah Lowry, University of Montevallo](#)

54. Grant Writing with Special Focus on Non-Profit Organizations [Workshop]

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday C

Organizer: Jessica Lynn Burke, Francis Marion University

Chair: Xan Nowakowski, Florida State University

Panelist:

Xan Nowakowski, Florida State University

55. Theory Mini-Conference; Theorizing Modalities of Alienation and "Late" Capitalism [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday E

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Reha Kadakal, California State University Channel Islands

- *Adorno's Lectures on Philosophy and Sociology: An Appraisal.*[Dan Krier, Iowa State University](#)
- *How and Why Adorno Never Was More Relevant: Theorizing Links Between Totality and Totalitarianism.*[Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville](#)
- *Theorizing 'black market Epistemology': discursive constructions of 'gossip', 'chatter', 'silence', and 'talk'.*[Thomas Bechtold, SUNY Onondaga Community College](#), [Selene M. Cammer-Bechtold, Syracuse University](#)
- *Tariffs, Trade Wars, and Globalization in the Auto Industry.*[Anthony J. Knowles, University of Tennessee-Knoxville](#)

56. Undergraduate Research in Progress: Crime and Deviance I [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday USCA

Organizer: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

Chair: Melencia Johnson, University of South Carolina Aiken

- *Women in Prison: A Policy Recommendation.*[Kaylee Allmoslochner, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- *Hate Crimes and Bias-Motivated Violence.*[Keja Wright-Thompson, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- *Exploring Religious Subcultures.*[Kylie Burns, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)
- *Defying Gender Stereotypes - Women Drug Smugglers.*[Kaitlyn Roberts, University of South Carolina Aiken](#)

57. Virtual Sessions Saturday: Intersectionality and Wellbeing

Saturday | 9:30 am-10:45 am | Virtual Saturday D

Chair: Miranda Reiter, University Of North Carolina Pembroke

- *The Impact of Chronic Stress on the Development of Diabetes and Racial Disparities in the Disease.*[Miranda Reiter, University Of North Carolina Pembroke](#)
- *Mental Illness Is Written Into Post-Industrial Capitalist Institutions.*[Brad Garrick Harden, Lamar University](#), [Amie Parsons, Star Stuff Counseling](#)
- *Postpartum Maternal Mental Health: Stress, Intersectionality, and Inequality.*[Mary-Margaret Williams, Georgia Southern University](#), [April Schueths, Georgia Southern University](#)

- *"To get a Flu shot or not to get a Flu shot" Why some college students look to the beliefs and behavior of health care workers to decide whether or not to get influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.. ..*Neil Robert White, University of Louisiana Monroe

58. Virtual Session Saturday-Disaster [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Virtual Saturday A

Organizer: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology

Chair: Aleksandra Cregler, University of Texas at Tyler

- *How Catastrophe Reconfigures Community.*Aleksandra Cregler, University of Texas at Tyler
- *Food, Floods, and Funding: Confronting Compounding Disasters in Rural North Carolina.*Jacqueline Crowell, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Julia Waity, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Ian Weaver, University of North Carolina-Wilmington
- *Textures of Preparedness and Recovery: Community Collaboration and Residents' Responses to Hurricane Helene in South Carolina.*Natalia Sianko, Clemson University, Venera Balidemaj, Clemson University, Jenneil Charles, Clemson University, Mark Small, Clemson University, Bayezid Islam, Clemson University, Pamela Murray-Tuite, Clemson University, Jiayun Shen, Clemson University, Tong Liu, Clemson University
- *Alligators, Gumbo, and Hurricanes: Understanding the Impact of Hurricane Ida on Academic Performance and Mental Health Amongst College Students in the Cajun Bayou.*Mehmet Celebi, Nicholls State University, Melinda Jackson-Jefferson, Nicholls State University, Tina Granger, Nicholls State University, Robert Archer, Nicholls State University
- *Philanthropy, Non-Profits, and The Potential for Harm: The Role of Design, Implementation, and Evaluation Within Disaster Recovery Funding in Post-Katrina New Orleans.*Ryan Albright, Tulane University

59. Virtual Session Saturday - Technology Studies [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Virtual Saturday B

Chair: Jiabin Fan, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- *Rethinking Media Multiplicity: An Analysis of Cultural Implications of ICT Use.*Jiabin Fan, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- *Teaching Nuclear Technology without Fear: Lessons from and for Sociology.*Adam Rafalovich, Pacific University
- *Gender Differences in the Academic Impact of Recreational Internet Use: Evidence from Chinese College Students.*Tianao Gui, Johns Hopkins University
- *Is My Online Interaction Partner a Human or a Bot? Effects of Interaction Outcome.*May Takeuchi, University of North Alabama, Alexander Takeuchi, University of North Alabama

60. Virtual Sessions Saturday: Labor and Organizations I [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Virtual Saturday C

Chair: Deniz Yucel, William Paterson University of New Jersey

- *Flexible Work Arrangements and Social Isolation among US Workers.*[Deniz Yucel, William Paterson University of New Jersey](#), Gamze Ipek, PhD, Independent Researcher
- *Organizational Change amid Fractures in the Social Contract.*[Brent Shea, Sweet Briar College](#)
- *In-Transit Package Delivery Diversion Fraud.*[Evaristus Obinyan, MGA](#)
- *Spectacle and Narrative: The Genesis of Media Coverage in Landmark Social Movement Litigation.*[James Edward Stobaugh, Arkansas Tech University](#), Sean Huss, Arkansas Tech University

61. Virtual Saturday: Looking Back to Leap Forward: The Bill Anderson Fund's Vision for Disaster Research [Workshop]

Saturday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Virtual Saturday D

Chair: Nnenia Campbell, Bill Anderson Fund

This session will introduce the Bill Anderson Fund (BAF), a nonprofit organization established to increase the number of underrepresented professionals in disaster research and hazard mitigation, with the ultimate goal of reducing suffering among communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. In addition to supporting a successful graduate student experience, the BAF fellowship prepares doctoral students to become leaders who are committed to rigorous, ethical research that has a positive societal impact. Join us to learn more about the BAF's legacy, research ethos, and interdisciplinary community of professionals who are advancing the disaster field.

Panelist:

Nnenia Campbell, Bill Anderson Fund

62. Theory Mini-Conference; Theorizing An Upside-Down World [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 11:00 am-12:15 pm | Virtual Saturday E

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Dan Krier, Iowa State University

- *After Originalism: The Illiberal Rupture.*[Robert J Antonio, University of Kansas](#)
- *After the Cultural Turn – For a Normative Concept of Society.*[Oliver Kozlarek, Universidad Michoacana](#)
- *World on a Wire: AI and the Experience of Inversion in Representations.*[Reha Kadakal, California State University Channel Islands](#)
- *Alienation and the Commodification of the Imaginary.*[Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University](#)

Welcome Lunch for New Board Members

Saturday | 12:30 pm-1:30 pm | Parlor Bar

Organizer: Jessica W. Pardee, Rochester Institute of Technology

Board members new and old can meet for a casual lunch before heading home. We'll meet in the lobby at the Parlor Bar and decide where to go from there.

63. Virtual Session Saturday - Lived Experiences [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Virtual Saturday A

Chair: Md Shihabul Islam, Oklahoma State University

- *Straight or Curly: How does Hairstyle affect the Likelihood of Hiring a Black Women?.*[Reina Quinn, Louisiana State University](#)
- *Examining the Lived Experiences of International Students at East Tennessee State University.*[John The Baptist Anodjo, Mississippi State University](#)
- *Ties That Bind, Documents That Trap: Transnational Repression Through Abuse of Consular Services.*[Yusuf Karipek, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign](#)
- *"Women are Just for Procreation": Exploring the Impacts of Patriarchal Hegemony in Restricting Women's Agency among Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh.*[Md Shihabul Islam, Oklahoma State University](#)

64. Virtual Teaching Mini-Conference: AI From the Criminology and Sociology Classroom to Careers and Workplace [Workshop]

Saturday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Virtual Saturday B

Organizer: Nicola Davis Bivens, Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) - Charlotte, NC

Chairs: Nicola Davis Bivens, Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) - Charlotte, NC; Laytiffa Williams, Johnson C. Smith University

AI is proving itself as an effective pedagogical resource. Through its use, educators can enhance student engagement, support individualized learning paths, and develop critical thinking skills through interactive and adaptive tools. While Criminal Justice training, classrooms, and workplaces have long used AI, it is an emerging area for Sociology. New sociology-related job roles are emerging, such as AI training specialists and AI ethics analysts, requiring a combination of sociological expertise and technical skills. This proposed, virtual roundtable discussion will examine the opportunities and challenges of AI from the classroom to careers.

65. Virtual Session Saturday: Violence and Healing [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Virtual Saturday C

Chair: Xiaoli Su, Jackson State University

- *Mobilizing Churches in Community-Based Violence Prevention: Jackson MS as a Typical Case.*[Xiaoli Su, Jackson State University](#), [Jacqueline McNett, Auburn University at Montgomery](#)
- *A State-Level Analysis of the Abuse-to-Prison Pipeline: Domestic Violence, Child Exposure, Law, and Gendered Incarceration.*[Julio Richard Montanez, University of Central Florida](#)
- *"You can help, too!" Incentivizing Drug Traffickers and Manufacturers to Reduce Harm to Communities and Users.*[Colin Wark, Texas A&M University-Kingsville](#)

66. Virtual Sessions Saturday: Labor and Organizations II [Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Virtual Saturday D

Chair: Sarah Beth Donley, Jacksonville State University

- *Sex Education in Schools: Parent's Perspectives, Attitudes and Feelings.*Jewell Russell, University of South Carolina Aiken
- *Making Meaning Beyond Organizations: How End-of-Life Doulas Understand Their Work.*Sarah Beth Donley, Jacksonville State University, Alexis Paige, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- *Veiling and Unveiling as Gendered Resistance: Feminist Agency Across Authoritarian Regimes.*Asena Karipek, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

67. Theory Mini-Conference; Sociology and Social Theory at the Precipice: A Panel Discussion

[Regular Paper Session]

Saturday | 2:00 pm-3:15 pm | Virtual Saturday E

Organizer: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Chair: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Panelists:

- Oliver Kozlerek, Universidad Michoacana
- Robert J Antonio, University of Kansas
- Dan Krier, Iowa State University
- Reha Kadakal, California State University Channel Islands
- Sarah MacMillen, Duquesne University

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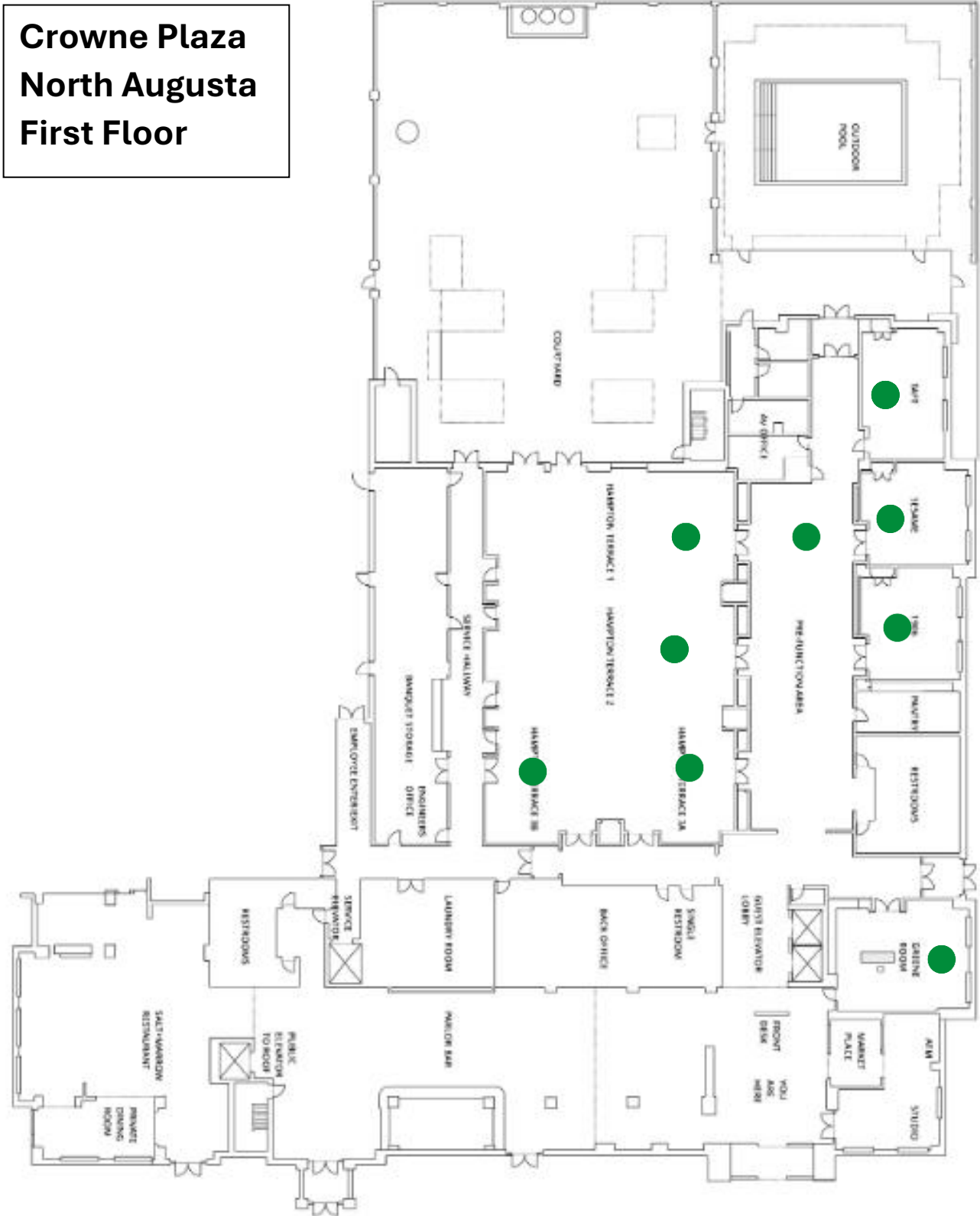
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information presented in this conference program, including details about speakers and their presentations, is provided to the best of our knowledge. While we strive for accuracy, we cannot guarantee that all content is free from errors or omissions.

The views and opinions expressed by presenters are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the conference organizers.

Please note that all registration fees must be paid in full prior to participation in the conference.

In our ongoing effort to promote sustainability and reduce our environmental impact, we are making significant changes to our conference materials this year. We are committed to minimizing printing by providing digital resources wherever possible.

We encourage all attendees to embrace these changes as part of our collective responsibility to protect the environment.

Selected abstracts from the conference will be published in *Sociological Spectrum*. The pool of abstracts only includes those whose authors agreed to have their abstract published. By submitting an abstract and selecting yes to the question on the registration form, presenters agreed to this publication and grant the necessary rights for dissemination.

By attending this conference, you acknowledge that photographs and videos may be taken during sessions and events. These images may be used for promotional purposes, including but not limited to publications, social media, and future marketing materials for the conference.

If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please inform the event staff at the registration table. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to capturing the spirit of the conference!

Thank you for your understanding and support. We look forward to a successful event!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA !

ZOOM GUIDE FOR MSSA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

OCTOBER 18, 2025

Virtual sessions will use the Zoom Meeting platform. Joining a Zoom meeting is free; follow the steps below:

1. Obtain the link to the session or event you wish to join. See specific session listing for link.
2. All times are U.S. Eastern Standard Time
3. What you need: A computer, tablet, or smart phone with (reliable) internet connection. Note that instructions differ somewhat depending on what device you are using to attend (see instructions to participate by device type below).
4. There are two ways to join on Zoom. The first is to click the weblink provided, and the second is to join by opening the Zoom app and manually entering the meeting ID.
 - Option 1: Click the meeting link:
 - a. If you are prompted to download the Zoom app, do so.
 - b. Once the app is installed and open, you may be prompted to enter a passcode, so have that information handy.
 - c. If prompted, type in your name.
 - d. Click “join meeting” (with or without video).
 - Option 2: Join manually using the Zoom app:
 - a. Open the Zoom app on your device.
 - b. If you do not have the app, you can find it here <https://zoom.us/> or in the app store on your phone or tablet.
 - c. Once Zoom is open, click “join a meeting” and enter the meeting ID, then click “join.” On the next screen, you will be prompted to enter the passcode.
 - d. If prompted, type in your name.
 - e. Click “join meeting” (with or without video)
5. Participating by Device Type once you have joined the meeting:
 - Computer: When you are in the Zoom room, move your cursor to the bottom of the Zoom screen, and control options will pop up.

- a. Mute/Unmute – It is good protocol to remain muted unless you are talking, to minimize background noise.
 - b. Start/Stop Video – Turns your camera on and off.
 - c. Participants – click this to see a white screen on the right side that lists everyone in the room.
 - d. Chat – click this to enable the chat box. This allows you to type messages to the host or other participants, depending on security settings.
 - e. Speaker/Gallery view – up in the righthand corner, you will see a button called “speaker view.” Click that to see the current speaker’s screen enlarged. Click on the little square box next to it to return to Gallery view.
 - f. To request to speak – click on the “reactions” button on the bottom, then click “raise hand”.
 - g. To leave the meeting, click the red “leave” button on the bottom.
- Smart Phone/Tablet
 - a. Once in, you may have to connect your audio manually. Select “Dial in” and choose one of the numbers presented. Ignore requests to enter meeting ID etc. – just wait and you will be connected to the audio of the meeting. (read the fine print at the bottom of the number list, it tells you this)
 - b. Once you are all in and connected, to see the controls, touch or swipe the bottom of the screen and they should pop up. They work pretty much the same as on the computer (see computer instructions above), except you won’t be able to see everything or everyone at the same time.

6. Technical Requirements and Support:

- NOTE: MSSA’s Technology Committee cannot provide direct technical support for your specific device or your internet connection. However, we have a few recommendations and some Zoom support links below.
- General recommendations for optimal Zoom experience: The newer your device and operating system, the better. Generally, if it is more than 2 years old you are more likely to experience technical difficulties. On PC computers, we recommend using Chrome as your browser.
- a. If you are experiencing problems, we recommend that you reboot or restart your device, as that often helps.
- Zoom support website: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>
- System Requirements for Computer: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>
- System Requirements for Phone/Tablet: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux>

ZOOM GUIDE FOR SESSION PRESIDERS

ALL TIMES U.S. EASTERN STANDARD TIME

On the program schedule (<https://mssa.mymeetingsavvy.net/program>) there are 3 blocks of 5-6 concurrent sessions. The first round of sessions begins at 9:30 AM (EST) and the day will end at 3:15 PM (EST), with sessions running for 75 minutes each.

Virtual presiders and/or participants may join on Zoom using the links in the program. Presiders/chairs, please help with the following:

- Please make sure all participants have "screen sharing" privileges.
- Please make sure the captions are turned on for accessibility.
- Please make sure the "Waiting Room" is disabled.
- Introduce the session and presenters just as you would if in person. Please remind attendees to mute themselves when not participating.
- To share their screen for slide presentations, the presenter should click on the green "share screen" icon at the bottom of the Zoom screen (if they can't see it, they can hover their cursor over the area and the icons will appear).

If they have video, remind them to make sure "optimize for video clip" is checked on the screen share settings.

- Please be cognizant of the end time of the session, in order to make way for the incoming session, which will be on the same Zoom channel.
- Please reassign "host" or "co-host" privileges to the incoming presider/chair or volunteer.

For tech support contact Harry Dahms.

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