

# SOUTHWESTERN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

## Call for Papers & Session Organizers

GET READY FOR LAS VEGAS!

We start off this newsletter with an invitation to attend the SSA conference in Las Vegas, April 3-5, 2025, at the Flamingo Hotel. The 2025 SSSA conference theme is “Defining Democratic Survival at Home and Abroad.” Deadline for abstracts is December 15, 2024. We also encourage you to [email](#) SSA President-Elect & Program Director, Joseph Comeau if you’ll be attending the conference and would like to volunteer as a session organizer. Session organizers introduce the session, its topic, and the speakers; keep track of time and ensure that each speaker adheres to their allotted time; and, they facilitate the Q&A between speakers and attendees, ensuring it stays on topic and that all voices are heard. We hope this call for volunteers provides SSA attendees, especially undergraduate and graduate students, an opportunity to get involved in conference participation. For more information about the conference, go to: [ssaonline.org](https://ssaonline.org).



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## Welcome New SSA Officers

The SSA executive council is grateful to members of the SSA that accepted nominations to become a part of the Executive Council. We are happy to announce the newest officers of the Executive Board and Undergraduate Student Representatives. Thank you for helping propel our affiliate forward.



Vice-President  
Heili Pals  
Associate Professor  
Texas A&M University



Executive Council  
Rachel Rayburn  
Associate Professor  
The University of Texas at  
Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV)



Executive Council  
Kevin Dougherty  
Professor  
Baylor University



Undergraduate Student Representative  
Britton Sechrist  
Hendrix College



Undergraduate Student Representative  
Lydianna Bradford  
McMurry University





## SSA & the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)

The SSA has supported the American Sociological Association's Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) for over 20 years because we know that the program offers crucial support to graduate students during the most important phases of their tenure in graduate school. Below, Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva shares how the MFP played a vital role as part of the completion of his graduate studies. We thank all SSA members who have donated to our efforts in the past and encourage you to help us make a difference in the experiences of future MFP recipients. You can learn more about the MFP by clicking [here](#). For more information on how you can donate to the SSA's efforts in supporting the MFP program, please contact SSA Vice-President Liliana Rodriguez at [liliana.rodriguez@tamuk.edu](mailto:liliana.rodriguez@tamuk.edu) for more information.



My dissertation required me to travel to Puerto Rico for a year worth of research and my alma mater, the University of Wisconsin, would not fund me unless I TA'd or lectured. MFP rescued me as it provided funds to spend a year researching squatter communities and the politics of squatting in Puerto Rico. At a moment where DEI is under attack and affirmative action is legally dead, we need more than ever to support programs such as MFP. I have given back to MFP and hope others do too.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva  
James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of Sociology  
Duke University  
MFP Cohort 18, 1991-94

## Announcements

### Publications

Rogelio Saenz, The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), was inducted to The American Academy of Political & Social Science (AAPSS) as its 2023 Ernest W. Burgess Fellow. Here we share a [link](#) to his essay for the AAPSS's Fellow's Corner titled "The Growing Importance of Immigration."

### Honors & Awards

Angela Silva, University of Illinois-Chicago, was awarded the Sociology for Women in Society's (SWS) Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship. Angela's dissertation investigates the experiences of women of color faculty working in Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), with a particular emphasis on examining the organizational structures that underscore their experiences.



### Call for Visual Sociology Poster Presenters

Visual sociology is a collection of approaches in which researchers use photographs or videos to portray, describe, or analyze social phenomena. Submit your work to the Visual Sociology Poster session at SSA in Las Vegas by December 15th! First place for this judged poster session will be awarded \$100.



## More Highlights from New Orleans 2024



Left to Right: Elizabeth Lemke, Erin Houchins, Kaylie Moczygemba, Katherine Rhodes, Gemini Creason-Parker [lead], Alexandra Silver, Lauren Delaunay, and Victor Bojalil. The team of undergraduate researchers from Texas A&M University participated in four panels. Their work uses a mixed-methods approach to explore how the popular show “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” depicts rape cases and discusses rape myths.

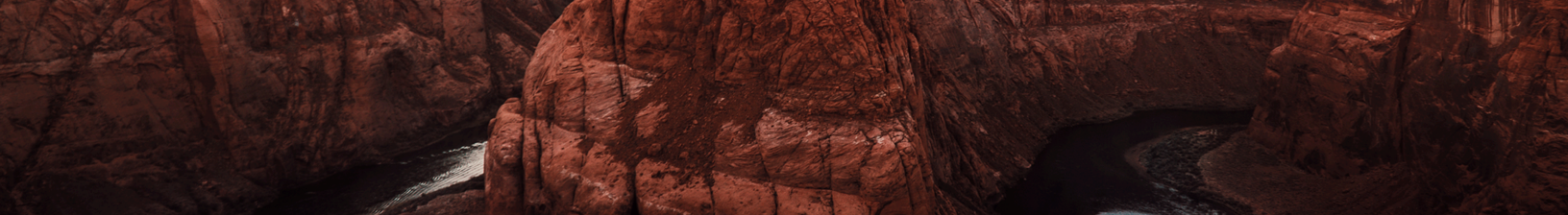


Wendy Leo Moore, Texas A&M University, was the SSA plenary keynote. Her talk was titled, “The Politics of Racial Ignorance: White Supremacy & Attacks Against Critical Race Theory”.



Mehmet Celebi, Nicolas State University, and Giselle Greenidge, Northwest Missouri State University.





Maryjane Villareal and Mateo Molina, The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), presenting “Know Your Rights: Student Empowerment Through Teaching”.



Justin Nelson, Campbell University, presenting “Engaging Undergraduate Students in Asset-Mapping and Community Partnerships Through the Community Capitals Framework”.

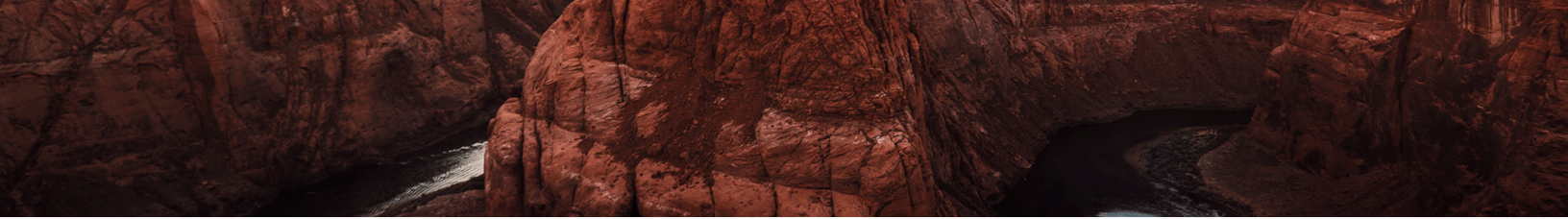


Roger Renteria, University of Utah, presenting “Working in late age: Examining the sociodemographic characteristics shaping employment among the aging US population”.



Mehmet Celebi, Nicholls State University, and Ramazan Aydogdu, Baptist Health Sciences University, presenting “Framing Consequences of Obesity Prevention Policy”.





## MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Submissions for SSA Paper Awards

Remember to submit your conference paper or published article to SSA Paper Awards committee! Deadline for submission is February 15, 2025. You can go [here](#) for paper requirements and submission information.

### Norma Williams Distinguished Service Award

The deadline for nominations for the Norma Williams Distinguished Service Award is February 15. This award is given to an individual who exemplifies the qualities that Dr. Norma Williams inspired, particularly in terms of service to the discipline and to students. You can find submission information and requirements [here](#). Please send nominations to Robert Wallace at [wallacer@mcm.edu](mailto:wallacer@mcm.edu)

### Newsletter

We're happy to keep SSA members connected, so send us any accomplishments (i.e., graduations, honors/awards, publications, job announcements) you would like us to highlight in our Newsletter. Let's celebrate each other - friends, students, and faculty- by emailing information to: [sssa.sociology@gmail.com](mailto:sssa.sociology@gmail.com). Also, remember to follow us @SSSASociology on Instagram and X. We're grateful to Emmber Garcia and Kathryn Rowe, our SSA graduate student representatives, for managing our social media accounts.

### Newsletter is edited by

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