



SSA Newsletter

JANUARY 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **SSA meetings in San Diego in numbers**
- **Centennial SSSA meeting in Austin, in October 2020**
- **Awards, Officers and more**

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Centennial Meeting in Austin 2020

There aren't too many events in one's lifetime that involves a centennial. One such event is happening October 29-31, 2020 when the Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA) holds its annual conference in Austin, Texas. The SSSA is the oldest interdisciplinary professional society, having the notable distinction of forming in 1919. Interestingly enough, the first SSSA meeting in 1920 took place in Austin.

For many of these 100 years, there has been a sociology affiliate, the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA). The SSA Constitution describes that our purpose is "to stimulate and improve scientific research in the study of society and to encourage communication and cooperative relations among persons engaged in this pursuit." We

have fulfilled this purpose many times over the years, most recently in San Diego where there



SSSA will hold its Centennial meeting on October 29-31st in Austin, TX

were over 30 sessions where sociological research was presented by professional sociologists, graduate students, and in some instances, undergraduates.

Needless to say, the SSA offers an amazing opportunity for sociologists in the Southwestern region to meet annually to discuss all things sociological. When the "Call for Papers" occurs, please plan to come to Austin to pre-

sent your research through a paper, workshop, roundtable discussion, panel, or poster. The SSA offers awards for the outstanding papers by a professor, graduate student, and undergraduate student.

Looking forward to seeing you in Austin. By the way, Christine Williams, the current American Sociological Association President, is delivering the plenary address on Friday, October 30th.

Dr. Robert Wallace
President of SSA



Award Winners 2019



Left to Right: Hannah Penklis, University of Texas, El Paso; Dr. Lorena Murga, University of Texas, El Paso; and Kelly McNamara, Texas A&M University

The Southwestern Sociological Association is pleased to announce 2019 award winners. Award Committee members include Jozie Nummi, Sociology Graduate Student, Texas A&M University, Dr. Angelica Menchaca, Statistician/demographer, Net International Migration Branch,

U.S. Census, and Dr. Lorena Murga, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas, El Paso.

Winners are:

Angel Griego, University of Utah, won the **Best Undergraduate Paper Award** for the paper, "Social Vulnerability, Recovery Assistance, and The Extent of Recovery: Results from a Survey Conducted after Hurricane Harvey in Greater Houston, Texas," co-authored with Aaron Flores, Timothy Collins, and Sara Grineski from University of Utah. This study examines social inequalities in receiving aid and short-term recovery after the devastating disaster, Hurricane Harvey. Using data from a survey conducted within four months of Harvey in Houston (310 participants) the authors find that greater home damage, racial/ethnic minority status, having PTS symptoms, and having children in the household were associated with higher likelihood of receiving aid. On the other hand, less home damage, lesser PTS symptoms, and higher income were associated with faster near-term recovery, however receipt of aid was not.

Kelly McNamara, Texas A&M University, won the **Best Graduate Paper Award** for the paper, "Failing to Protect: An Historical Analysis of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act." This paper uses historical analysis of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), Congressional Records, and congressional hearings, to identify the factors which influenced ENDA's out-

come. The analysis highlights that the historical conditions of the years when ENDA was proposed affected its failure to be enacted.

Hannah Penklis, University of Texas, El Paso, won an **Honorable Mention for the Best Graduate paper Award** for the paper, "Where is the 'Social' in the Biopsychosocial Model?: Critiquing the (lack of) Social Theory in Transgender Eating Disorder Research." This study reviews several theories commonly applied in eating disorder research and evaluate their utility in applying to marginalized populations, such as transgender people. Despite the biopsychosocial model claiming to explore biological, psychological, and social elements, the majority of research in this space emphasizes biological and psychological features. This study argues for a deeper sociocultural understanding of what increases vulnerabilities to eating disorders and other mental illnesses, as it is hoped that methods for increasing resilience and resistance can be established.

David Embrick, Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies, University of Connecticut, **Simón Weffer**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Northern Illinois University, and **Silvia Dominguez**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University, won the **Published Paper Award** for the paper, "White Sanctuaries: Race and Place in Art Museums" published at *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* (volume 39; no 11/12; pages 995-1009). This paper examines the Art Institute of Chicago as a white sanctuary, i.e., a white institutional space within a racialized social system that serves to reassure whites of their dominant position in society. The findings of the collaborative ethnographic data highlight three specific racial mechanisms that speak to how white spaces are created, recreated and maintained within nationally and internationally elite museums: spatiality, the policing of space, and the management of access.

Award Winners 2019, cont.



Dr. Marcus Shaw, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Fresno State, received an **Honorable Mention for the Published Paper Award** for the paper “The Reproduction of Social Disadvantage through Educational Demobilization: A Critical Analysis of Parental Incarceration” published in *Critical Criminology* (2019, volume 27, issue 2, pages 275-290). This study uses KLAMS data to look at how parental incarceration affect the educational experiences of children in adolescence and in young adulthood.

Dr. Shaw finds that children with incarcerated parents are more likely to experience unhappiness in school and have significantly lower levels of educational success than their counterparts not experiencing parental incarceration. This finding shows that the idea of reproduction of disadvantage due to parental incarceration will be an important issue to focus at, even if we see a reduction in incarcerated populations.

Committee Members Needed!

Help make SSA better and earn service experience by doing it! SSA is asking for nominations for the following committees:

a. Norma Williams Award Committee: This committee will be responsible for soliciting nominations, reviewing nominees and selecting the 2020 Norma Williams Award winner.

b. Communications Committee: This committee will be responsible for helping to develop newsletter and SSA website and to identify a person or persons to help with the website and/or social media presence

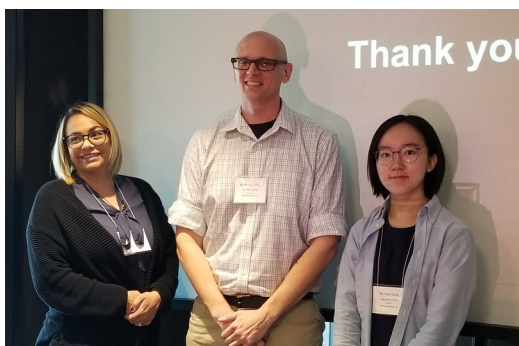
c. 100 Year Celebration Committee: This committee will be responsible for developing ways to mark the 100 year celebration of SSA at the

centennial meeting in Fall 2020.

Please contact Dr. Robert Wallace, the President of SSA with your nominations (wallacer@mcm.edu).



“Life is for participating, not for spectating”
Kathrine Switzer
(1st female runner at Boston marathon)



Three of the 10 student travel awards from SSSA went to fund sociology students in 2019 in San Diego! That money is set aside each year for selected students. Let's use it to make sure sociology is well-represented at the 100th Anniversary Conference in Austin. So, be sure to apply for funds to help cover your travel expenses. Pictured here are Janina Marie Rincon-Radillo (California State University—Los Angeles), Brennan Miller (Kent State University), and Wan Huang (Texas A&M University). Brennan was one of the travel award recipients. The other sociologists receiving the travel grant were Alonso Aravena Mendez (Baylor University) and Annette Donald (Westminster College).



Kyra Neill, first-year graduate student, Baylor University, showing off the Stata mug she won at the SSA Silent Auction.

Undergraduate and graduate students: Why SSA?



If you are an undergraduate or graduate student contemplating whether or not to join the Southwestern Sociological Association (SSA), maybe I can help. There are numerous benefits that come with membership, so I will only highlight a few of the biggest ones.

Our annual meetings, for one, offer students the opportunity to showcase their work in a professional environment. They offer a source of constructive criticism and provide excellent

opportunities for networking. These meetings provide students with opportunities to reconnect with old mentors and colleagues, create new connections with like-minded scholars, and provide service to their academic community. For those of you who have a tendency to procrastinate, the submission deadlines and presentation times also become useful deadlines, which can be used to prompt or speed along works in progress.

As a graduate student, I understand the financial burden that conference travel presents. Fortunately, the association has come to recognize this financial struggle and is now offering competitive student travel grants for SSA members who would like to attend the annual conference.

The benefits of membership also include a free subscription to *Social Science Quarterly* (SSQ), the official journal of SSSA, as well as access to information about both academic and non-academic jobs opportunities.

As an affiliate of the Southwestern Social Science Association, SSA is an organization that provides excellent opportunities for young scholars to make connections with one another, support and advance sociological research, and enhance their professional careers. I highly encourage you to consider joining this association.

Katie Constantin,
Texas A&M University,
SSA Student Representative (2019-2020)

*“106 paper
submissions, 32
sessions, and 150
participants”*

Dr. Kathy
Dietrich
and Dr. Tim
Woods
from Texas
A&M Uni-
versity

San Diego in numbers

Submissions for the 2019 SSA Meetings in San Diego were strong. We had 106 paper submissions, 32 general sessions, and 3 special sessions (i.e., workshops or author-meets-critics ses-

sions), with a total of 150 participants.

The sessions covered a wide range of topics, including practical topics that sociology departments face.

For example, *Workshop Establishing and Sustaining a Community Engagement and Internship Program* gave tips on how to start and sustain undergraduate internship programs in Sociology. **Dr. Kathy**

Dietrich, Instructional Professor of Sociology and Director of Sociology Undergraduate Programs, Texas A&M University and **Dr. Tim Woods**, Instructional Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum, presented on the success of internship program at Texas A&M University.



SSA Officers 2019-2020

President	Robert Wallace	McMurry University	wallacer@mcm.edu
President Elect	Elizabeth Kelly	Ouachita Baptist University	kellye@obu.edu
Vice President	Theresa Morris	Texas A&M University	theresa.morris@tamu.edu
Past President	Maria Cristina Morales	University of Texas at El Paso	mcmorales@utep.edu
Past President	Carson Mencken	Baylor University	carson_mencken@baylor.edu
Past President	Carol Walther	Northern Illinois University	cwalther@niu.edu
Secretary/Treasurer	Joseph Comeau	Georgia Southwestern State	joseph.comeau@gsu.edu
Executive Council	Gwenetta Curry	University of Alabama	gcurry@ua.edu
	Warren Waren	Texas A&M University	wwaren@tamu.edu
	Richard Harris	UT San Antonio	richard.harris@utsa.edu
	Jori Sechrist	McMurry University	sechrist,jori@mcm.edu
Newsletter Editor	Heili Pals	Texas A&M University	hpals@tamu.edu
Student Representative	Katie Constantin	Texas A&M University	mkmcd628@tamu.edu

Silent Auction

The Southwestern Sociological Association held its 15th annual silent action at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association meetings in San Antonio. We raised over \$1000 with all proceeds donated to [ASA's Minority Fellowship Program](#).

Left to Right: Dr. Jori Sechrist, Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminology, McMurry University, SSA Executive Council Member; Dr. Elizabeth Kelly, Associate Professor of Sociology and Department Chair, Ouachita Baptist University, SSA Vice President; Austin Cardenas, University of Central Oklahoma.



Dr. Jori Sechrist, Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminology, McMurry University, SSA Executive Council Member, at SSA Silent Auction.

We are collecting auction items for the 2020 auction and anyone with items they would like to donate can send them to Dr. Theresa Morris or email her with questions (theresa.morris@tamu.edu).

Address for 2020 auction donations:

Theresa Morris;
311 Academic Building,
Sociology Department,
Texas A&M University, MS4351
College Station,
TX 77843-4351

The general SSSA call for papers is out: the deadline to submit for the Centennial SSSA meeting in Austin is on **June 15, 2020**.

Let's make the centennial meeting the strongest yet in Sociology! See you in Austin, October 29-31, 2020!

