

Georgia and the New Sociology of the South

2021 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Sociological Association



November 4-6
Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge
Buford, GA

Georgia Sociological Association

2020-2021 Officers and Executive Committee

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Letter from GSA President

Welcome to Lake Lanier, site of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Sociological Association



After more than a decade, our conference is returning to metropolitan Atlanta. We are all excited to welcome you to the 2021 GSA annual conference on November 4-6, 2021, at Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge. As an immigrant sociologist, this location is of special significance to me as Gwinnett County is the home of some of the most ethnically and racially diverse communities in Georgia and one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

The theme of this year's conference is "Georgia and the New Sociology of the South". We are excited to learn from your best teaching practices and research on the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on the transformation of Georgia and its new place in the economy, society, and politics of the US South. Our conference will offer a broad overview of the most recent research on population trends, race and immigration, healthcare, gender, religion, family, crime and justice, social inequality, religion, politics, urban, suburban, and rural disparities, and other social problems in Georgia.

As a member of this organization since 2007, it was an honor to serve on the Executive Board for the past 6 years and as President over these past two difficult years. I would like to wholeheartedly thank our GSA colleagues for their vote of confidence in me, and especially to thank our colleagues on the Executive Board for their great collegiality and dedication to make this conference a success.

In closing, I would like to remind you of our upcoming special events. We are honored to present the GSA Sociologist of the Year to Dr. Alyasah Ali Sewell from Emory University. Please join us for her keynote address on "Negative Illness Feedbacks: The Sociopolitical Paradox of Police Brutality" on Friday at 11 am and the Business and Awards Ceremony at 12 am. We are kicking off the conference with a Presidential Reception on Thursday night (5:00-6:30pm) which will feature light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

After a gap year during the 2020 pandemic, we are excited to see you again at the GSA. Please be reminded that the COVID19 vaccination is strongly recommended, and masks are required at the conference. Our wish is to deliver a safe and successful conference for everyone, following all the CDC guidelines and regulations.

Sincerely,
Darina Lepadatu

Georgia Sociological Association's

2021

SOCIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

Alyasah Ali Sewell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Emory University



Negative Illness Feedbacks: The Sociopolitical Paradox of Police Brutality

Friday 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Plenary Session

Alyasah “Ali” Sewell (*they/them/their*) is Associate Professor of Sociology at Emory University and Founder and Director of The Race and Policing Project. Advancing quantitative approaches to racism studies, they assess empirical links between the political economy of race and racial health(care) disparities using policing and housing policy data. Published in a wide array of sociological and interdisciplinary outlets, their research garnered support and recognition from the National Institutes of Health, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Baden-Württemberg Foundation, and the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. Planned Parenthood named them, “*The Future: Innovator and Visionary Who Will Transform Black Communities*”. They received their Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Indiana University with a minor in Social Science Research Methods and their B.A. *summa cum laude* in Sociology from the University of Florida with a minor in Women’s Studies

Program Schedule

Thursday 12:00 pm

12:00 – 1:30

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

ISLANDS II, III

Thursday 1:30 pm

1:30 – 6:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

LODGE LOBBY

1:30 – 2:30 JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

ISLANDS II, III

Thursday 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Session 1

VERANDA A

HANS MAUKSCH TEACHING WORKSHOP I

Workshop Coordinator: Jewrell Rivers, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Post-COVID Ready Pedagogy: Teaching Strategies for the Transition Back to Normalcy

This faculty panel will be an open discussion of the use of effective teaching pedagogy for making the successful transition back to normalcy in the classroom. Faculty from the University of North Georgia, Albany State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will be sharing best practices and evidence-based strategies for engaging students in the classroom during the pandemic to the anticipation of post-pandemic normalcy. Faculty will also discuss challenges and issues encountered in the traditional and virtual classroom during the pandemic.

Moderator: Cassandra Jordan, Albany State University

Panelists:

Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Allen Hyde, Georgia Tech

Melissa Harrell, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Pamela Pitman Brown, Albany State University

Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 pm

WELCOME RECEPTION (HORS D'OEUVRES AND CASH BAR)

MAGNOLIA

Friday 8:00 am

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (ALL DAY)

LODGE LOBBY

COFFEE & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS (UNTIL 9:30)

BLUE RIDGE FOYER

Friday 8:00 – 9:15 am

SESSION 2

VERANDA AB

SELF CARE WORKSHOP

Embracing Self-love: Enhancing Wellness and Self-Care

Presenter: Dr. Shubha Chatterjee, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

This workshop will present information about and discuss the importance of self-care among professionals. Intentional relaxation techniques will be demonstrated on how to mindfully integrate self-care into professional and personal life. As a result, this workshop will allow participants to explore some relaxation techniques/strategies and use them as tools to enhance holistic wellness.

SESSION 3

VERANDA C

Theme – *Undergraduate Research*

Moderator: Anne Borden, Western Governors University

Leadership With Women of Color: Taking Up Space Whether You Like It or Not

Tameron Smith, University of North Georgia

The sense of belonging has been proven to impact performance in professional and educational spaces. This may be especially true for Black and Latina women of color in professional spaces. This qualitative meta-analysis focuses on the importance of the sense of belonging for Black and Latina women in predominantly white institutions at three environments: higher education, college faculty and administration, and the workplace. It also expands into possible solutions such as mentoring, recruiting, and round table talks to creating more inclusive and supportive professional spaces.

Homemaking Through Green Spaces Among Refugees in Clarkston, Georgia

Lauren Stone, Georgia College & State University

Often refugee literature begins at crisis and ends at relocation thus missing the process of recreating a sense of home in a new terrain. Through ethnographic research, I analyze how refugees in Clarkston, Georgia use green spaces to recreate 'home'. Clarkston is an important site of refugee relocation. Through participant observation and interviews, I argue that green spaces are a key factor in refugee resettlement. Green spaces exist in the art, architecture, and narratives of residents, and are crucial to the wellbeing of refugee populations living there.

Stratification in Public Education in the United States

Kristen Fleming, University of North Georgia

This paper uncovers inequalities and disparities that pervade the public education system in the United States along the lines of race and socioeconomic class. Moreover, the institutional experience for children in public schools varies by socioeconomic status. Finally, the presence of advanced and dual enrollment programs is analyzed as a contributing factor to socioeconomic inequity and racial disparity within public educational institutions.

The Fear to Talk: The Role of Gender, Political Orientation and Other Individual Factors that Discourages Political Discussions

Megan Segars, Sydney Kahle, Antonia Ramirez, Tony Zschau, University of North Georgia

Americans increasingly sort themselves into opposing political camps. This research focuses on individual factors that inhibit people from having conversations across the ideological divide. Methods: 24 students were interviewed. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed in NVIVO 12.0. Results: Findings suggest three major processes: conflict management, conversational mechanisms, and information processing. Effects related to Gender and Political Orientation will also be addressed. Discussion: Findings will be explained using the Social Identity Theory.

SESSION 4

ISLANDS III

Theme – *Sociology in Action*

Moderator: Tiffany Parsons, University of West Georgia

Persistent Government Negligence Towards the Danger that Lead-Based Paint in Properties Poses to Children’s Health: An Analysis on how Persistent Negligence Towards Poor, Colored Communities in West Baltimore Has Led People Like Freddie Gray to be Poisoned with Lead and Ultimately Suffer a Difficult, Short Life.

Bryan Rocha, University of North Georgia

From Baltimore’s first residential-segregation ordinance; to the local, state, and federal governments’ still-present negligence towards the minority-white neighborhoods of West Baltimore; from the lack of laws at any level of government that clearly prohibited discrimination based on class and income; to the insufficient number of prohibitions and the astonishing lack of government-led enforcement for the single ban on the use of lead-based paint in properties that was approved; government officials have made decisions that have, and continue to, negatively impact a great number of West Baltimore’s colored people. These decisions have led almost every house in Baltimore’s minority-white communities to be so dilapidated, that inhabiting them can put any family’s children in risk of being poisoned with lead and subsequently suffer from irreversible brain damage; among other severe health effects. Such was the case of Freddie Gray, a young man who’s troubles in school and with the law appeared after living in a dilapidated home in West Baltimore that had its walls covered with lead-based paint.

Familial Expectations for Childbearing, and the “Child-Free” Movement: How Individuals Negotiate Identities on Reddit

Elizabeth Rivera, Ellis S Logan, Anne Price, Valdosta State University

This research focuses on an understudied phenomenon whereby individuals intentionally choose to not procreate, referred to as the “child-free movement.” Individuals in this movement exhibit great agency despite external cultural and social pressures. Content analysis was performed on user generated Reddit posts under the “child-free” subreddit in March 2021 and are coded thematically based on individual rationales for being “child-free”. This research explores socio-cultural factors which frame the decisions of this group and the individual narratives that are negotiated in an online community.

Sociology in Action: High Impact Practices & Social Justice

Tiffany Parsons, University of West Georgia
Pamela Pitman Brown, Albany State University

With all that's going on in Georgia and our broader culture, sociologists have an opportunity to be at the forefront of social justice discourse and action as the primary discipline that informs young scholars about social problems and how to uncover the injustices underlying the status quo. We are uniquely situated to inspire students to make change and help them develop skills to remedy social injustices that can be translated into the workforce through HIPs, such as service learning and projects to develop advocacy efforts, organize communities, and/or evaluate programs, among others.

Friday 9:30 – 10:45 am

SESSION 5

VERANDA AB

APPLIED SOCIOLOGY WORKSHOP

Community Engaged Research and Teaching in Disastrous Times: Opportunities and Challenges

Moderator: Allen Hyde, Georgia Institute of Technology

Panelists:

Devon Goss, Oxford College of Emory University
Carly Redding, University of North Georgia
Bobbi Larson, University of North Georgia

SESSION 6

VERANDA C

Theme- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Moderator: Christy Flatt, Gordon State College

Using Documentary Clips to Enhance Student Learning

Rebecca Nees, Middle Georgia State University

In order to engage students in course material and to facilitate student learning I use documentary clips in almost every lecture in my lower level courses. I use these clips to illustrate specific sociological terms, to show the reality of some of the social issues we are discussing, and to introduce topics that students may find difficult to discuss in a classroom setting. I will share examples of some of the specific clips I use as well as some of the techniques I have found to get the most out of these films.

Service Learning in Hybrid and Online Environments

Elizabeth Kuipers, Albany State University

This paper will introduce listeners to best practices regarding Service Learning. Service Learning will be defined in the context of the American Association of College and Universities. Some of the challenges with attempting Service Learning during a pandemic and in the online and hybrid environments will be discussed. Solutions for overcoming obstacles to Service Learning will then be presented. Finally, practical assessment tools will be introduced.

Bringing the Global South to USG Students: Creating Virtual Exchange Opportunities

Christy Haines Flatt & Tonya Moore, Gordon State College

Virtual exchange is a low-cost high impact practice (HIPS) method of internationalizing the curriculum. My presentation will discuss the different programs and student impact with special attention given to the Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge. Gordon students worked closely with Nawroz University students from Tenahi - Duhok Kurdistan Region of Iraq. "The challenge is funded by the Stevens initiative, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government, administered by the Aspen Institute and implemented by IREX."

Best Practices for Teaching Assistants of Intro-Level Sociology Courses

Deidra Green, Valdosta State University

In recent years, institutions of higher learning have seen an upwards trend in the utilization of adjunct professors, teaching, and graduate assistants. As future instructors, teaching assistants' knowledge and use of effective classroom methods contribute to a positive future for academia. Research continues to explore the effectiveness of college professor's teaching methods within the classroom. The presentation explores the best practice of teaching an introductory level sociology course, such as the most effective preparation techniques, methods and resources.

SESSION 7

ISLANDS III

Theme- Social Justice

Moderator: Denise Woodall, University of North Georgia

Campus Hate Crimes During the Trump Era: The Rhetoric of Conflict During the 2017 Unite the Right Rally at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Kathleen Kirk & Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

This paper analyzes annual data published by the FBI to provide a better context for campus hate crimes in the past decade. From there, this chapter uses communicative framing to qualitatively examine a case study of institutional responses to campus hate crimes. The case study chosen provides a discourse analysis of the University of Virginia responses to the alt-right and white supremacy demonstration in Charlottesville that resulted in multiple injuries and casualties on August 11-12, 2017.

Achieving Social Justice by Recognizing Micro-Aggression: Implications, Impact and Solutions

Ivan L. Page, Albany State University

This session will help to create an awareness and explain everyday acts of racism and oppression that is meant to go unnoticed. These acts of behavior are known as micro-aggression. The specific objective of this presentation is to discuss: (1) what is micro-aggression (2) how to recognize comments and behavior of micro-aggression; and (3) and how we as a society can begin the healing process from common occurrences of micro-aggression. Participants will present examples of acts of micro aggression through videos, statements, and everyday interaction between people.

Formerly Incarcerated Activism as Transformative Intervention: Managing Stigma and Building Capital Across Intersecting Oppressions

Denise Ruth Woodall, University of North Georgia

There is growing interest in carceral reforms acknowledging that directly impacted people need healing, but social structures also require repair. Few scholars have studied criminalized people who turned to activism to explore these self and social change connections. Thirty-two desisting formerly incarcerated activists varying by race and gender were interviewed. Findings reveal that

social-change-work helps the directly impacted resist stigma and build human (cultural), symbolic, and economic capital as they re-cast themselves positively in a struggle for self-determination.

Racial Injustice in Coastal Georgia at the Time of Monroe Nathan Work: Twenty-first Century Reflections and Comparisons

Leonard A. Steverson, Flagler College

Monroe Nathan Work, a University of Chicago trained sociologist, pioneer researcher, and one of W.E.B. Du Bois's "Talented Tenth", was a faculty member at the Georgia State Industrial College (now Savannah State University) from 1903 until 1908 and president of the Savannah Men's Sunday Club (SMSC), an organization that was committed to both civil rights activism and community building. Certain factors, notably racialized violence prompted by reactionary political backlash, unequal treatment by the legal and political systems, racial segregation, and efforts at voter disenfranchisement potentially caused the demise of the SMSC and prompted a curious decision by Work to leave the state to work with Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee. This paper is an analysis of the conditions of that period compared with those of today, especially in the coastal region of Georgia.

Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION

BLUE RIDGE AB

Keynote Speaker: Alyasah Sewell, Ph.D., Emory University

"Negative Illness Feedbacks: The Sociopolitical Paradox of Police Brutality"

Friday 12:15 – 1:15 pm

BUSINESS LUNCH & AWARDS CEREMONY

BLUE RIDGE AB

Friday 1:45 – 3:00 pm

SESSION 8

VERANDA AB

RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Challenges and Best Practices of Undergraduate Research

Moderator: Ravi Ghadge, Kennesaw State University

Universities are increasingly focused on increasing their research output. A critical element of this enterprise involves promoting undergraduate student engagement in research. In this research workshop, we will discuss the challenges and best practices related to undergraduate research. The workshop brings together panelists from diverse institutions, disciplines, and research interests.

The panelists explore the opportunities, challenges, and best practices of undergraduate research related to recruitment, research, publication, and CURE (Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience).

Presentations:

From Undergrad Course Paper to Submitted Journal Article: Challenges and Opportunities Allen Hyde, Georgia Institute of Technology

Incorporating Introductory-level Sociology Undergraduates in Faculty Research
Devon R. Goss, Oxford College of Emory University

Opportunities, Challenges, and Best Practices for Involving Undergraduate Students in Research

Katherine White & Kaelyn Ireland, Kennesaw State University

SESSION 9

VERANDA C

Theme – Student Experiences

Moderator: Michallene McDaniel, University of North Georgia

Understanding Our College Students: Insights into the Traits of Millennials

Cynthia LeMay, Kennesaw State University

This paper will analyze the defining events and characteristics of Millennials looking at work ethic, study habits, teamwork, approach to diversity and activism, social and political engagement.

COVID-19: Undergraduate Student Perceptions on Social Networking Experience

Amy Boone, University of North Georgia

This paper discusses the findings of undergraduate interviews which were affected the social networking experience due to COVID and university closures through the use of Durkheimian theories to provide a framework for an analytical interpretation of interview responses.

Incidents of Abuse and Neglect Cases among Middle School Students Reported during COVID 19, May 2020-July 2021

Ivan L. Page, Albany State University

This session will examine the impact of COVID 19 on middle school children learning remotely (at home) from May, 2020-July, 2021. The objective of this presentation is to (1) examine the number of abuse and neglect cases reported for this population, (2) the educational, social and psychological impact as a result of being home schooled, and (3) what type of programs and support services will this at-risk population need to facilitate their healing and development?

Racial equality, are we feeling it? Understanding students' emotional reactions to perceived discrimination at a predominantly white institution (PWI)

Aisha Duck, Alondra Guerrero, Andrew Lord, Avery Britt, Christopher Pauyo, Grace Bowe, Isabella Layton, Jasmine Davis, Kaelyn Ireland, Logan Turner, Marie Stevens, Reanna Tran, Vanessa Ordonez, Katherine White, Ravi Ghadge, Kennesaw State University

Recent political events have necessitated a reexamination of campus climate. For many, college is their first exposure to racial diversity. Research demonstrates that the racial climate of a university impacts the mental health and success of students. While there are models of how racism-related stress impacts well-being, these models frequently ignore the role of emotional reactions to racial experiences. Based on a thematic analysis of focus group data, we highlight the emotional reactions and the broader social contexts informing students' experiences of perceived discrimination at a PWI.

Friday 3:00 – 3:15 pm

BREAK

BLUE RIDGE FOYER

Friday 3:15 – 4:30 pm

SESSION 10

VERANDA AB

Theme- Race & Intersectionality

Moderator: Sara Mason, University of North Georgia

A Lack of Balance?: How Black Gymnasts are Discussed in the Media

Devon Goss, Nicole Kassabian, Joanna Yu, Oxford College of Emory University

Artistic gymnastics is a historically white-dominated sport that has undergone a recent shift towards more racial diversity. Given this shift, we asked the following research question: How does sports media discuss Black gymnasts? To answer this question, we employed a content analysis of newspaper articles dealing with the coverage of Black gymnasts written between January 1, 2008 to September 1, 2021. We found that the newspapers discussed Black gymnasts in three ways: as role models of racial diversity, as examples of debates on racism, and as emblematic of the Black body.

Before Freedom: Conceptions of Justice among Legally Enslaved and Trafficked Women

Melinda D. Johnson, Emory University

Forced and unfree marriages, considered modern slavery/human trafficking under international law, is still legal in many instances. I investigate how women from three different communities/nations of origin conceptualize justice in relation to their status. Particularly, “How do legally trafficked individuals perceive their status? Under what conditions (if any) do trafficked individuals adopt the view that their situation is “just,” especially given that it is legal and condoned by the government? Under what conditions (if any) do trafficked individuals perceive their situation as unjust?”

Interrogating White Positionality through (Auto)Ethnography

Sara F. Mason, M.C. Whitlock, University of North Georgia

This paper explores social position, autoethnography and the notion of “Homework” in methodological practice. Epistemological concerns about positionality and power have only increased in their relevance in recent years. Our work asks how we can fuse the epistemological questions and practice through a feminist, anti-racist methodology focused on home. Looking homeward necessitates a level of reflexivity as we make sense of ourselves as both at home, and not at home, while making the familiar strange. This necessitates holding the desire to know and the desire to represent in tension.

Community as "Famalee": Collective Healing from the Trauma of Slavery

Charen Glasgow, Kennesaw State University

How have African descendants worked to repair in the aftermath of the past atrocity, namely the enslavement of Africans by humans from other regions? This work delves into inter-generational reconciliation, repair and healing. As part of the wider dissertation study using Participatory

Action Research (PAR), data was collected during Summer 2021 through, interviews, group discussions and popular culture, with descendants of the enslaved of the African diaspora in the Americas namely South United States, South Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

SESSION 11

VERANDA C

Theme – Social Theory

Moderator: Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Biographical anecdotes as tools of symbolic interactionist analysis

David Broad, University of North Georgia

Taking a lead from the students of George Herbert Mead who published their lecture notes under the title "Mind, Self and Society" (1934) this research note is an exploration of the strategy of using methodological constructs based on that title for the analysis of symbolic communication and interaction. For this purpose, the elements of mind are operationally defined as thoughts, the elements of self as components of identity and the elements of society as norms.

Face-to-Face Encounters as a Sui Generis Unit of Analysis

Roscoe Scarborough, College of Coastal Georgia

I theorize that the encounter is a sui generis unit of analysis, endowed with its own causal efficacy that is not reducible to the psychological experience of individuals or the exogenous effects of static collective categories like class, race, and gender. Drawing on three years of ethnographic fieldwork on face-to-face encounters among firefighters, I examine how culture in face-to-face encounters produces situational stratification. I show how encounters have a “cultural architecture” that is constituted by “grassroots foundations” and “institutional infrastructures.

The Charisma and Chaos of Donald Trump: A Re-thematization Max Weber's Constructs of Leadership

George Danns, University of North Georgia

SESSION 12

ISLANDS III

SPECIAL SESSION: GSA 2021 Outstanding Teaching Award

Toward a more inclusive learning experience

Ravi Ghadge, Kennesaw State University

Education is an essential tool for empowerment and growth for students, as well as the teacher. However, this requires an inclusive classroom that nurtures critical reflection and appreciation for cultural difference, equality, and social justice. Based on ten years of teaching experience as a transnational scholar and instructor, this presentation illustrates pedagogy and student engagement activities inside and outside the classroom that may be helpful to create a more inclusive learning experience.

Saturday 8:00 – 9:15 am

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (UNTIL 10:30)
COFFEE, PASTRIES & FRUIT (UNTIL 9:30)**

**LODGE LOBBY
BLUE RIDGE FOYER**

Panel Discussion***Beyond Race, Class and Gender: Case Studies in the Sociology of Race, Space & Identity***

Moderator: Regine O. Jackson, *Kathy Ashe '68 and Lawrence Ashe Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at Agnes Scott College*

Panelists:

Lynette A. Shaw, Agnes Scott College
Remi Des-Ogugua, Agnes Scott College
Jasmine Scott, Agnes Scott College
Julia Blackwell, Agnes Scott College

This panel features four papers from an undergraduate Sociology course at Agnes Scott College. “Race, Space & Identity” introduces students to recent scholarship in the sociology of space and place and from the interdisciplinary field of cultural geography. The central assignment was a semester-long independent research project. Each paper explores some dimension of the relationship between identity, the social construction of race, and the production of space among Black communities in the South.

Theme – Sociology of Education

Moderator: Anne Borden, Western Governors University

Accidental Connections: The Role of Informal Networks in College Admission and Retention

Diogo Pinheiro & Amy Boone, University of North Georgia

A significant literature looks at the role of formal relationships and their impact on a student’s educational achievement in higher education. Much less well understood, however, is the importance of informal social networks on a student’s decisions. Using qualitative interviews, this study looks at how informal connections are crucial in getting students enrolled in college, especially those who are first generation and non-traditional. Likewise, once in college, these informal connections also play a significant role in major choice and retention.

Social-Emotional Learning in Higher Education: Why Mindfulness and Self-Compassion Matter

Anne L. Borden, Western Governors University

This presentation argues in support of bringing social-emotional learning (SEL) to higher education. SEL takes a pro-active and preventive, rather than a reactive approach, to student well-being. This presentation is an exploration of one university’s SEL model as well as an introduction to some core tenets of SEL, including mindfulness and self-compassion.

Kinder Panic: The New Labor of School Decision-Making

Bailey Brown, Spelman College

Kinder Panic: The New Labor of School Decision-Making examines the complex lives of families contending with the rise of school choice systems. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 102 parents of elementary-aged children and observations of enrollment events in New York City, Kinder Panic identifies how school decision-making under contemporary school choice programs has fundamentally altered early parenthood. I conceptualize school decision-making as a rising

form of family labor and demonstrate how school choice policy remains an enduring source of social inequality.

SESSION 15

MAGNOLIA

Theme- Social Problems

Moderator: Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

Social Media Misinformation and Student Vulnerability in Civic Engagement: The Case of the 2020 Presidential Election

Florence Wakoko, Columbus State University

Lydia Ray, Columbus State University

Juan Liu, Towson University

Studies reveal a growing decline in civic engagement among college students (Bennett & Livingston, 2018; Vargo & Hopp, 2020). During the 2020 elections, Facebook, YouTube, and Tick Tok news generated concerns about online rumors and their implications on citizens engagement (Pennycook & Rand, 2021). While fact-checking features were introduced against false narratives, the impact of social media narratives on students is not understood. We use Focus Groups to assess the student beliefs and role in the 2020 Presidential Elections.

Insights from the 2020 US Census: Georgia Population at a Glance

Darina Lepadatu, Emely Cabrales, Veronica Spears, Chase Beasley, Rowan Wilson, Kennesaw State University

Based on recent data from the 2020 US Census, this paper will analyze Georgia population trends from 2010 to 2020. The study will look at demographic changes in the state as well as comparisons with demographic changes in the US and other Southern states and future predictions for population growth.

Religious Leaders Navigating the COVID19 Pandemic in Georgia

Darina Lepadatu, Misty Grayer, Brian Starks, Yakub Yahaya, Kennesaw State University

The purpose of this study is to determine how religious leaders construct the meaning of compliance as it relates to COVID-19 policies and regulations. Exploring the role of decision-making through the lens of the legal endogeneity, institutional logics, and street-level bureaucracy theory, we anticipate that religious leaders construct the meaning of compliance based on their own institutionalized beliefs and as a function of their roles as both managers and street-level bureaucrats. The sample will include a diverse group of religious leaders of many denominational groups in Georgia.

Saturday 9:30 – 10:45 am

SESSION 16

VERANDA AB

HANS MAUKSCH TEACHING WORKSHOP II

Workshop Coordinator: Jewrell Rivers, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Student Engagement During the Transition from Pandemic to Post-Pandemic Normalcy

Moderator: Deidra Green, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Panelists:

Jordan Pittman, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Alondra Guerrero, Kennesaw State University
Avery Britt, Kennesaw State University,
Torri Williams, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Ja'Mi Barnes, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

This panel will allow students to discuss possible challenges and strategies for successful engagement in the classroom during the Post-COVID transition back to normalcy. Students will also share success stories and anecdotal evidence regarding their experiences in the traditional and virtual classroom. Students will also engage in a dialogue of discussing potential stressors associated with the pandemic that affect achievement including academic stressors, health stressors, financial stressors and family stressors.

SESSION 17**VERANDA C*****Theme - The Impact of the COVID19 Pandemic on Society***

Moderator: Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

COVID 19 & Racial Minority Groups

Kynessa Forte, Sydney Hampton, Melynda Hill, Jidea Flahnma, Kennesaw State University

In this paper, we will assess the impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minority groups as it relates to employment, education, healthcare, and overall rates of death and well-being highlighting the detrimental inequalities suffered by people of color during the pandemic.

COVID19 & Gender

Diana Cuenca, Kevin Vaca, Seth Little, Alaina Hoofnagle, Kennesaw State University

This paper will analyze the impact of COVID19 pandemic on men and women in the US. Whereas men had higher mortality rates from COVID19, women suffer more from mental health consequences due to their positions in the frontlines in the caregiving professions and service industry.

COVID19& Health

Aliyah Smith & Alyssa Logan, Kennesaw State University

This paper will analyze the following research questions: what was the impact COVID-19 on the mental health of healthcare workers in the U.S.? What were the impact of COVID-19 on immunocompromised populations in Georgia and the world? Lastly, what was the effect of COVID-19 on the mental health of children and teens?

COVID19 & Drug Use

Megan Scoggins & Chloe Holnaider, Kennesaw State University

Our study will analyze drug-related crimes before the COVID-19 pandemic and how they have changed since the beginning of the pandemic. We will look at different types of characteristics of drug usage crimes, such as whether they are violent or non-violent; drug usage crime rates related to race, class, and gender; and the average jail and prison sentencing time on different drug usage crimes.

SESSION 18**MAGNOLIA*****Theme- Undergraduate Research***

Moderator: Brandon Attell, Georgia State University

Inequities of Mental Health Treatment Among Individuals in the LGBTQ+ Community

Sara Michael Spradley, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

The LGBTQ+ community deals with several different types of inequalities because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identification. These inequalities can cause significant problems as they go throughout their lives and make it harder for them to receive adequate care when it comes to their health. This paper will be specifically looking at the inequalities in mental health services when it comes to this community, and how these inequalities affect their lives.

College Students: Substance Abuse Prevention via the Empowerment of Education

Laura Marie Starnes & Melissa Harrell, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

This study will highlight and implement best practices from relevant research of substance abuse prevention among college students via education. This understudied population is high-risk for substance use/abuse. Although there are a lot of drug prevention education programs available, few are research-based on its efficacy of reaching their target audience. My program design works toward empowering students to implement their values by setting and maintaining their limits and goals surrounding substance use in social settings. It will provide demographic data (Student Engagement Theory).

Working Mothers: Penalty or Bonus?

Renee Clement, University of North Georgia

Working mothers face insurmountable responsibilities when balancing work duties and family duties. Expectations through traditional values, gender roles, and stereotypes do not allow for women to create the human capital necessary to advance in the workforce in the same way as white males. Women face a motherhood penalty and are often overlooked for promotions or advancements into higher paid leadership positions. This paper explores the many nuances that working mothers face while gaining experience and autonomy within the workforce.

Sleeping With the Enemy? Network Dynamics that Shape Willingness to Talk Politics

Cathleen Dowis, Megan Miner, Chloe Hoover, Tony Zschau, University of North Georgia

This research focused on better understanding intragroup dynamics that may affect willingness of conservative and liberal students to have political conversations across the “divide”. Methods: 16 students were interviewed and all interviews were recorded. Interviews were transcribed, coded and analyzed in NVIVO 12.0. Results: Our findings suggest four main network processes that affect the willingness to talk politics: boundary maintenance, shared attitudes and beliefs, sense of belonging, and network sanctions. Discussion: Results will be discussed using social identity theory.

Saturday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

SESSION 19

VERANDA AB

Panel Discussion

Social Justice Studies: Creating an eMajor using interdisciplinary teams

Moderator: Pamela Pitman Brown, Albany State University

Panelists:

Jason Armstrong, Albany State University

Sarah Kuck, Albany State University

James Wright, Dalton State College

Using a cooperative academic arrangement across SACSCOC accredited institutions, a Social Justice Studies (SJS) eMajor was developed. USG eCampus will support collaborative delivery of the courses, the SJS courses which can be used as a concentration in various programs of study. The innovative interdisciplinary approach, included SMEs from various disciplines [CRJU, SOCI, POLS] uses OER, shares instructional capacity, and teaching assignments. The panel will discuss the collaborative efforts from the various academic silos and the use of the concentration on their campus.

SESSION 20

VERANDA C

Theme- Medical Sociology

Moderator: Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University

Bringing Du Bois into Medical Sociology

Linda A. Treiber, Kennesaw State University

In his keynote address, American Sociological Association president Aldon Morris called for greater centrality of W.E.B. Du Bois in the sociological cannon. Du Bois pioneered the concept of social determinants of health citing differences in excess mortality by race, gender, and class, yet his work is rarely considered in mainstream medical sociology. To understand structural causes of health disparities, it is necessary to revisit his work and introduce it to a new generation of sociologists. I discuss Du Bois' contributions to medical sociology and offer readings for sociology courses.

Racism, Sexism, and Mental Health: Through an Intersectional Lens

Jennifer McDonnell, Emory University

In this study, I examine whether and how racism and sexism intersect to influence mental health for Black women. Data for this study comes from the General Social Survey (n=5,935). Untangling within- and between-group differences across categories of race and gender, I use linear regression and moderation models to test associations between mental health and racism and sexism in the workplace. A key finding of this study is that the combined effects of racism and sexism are *not* more strongly associated with poor mental health than any single category of discrimination alone for Black women. Instead, racism is the more salient form of discrimination for this group. This finding has important theoretical implications. Beyond the additive effects of combined racist and sexist experiences, the co-occurrence of these forms of discrimination may produce unique deleterious mental health effects for Black women who face the quotidian stress of being both Black and female.

Wellbeing among U.S. Veterans: Results from the 2010 National Survey of Veterans

Ellis Logan & Thibault Deneve, Valdosta State University

Our research focuses on self-rated health and access to healthcare among veterans. We used data from the 2010 National Survey of Veterans. We investigated how exposure to combat, as well as exposure to specific traumas, can have a lasting impact on the health of veterans. We utilized a logistic regression model for mental healthcare, and an ordinal regression model to assess self-rated health. Findings show unique effects on health patterns for combat and trauma in the field. We also observe that many of the SES indicators operated differently than they do for the general population.

The Impact of Cohort Selection Mechanisms on the Accuracy of Model Parameters in Hierarchical Age-Period-Cohort Models

Brandon K. Attell, Georgia State University

Life course sociologists have recently introduced a new method to estimate age, period, and cohort (APC) effects simultaneously. One assumption of the model is that the cohort groupings defined by the researcher to estimate the cohort effects accurately capture the true cohort structure underlying the dataset. Using a Monte Carlo simulation study, this research investigates the impact of model misspecification on the accuracy of the APC parameters and considers the utility of model fit indices to help guide applied researchers in determining a cohort grouping for use in the model.

SESSION 21

MAGNOLIA

Panel discussion

Sociology in the News TILTed: Tilting an older well-used assignment

Moderator: Jason Armstrong, Albany State University

Panelists:

Pamela Pitman Brown, Albany State University

Dorene Medlin, Albany State University

Sarah Kuck, Albany State University

Carol Ann Ham, VSU

Using an older well-used and evolving introductory sociology current events project, the presenters will show how the project began, the initial purpose and changes made over the past five years using TILT. We will address the steps, guidelines, and sequence for the students' completion of the project. Furthermore we will address the topic of transparency in a face-to-face course, a hybrid course, and an online course. The project is transferable to many subject, i.e. criminal justice, education, business, history, anthropology, and demography.

Saturday 12:30 pm

INCOMING AND OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND LUNCH

ISLANDS II, III

Presidents of Georgia Sociological Association

John T. Doby	1964-65	Albert E. McCormick, Jr.	1995-96
Tilman C. Cothran	1965-66	Jay Strickland	1996-97
Raymond Payne	1966-67	Fred Zampa	1997-98
Dorothy Pitman	1967-68	Linda August	1998-99
John A. Tumblin, Jr.	1968-69	Lana Wachniak	1999-00
Homer C. Cooper	1969-70	Leona Kanter	2000-01
Barbara Payne Stancil	1970-71	Mel Fein	2001-02
Alpha M. Bond, Jr.	1971-72	Sam Abaidoo	2002-03
Eugene G. Sherman, Jr.	1972-73	Robert Johnston	2003-04
John Drenan Kelley	1973-74	Ned Rinalducci	2004-05
Fred R. Crawford	1974-75	Michelle McCormick	2005-06
Marguerite Woodruff	1975-76	Kevin Demmitt	2006-07
Charlene R. Black	1976-77	Laurel Holland	2007-08
John M. Smith, Jr.	1977-78	Michael Hodge	2008-09
Anna A. Grant	1978-79	Miriam Boeri	2009-10
Norma Seerley	1979-80	Donald Gregory	2010-11
Larry A. Platt	1980-81	Kathleen Dolan	2011-12
Richard M. Levinson	1981-82	Linda Treiber	2012-13
Louie A. Brown	1982-83	Ned Rinalducci	2013-14
Frederick L. Bates	1983-84	Michallene McDaniel	2014-15
Jacqueline Boles	1984-85	Philip Thomas	2015-16
Charles J. Karcher	1985-86	Alison Hatch	2016-17
Albeno P. Garbin	1986-87	Sara Mason	2017-18
Ruby C. Lewis	1987-88	Carly L. Redding	2018-19
Charles Jaret	1988-89	Darina Lepadatu	2019-20
Barbara Karcher	1989-90	Darina Lepadatu	2020-21
Robert Agnew	1990-91		
Chet Ballard	1991-92		
Hugh D. Spitler	1992-93		
Robert Johnston	1993-94		
G. Roger Branch	1994-95		

Sociologist of the Year Award Winners

Peggy Herrman	2001-02	Miriam Boeri	2011-12
Robert Agnew	2002-03	Michael Hodge	2012-13
Jacqueline Boles	2003-04	Ralph LaRossa	2013-14
Douglas Bachtel	2004-05	Linda Grant	2014-15
Catherine Meeks	2005-06	Kathleen Lowney	2015-16
Barbara Karcher	2006-07	Jody Clay-Warner	2016-17
Sandra Stone	2007-08	Mindy Stompler	2017-18
Charlie Jaret	2008-09	Mel Fein	2018-19
Claire Sterk	2009-10	Cynthia Neals Spence	2019-20
Lana Wachniak	2010-11	Alyassa Ali Sewell	2020-21

Meritorious Service Award Winners

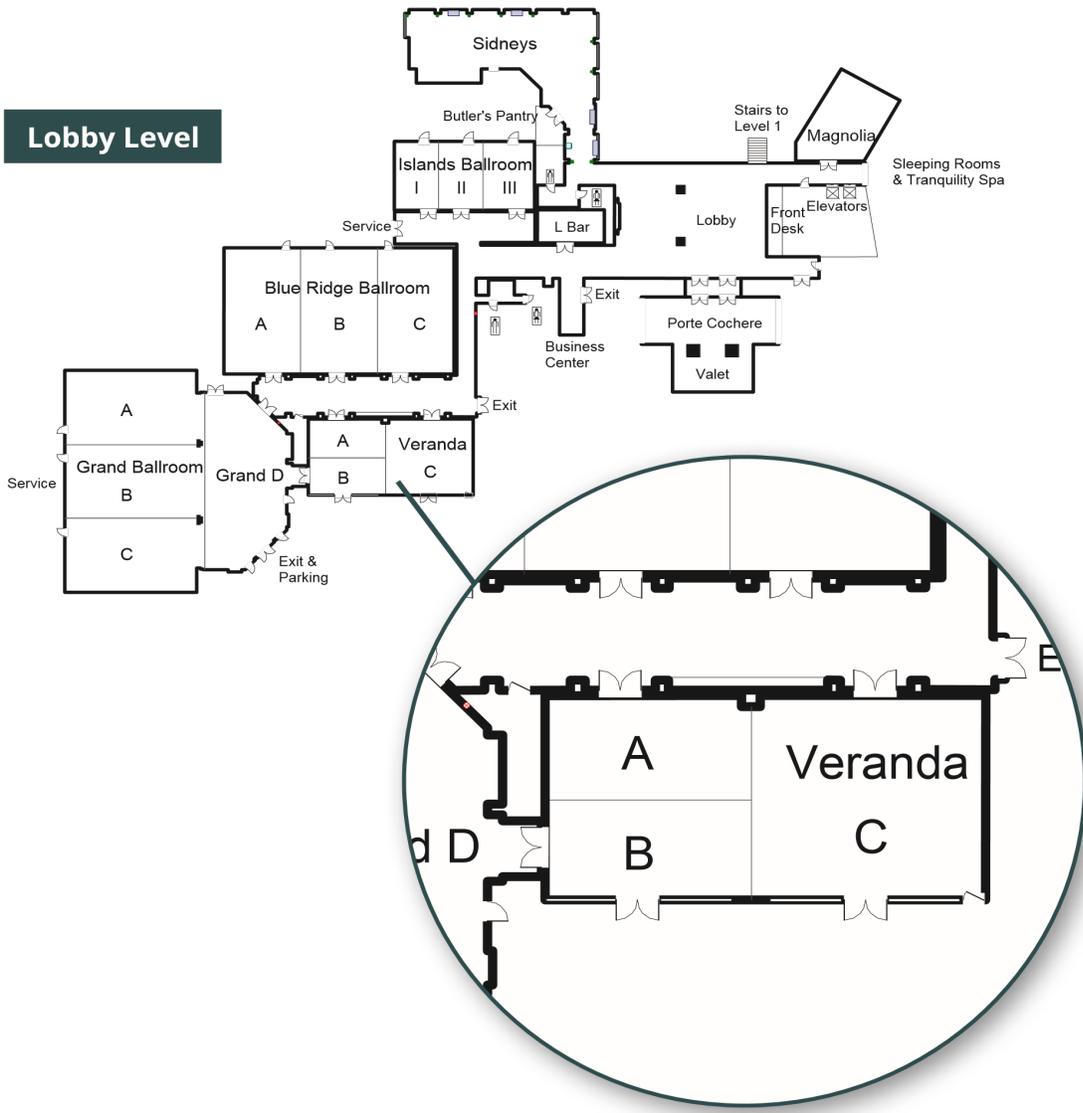
1985	Drennan Kelley, Dorothy Pitman, Marguerite Woodruff, and John Doby
1986	No presentation
1987	Anna Grant
1988	Imogene Dean
1989	Abbott Ferris
1990	Homer C. Cooper and Hans Mauksch
1991	Albeno Garbin and Ruby C. Lewis
1992	Charlene Black, Barbara Karcher, and Charles Karcher
1993	Jacqueline Boles and Marian Glustrom
1994	Wilfred Bailey and Chet Ballard
1995	Ernestine Thompson and Robert Johnston
1996	No presentation
1997	Sandra Stone
1998	No record
1999	Roger Branch
2000	Al McCormick
2001	No record
2002	Jay Hughes (Strickland)
2003	No record
2004	No record
2005	Melvyn L. Fein
2006	No record
2007	No record
2008	Donald Gregory and Ned Rinalducci
2009	Michelle McCormick
2010	Al McCormick
2011	James Floyd
2012	Michallene McDaniel
2013	Laurel Holland
2014	Anne Borden
2015	Fred Zampa
2016	Rodger Bates
2017	Linda Treiber
2018	Philip Thomas
2019	Brandon Attell
2020	Christy Flatt

Job Announcement:

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Kennesaw State University invites you to apply for the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology. Deadline: November 15, 2021. To apply, please visit: <https://hr.kennesaw.edu/careers.php>.



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**
NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice



The 2021 Georgia Sociological Association Conference Program is printed with the generous support of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Kennesaw State University. Located in metro Atlanta, with over 300 Sociology majors and 800 Criminal Justice majors, the department welcomes new graduate students for its Master's in Criminal Justice. The deadline for Spring admissions is November 1, 2021. For more info, please visit:

<https://radow.kennesaw.edu/scj/programs/mscj.php>

