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Letter from GSA President Philip Thomas

Welcome to Historic Savannah, site of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Georgia Sociological Association



It is so exciting to have all of you here in Savannah as we celebrate the 51st Anniversary of the GSA conference. We have surpassed half a century of bringing sociologists together to meet and share their research.

The theme of this year's meeting is "**Transformation of the South: Georgia on My Mind.**" The rationale for selecting this theme is based on my assessment that progress has been made in the South on various fronts. Since the 1950's, the South has undergone dramatic social and political transformation. It is important to discuss various micro and macro issues relating to the 21st century South. This is an opportunity for the representatives of various disciplines to reflect on the culture and how our disciplines inform and transform the social problems of the South.

Please take note of the plenary sessions. I am very happy to note that this year's Georgia Sociologist of the Year is Dr. Kathleen S. Lowney, Professor of Sociology at Valdosta State University. She is the author of several books and past editor of the American Sociological Association's journal, *Teaching Sociology*. Her presentation, "**Lessons Learned from Teaching Big,**" will be Thursday morning. That afternoon, you will have the opportunity to listen to Ms. Tania Smith-Jones, Site-Administrator of the Pin Point Museum, speak on Gullah/Geeche Culture. Please join us Thursday evening at 6:30 pm for the **Presidential Reception** at the Pin Point Museum and enjoy the low country boil (plated dinner) with a cash bar. You will also enjoy a tour of the museum.

I want to acknowledge the Program Chair, Sara Mason, and members of the GSA Executive Board for all the work they have done to make this meeting happen. I appreciate their willingness to devote their time and energy for the organization.

I would like to thank all of you for supporting the GSA by coming to the conference and making this year's meeting exciting and informative.

The venue is fabulous and the program looks fantastic. Let's start the celebration! Have a great conference and enjoy Savannah!

Philip Thomas, PhD
President
Georgia Sociological Association

**Georgia Sociological Association
Sociologist of the Year
2015-16**



**Kathleen Lowney, Ph.D.
Valdosta State University**

Dr. Lowney earned her undergraduate double majors in Comparative Religions and Sociology (with honors) from the University of Washington and a Ph.D. and M.Phil from Drew University in Religion and Society. Since joining the faculty of Valdosta State University in 1987 she has earned a national reputation for excellence in teaching and her work in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Dr. Lowney's long list of teaching accolades includes awards at the local, state, and national level, including the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award (2014) and the American Sociological Association's Section on Teaching and Learning's Hans O. Mauksch (2015) award for distinguished teaching. She has also served as the leader of the IDEA Center, a teaching and learning center for faculty and staff at VSU since 2013 and served as the editor of *Teaching Sociology* from 2010-2014. Dr. Lowney also has a strong body of non SOTL research, including work on the Unification Church/the "Moonies," teen Satanism, kudzu as a social problem, the WWE and how wrestling mirrors the culture wars, and wrestling as male soap opera. Currently, she is researching how the media portrays nurses who kill their patients.

Highlighted Events

Plenary Keynote Speaker

Georgia Sociological Association's 2015-16 Sociologist of the Year

Kathleen Lowney

Professor of Sociology, Valdosta State University

"Lessons Learned from "Teaching Big""

11:00am-12:00pm, THURSDAY

Ballroom C

Plenary Speaker

Tania Smith-Jones

Site Administrator, Pin Point Heritage Museum

"Go Back and Fetch It: The Story of Sankofa"

3:00-4:00pm, THURSDAY

Ballroom A

Applied Sociology Workshop

"Unlocking Your Inner Courage"

5:30-6:30 pm, WEDNESDAY

Ballroom A

Hans Mauksch Teaching Workshop

"Teaching Sociology Online:

Challenges and Best Practices for Online and Hybrid Courses"

8:00-9:15 am, THURSDAY

Ballroom A

Business Lunch and Awards Ceremony

Lunch included with conference registration

12:15-1:15 pm, THURSDAY

Ballroom C

Sociological Research Workshop

"Analyzing and Visualizing Data"

1:30-2:45 pm, THURSDAY

Ballroom B

Presidential Dinner & Reception

6:30 pm, THURSDAY

Pin Point Heritage Museum

Transformation of the South: Georgia On My Mind

GEORGIA SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
2016 ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 26-28, 2016
EMBASSY SUITES, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 3:00 PM

3:00-6:00 PM

Conference Registration

Ballroom Lobby

3:00-4:00 PM

Board of Regents Advisory Committee Meeting

Ballroom B

WEDNESDAY 4:00 PM

4:00-5:00 PM

Journal Editorial Board Meeting

Ballroom C

WEDNESDAY 5:30-6:30 PM

5:30-6:30 PM

Welcome and Opening of the Conference: GSA President Philip Thomas

Ballroom A

Applied Sociology Workshop: Unlocking Your Inner Courage

Melvyn Fein, Kennesaw State University, mfein@kennesaw.edu

Some people believe that courage is no longer necessary. They assume that modern societies can protect us from virtually every danger. This is untrue. Dealing with social threats is more challenging than ever. If we hope to be successful in a mass techno-commercial society, we have to master our fears. Both occupational accomplishments and secure relationships elude those who are too afraid to make good choices. This workshop demonstrates a five-step program for unlocking our inner potential for courage. Most people can be braver than they realize. It is merely a matter of knowing how and taking the appropriate measures.

WEDNESDAY 6:45 PM

6:45 PM

Ballroom B

GSA Executive Board Meeting and Dinner

THURSDAY 8:00 AM

8:00 - 5:00 PM

Conference Registration

Ballroom Lobby

8:00-9:30 AM

Coffee

Ballroom Lobby

THURSDAY 8:00-9:15 AM

8:00-9:15 AM

Ballroom A

**Hans Mauksch Teaching Workshop: Teaching Sociology Online—
Challenges and Best Practices for Online and Hybrid Courses**

Moderator: Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

Challenges and Best Practices in Delivering an Exclusively Online Undergraduate Program in Sociology: The KSU Model

Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University, dlepadat@kennesaw.edu

Cristina Stephens, Kennesaw State University

Our presentation will discuss the challenges of offering an exclusively online program in parallel with traditional face-to-face instruction. We will specifically address teaching research methods courses with the inclusion of SPSS assignments, as well as the coordination of team research projects in an online format. Last, we will discuss the pedagogical strategies adopted to teach larger online classes with 50+ students.

Online Exams: Best Practices and Challenges

Margaret H. Williamson, University of North Georgia, margaret.williamson@ung.edu

Teaching online offers opportunities to try new pedagogies. With these pedagogies there are new issues and questions to consider, particularly in relation to on-line exams. Although many faculty would think there are obvious answers to these questions, in an online course there are other issues to consider. This presentation discuss challenges and provide suggestions for best practices when giving exams in an online course.

Recreating the Live Experience in Online Classes

Alison Hatch, Armstrong State University, alison.hatch@armstrong.edu

In online classes, it is challenging to create the sense of community and collaborative thinking that occurs in traditional classrooms. Over the years I have developed practices for my online Introduction to Sociology course that encourage student participation and group dialogue. Additionally, I have found ways to reassure students that I am an active participant in the class.

Through trial and error, I've found that recreating the live experience, to the extent that is possible, is the best approach in my online classes.

Effective Online Communication:

The Instructor's Presence in Videos, Webinars, and Emails

Anne Borden, Western Governors University, anne@anneborden.com

I have been teaching exclusively online for Western Governors University for nearly two years and am excited to discuss challenges, opportunities and best practices. I am also eager to share my expertise using technology to create webinars and instructional videos. I am interested in how we convey emotion in the online classroom. I will also share my experience regarding successful communication strategies with students via email, discussion boards, and text.

THURSDAY 9:30-10:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:30-10:45 AM

SESSION 1

Ballroom A

Transformations Through the Sociologist's Life Course

Moderator: Donald Gregory, Reinhardt University

Panelists:

Cheryl Brown, Reinhardt University

Fred Zampa, Emeritus Associate Professor of Sociology

This panel will examine strategies for adapting to the transformations in the lives of sociologists. These transformations are personal, academic, interpersonal, political, and so much more. A diverse group will share how they have negotiated these transitions and provide time for techniques or strategies from the audience.

9:30- 10:45 AM

SESSION 2

Ballroom B

Examining Discourses of Gender & Sexuality

Moderator: Michallene McDaniel, University of North Georgia

Searching for Community: YouTube as a Site of Counternarratives to Transnormativity

Jordan Forrest Miller, Georgia State University, jmiller115@student.gsu.edu

Through qualitative interviews with trans people of color and/or non-binary trans people, this paper explores the value, and difficulty, of using YouTube to challenge transnormativity. I argue that while YouTube is a particularly accessible platform for trans people to challenge

transnormativity, the reach of trans YouTubers' messages are highly limited by the medium's design and genre conventions. This paper specifically discusses limitations due to the privileged status of transnormative content and divisions between trans communities.

Unequal Beauty: Examining Classism in the Western Beauty Standard

Leah M. K. Youngblood, Georgia State University, lkyoungblood1@gmail.com

Past studies have explored how racism and ageism are embedded in the beauty standard, but little work has explored how classism is included in the Western beauty standard. The current study examines four women's fashion and beauty magazines. I explore the ways in which the Western beauty standard is dependent upon privilege and cultural capital.

A Life-Course Analysis of Changing Gender Ideology in the United States, 1977-2012

Brandon K. Attell, Georgia State University, battell1@gsu.edu

Ana LaBoy, Georgia State University, ana.laboy@ung.edu

In this research, we examined age, period, and cohort effects that shaped changes in gender ideology from 1977 to 2012 in the U.S. We found that men and women differ in age trajectories that shape ideology, while the effect of one's gender randomly varied across birth-cohorts and the effect of race randomly varied across time periods. We also found curvilinear life-course variations regarding the percentage of women in the paid labor force that impacted ideology.

Professional Legitimacy in Nursing: A Sociological Assessment

Linda A. Treiber, Kennesaw State University, ltreiber@kennesaw.edu

In this presentation, I discuss Registered Nurses' efforts to improve professional status and control of their work. Four main avenues are considered: caring science, evidence-based practice, nursing diagnoses, and stricter educational requirements for entry into practice. Using an intersectional framework, my analyses consider gender, class, sexuality, and race as influencing and complicating the social relations between the occupation of nursing and major institutional structures of healthcare.

9:30- 10:45 AM

SESSION 3

Ballroom C

Understanding Millennials in the Classroom and Beyond

Moderator: Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Technology in Society: A Perfect Fit with College Students Today

Tim Lubben, Kennesaw State University, tlubben@kennesaw.edu

Technology is pervasive in the lives of college students. When discussing technology with students, an important issue to address is the importance ethics--"Although we can do something- should we do it." This question is quite relevant today and causes us to examine

our ethics/morals regulating technology. With this in mind, I look at technology as it relates to sociological theory. For instance, there is a whole movement labeled "disruptive technology." This relates perfectly with Conflict Theory. Symbolic Interactionism can also be seen in how symbols have been given new and widely recognized meanings.

Disrupting Post-Racial Discourse:

Black Millennials and the Continuing Significance of Race and Racism

Celeste N. Lee, University of West Georgia, celestel@westga.edu

Relying on in-depth interviews with 61 college students, this paper explores Black millennials' response to colorblind, post-racial rhetoric. Nearly all of the Black millennials (97%) in this study reject the colorblind ideology that contends the U.S. is a colorblind or post-racial society. Black millennials highlight the stableness of anti-black sentiments and patterns of structural inequality in racial dynamics like residential and school segregation as evidence that "post-racialism" is unlikely to be achieved in the U.S.

College Culture and Attitudes Towards Pets

Hannah Wood, Valdosta State University, Hmwood@valdosta.edu

College students are a fairly educated population, and tend to be more progressive than the population at large. Yet, some previous research and popular stereotypes suggest college students are poor pet owners, who may not be committed to their pets' health, and may abandon their pets at the end of the academic year. This study will examine the meanings students attach to pet ownership, and the justifications they use to rationalize their treatment of pets.

THURSDAY 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

11:00AM-12:00 PM

Ballroom C

Keynote Plenary

Lessons Learned from "Teaching Big"

Kathleen Lowney, GSA Sociologist of the Year

THURSDAY 12:15-1:15 PM

12:15-1:15 PM

Ballroom C

Business Lunch and Awards Ceremony (lunch included with conference registration)

THURSDAY 1:30-2:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30-2:45 PM

SESSION 4

Ballroom A

Tourism: Theory and Practice

Moderator: Ned Rinalducci, Armstrong State University

Panelists:

Ned Rinalducci, Armstrong State University, Ned.Rinalducci@armstrong.edu

Jolene Byrne, Armstrong State University

John McMasters, Former Chatham County Commissioner

Savannah, Georgia has experienced a 300% increase in tourism in the past decade, attracting 13.7 million visitors in 2015. The total amount spent by travelers last year was \$2.67 billion. The tourism and hospitality industry in Savannah, including Tybee Island, supports nearly 26,000 local jobs. Given these numbers and Savannah's popularity, tourism is one of the primary driving economic engines of the city. This session will examine Savannah's tourism industry and politics from multiple perspectives.

1:30-2:45 PM

SESSION 5

Ballroom B

Research Workshop: Analyzing and Visualizing Data

Winston Tripp, University of West Georgia, wtripp@westga.edu

Christina Wolfe, Georgia Highlands College, cwolfe@highlands.edu

In the last decade, the U.S. has entered into the age of "Big Data," in which everyone is constantly awash in data. Because of this, data analytics has become an important tool for many organizations and a desirable skill to learn for college students. This workshop examines ways to make data analysis more accessible to the public by discussing ways to simplify analyses and tell a more compelling story through the visual presentation of data.

1:30- 2:45 PM

SESSION 6

Ballroom C

Sociological Perspectives on Health and Healthcare

Moderator: Donald Gregory, Reinhardt University

"The Work Chose Me": Volunteers and Paid Workers Who Work within the Areas of HIV/AIDS and Teen Pregnancy with or within the African American Community

Anita Winfrey Thompson, Georgia College and State University, anita.thompson@gcsu.edu

African Americans experience disproportionate risk for contracting HIV/AIDS in the United States. Another large social problem within the African American community is teen pregnancy. It appears that there has been a differential response to these two issues within the African American community. I examine this discrepancy in relation to three dimensions: (1) motivations; (2) sources of stress and challenge and coping mechanisms; and (3) evaluations and suggestions for current programming.

The Relationship between Weight and Aerobic Training and Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Outcomes –2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems (BRFSS)

Jessica Ziembroski, Augusta University, JZIEMBROSKI@augusta.edu

This study investigates the effect of weight training and aerobic exercise on mental health and substance abuse in a large sample of US adults. Due to possible identity shifts and the creation of prosocial peer networks, promotion of such fitness practices may hold particular benefits for those who struggle with frequent comorbidity of mental illness and substance abuse. Findings indicate the need for public health strategies to increase weight training and aerobic exercise for all adults.

Disparities in Health Insurance Coverage Status among Children and Young Adults in Georgia and the United States

Brandon K. Attell, Georgia State University, battell1@gsu.edu

As the U.S. approaches its seventh year under The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), one public health issue that remains important is health insurance coverage. In this research, I compare differences in health insurance coverage between Georgia and the U.S. for individuals 26 years of age and younger. Additionally, I examine age, gender, race, and poverty status as social determinants of being uninsured at the state and national level.

Health and Religious Participation: A Literature Review

David R. Altamirano, East Georgia State College, daltamir@ega.edu

Does religion have a positive impact on the health of older adults? I survey the research to ascertain if religious belief and participation have an effect on the robustness of older adults. An eclectic mix of cross sectional and longitudinal studies is reviewed to ascertain what direction research has gone in resolving this quandary. Findings at this time tentatively report an inevitable decline in health that is mitigated to some degree.

THURSDAY 3:00-4:00 PM

3:00-4:00 PM

Ballroom A

Plenary Address

Go Back and Fetch It: The Story of Sankofa

Tania Smith-Jones, Site Administrator, Pin Point Heritage Museum

THURSDAY 4:15-5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:15- 5:30 PM

SESSION 7

Ballroom A

Gender in Popular Culture

Moderator: Michallene McDaniel, University of North Georgia

Sexist Spotlights: Challenging America's Male Dominated Music Industry

Chelsea Marty, Valdosta State University, csmarty@valdosta.edu

Ashlie Prain, Valdosta State University, amprain@valdosta.edu

This paper aims to both acknowledge and challenge male domination within America's music industry. We intend to highlight a culture of patriarchy throughout various components of the industry, including marketing, manufacturing, and administration. Finally, we offer modern examples of female artists who are currently challenging narratives of male dominance.

Roller Derby Deconstructs Patriarchy!

David Broad, University of North Georgia, david.broad@ung.edu

The contemporary rebirth of the sport of roller derby is examined in light of its transformation from its origin as a marathon race format, its era as a pseudosport like professional wrestling to its present form as a vehicle for third-wave feminism.

Gender Portrayal in Televised Commercials

Nia McClurkin, Reinhardt University, mcclurkin119215@students.reinhardt.edu

Sadie Simpson, Reinhardt University

Aleah Cooper, Reinhardt University

William Madison, Reinhardt University

The purpose of this report is to analyze gender portrayals in televised commercials. The researchers conducted a content analysis of televised commercials on the channel TBS in order to determine gendered differences in actor portrayals, target audience, and language used.

Innovative Practices in Online Teaching

Moderator: Sara F. Mason, University of North Georgia

Issues and Options in Online Learning

Rodger Bates, Clayton State University, RodgerBates@clayton.edu

Building on the success of Quality Matters, a national network of professional groups and organizations have promoted strategies for quality online course development and instruction. The recruitment and training of online instructors have emerged as a critical component in this process. Likewise, with the growth of online instruction, an increasing number of faculty are now teaching multiple courses and sections which introduce new issues both pedagogically and administratively

Facilitating Discussions in Online and Web-Based Distance-Learning Courses

Orsolya Kolozsvari, College of Coastal Georgia, okolozsvari@ccga.edu

My presentation addresses best practices in facilitating discussions in on-line courses. I will also cover how learning platforms and programs, such as Desire2Learn (D2L) and CollaborateUltra can be utilized for effective online discussions. I will share examples of approaches to encouraging discussion, including using multimedia resources, such as online videos, activities (e.g. playspent.org), and easy-to-read sociological articles enhanced with discussion questions (e.g. the ones found on sociologyinfocus.com).

Traditional vs. Online Teaching: The Oppositional Framing of Complementary Methods

Jenny R. Vermilya, University of North Georgia, jenny.vermilya@ung.edu

The dominant discourse is that new instructors to online teaching either love it or hate it. However, the dichotomy of “love” or “hate” discourages instructors who love in-person teaching from attempting to teach online. I will discuss how the tools that an online medium has to offer provide students a unique way of understanding sociology; a way that is perhaps more difficult in a classroom. Just as the online medium disallows for certain in-person practices, the online method can also open up new techniques for learning. I will use a case study of a photography project from an online Sociology of Gender course to illustrate the strengths of online teaching tools.

Issues and Concerns in the Criminal Justice System

Moderator: Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University

Missing Voices: The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in the Criminal Justice System

Jewrell Rivers, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, jrivers@abac.edu
Shani Wilfred, Valdosta State University,

Using in-depth interviews and a purposive-convenience sample, this study assesses responses provided by the "missing voices" groups in an attempt to ascertain if FBOs still do what they have historically been perceived to do or whether their involvement with the CJS has shifted in any way. When discussing the real and perceived roles of FBOs in the CJS, the collective "missing voices" emphasized interactions between offenders, youth, communities, family/friends, churches, criminal justice agents and clergy.

Doomed Upon Release? Housing Challenges of Georgia's Ex-convicts

Roger Long, University of North Georgia, rmlong8498@ung.edu

According to the Georgia Criminal Information System, more than 2.6 million people in the state of Georgia have a criminal record. To put that figure into perspective, the state only has a population of 10 million people. Where do these 1 in 4 Georgians find shelter? This study aims to investigate the barriers to housing experienced by ex-prisoners in Georgia and to assess the community implications.

Situational Contexts of Inter-Ethnic Stand Your Ground Incidents

Albert E. McCormick, Jr., M² Research and Consulting, amccormick919@comcast.net

Analysis of 311 Florida's Stand Your Ground (SYG) cases found no significant differences in SYG defense success in inter-ethnic incidents, a result apparently contradictory to some other SYG research. Any disparities in SYG inter-ethnic situations seem based upon, not racial bias, but such situational factors as the nature of pre-incident inter-personal relationships, the incident's location and trigger, and whether the alleged assailant was armed and/or committing a crime during the incident.

The Aging-Inmate Problem: Georgia's Solutions

Brenda Beach, Ph.D., Athens Technical College, bbeah@athenstech.edu

The graying of Georgia's inmate population presents a number of challenges to correctional facilities. In addition to mental and physical health care costs that are approximately eight times higher than that of other inmates, the elderly are often physically incapable of complying with the routine daily tasks required of prison inmates. This paper will explore current

strategies and proposed future plans for addressing the issues associated with the growing elderly inmate population.

THURSDAY 6:30-8:00 PM

6:30-8:00 PM

Presidential Reception & Dinner—Cash Bar

Pin Point Heritage Museum

924 Pin Point Ave,

Savannah, GA 31406

Silent Auction - proceeds support student travel scholarships

FRIDAY 8:00 AM

8:00 - 11:00 AM

Conference Registration

Ballroom Lobby

8:00-9:30 AM

Coffee

Ballroom Lobby

FRIDAY 8:00AM-9:15 AM

8:00-9:15 AM

Session 10

Ballroom A

New Directions in Social Theory

Moderator: Melvyn Fein, Kennesaw State University

An Unequal City: The Making of Bombay/Mumbai

Ravi Ghadge, Kennesaw State University, rghadge@kennesaw.edu

Literature on “global cities” has been criticized for ignoring the long-term historical context within which cities articulate the relationship between the global and the local. Employing a longue durée approach of globalization, this paper historicizes the unequal and uneven nature of contemporary urban development in Mumbai, India’s “global city.” The paper uses two analytical frames: the “port city” and the “colonial city” to highlight the interconnectedness and the unequal nature of power that historically produced and perpetuated inequality in Bombay/Mumbai.

A New South-South Development Paradigm?:

China’s Global Outreach with Latin American and Caribbean Countries

George Danns, University of North Georgia, george.danns@ung.edu

Donna Danns, University of North Georgia, donna.danns@ung.edu

This paper identifies the economic and political relations of China, as an emergent global super power, with Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries and assesses the implications of these relations for the development of the region. It is postulated that what has been emerging from these engagements between China and the LACs is a New South-South Development Paradigm which may pose a viable challenge to the prevailing dominance of the region by the center nations of the West.

Issues and Resources in Community Power Studies: A Constructive Typology

Rodger A. Bates, Clayton State University, rodgerbates@clayton.edu

"Issues and Resources in Community Power Studies: A Constructive Typology" moves beyond the traditional "elitist"/"pluralist" debate and focuses on the potential analyses of the roles of issues and resources within a more systemic perspective of urban leadership and decision-making. The proposed typology is an initial step in understanding the context of community power and suggests to a more robust and relevant approach to addressing the complexity of a systems perspective of the urban environment.

Social Individualism: The True Arrow of History

Melvyn L. Fein, Kennesaw State University, mfein@kennesaw.edu

It is conventional to regard liberalism as the goal of political development. This ideological paradigm is frequently described as progressive and assumes that Marx's analysis of history is correct. In fact, a neo-functional analysis may be more accurate. The crucial fulcrum of change is not control over the means of production, but the achievement of social solidarity in a mass techno-commercial society. As societies have grown and become more complex, first spiritual collectivism, then market individualism, and more recently bureaucratic collectivism have provided necessary adhesive power. Now social individualism is poised to take over this role. This new perspective is better able to underwrite our growing professionalization.

8:00-9:15AM

Session 11

Ballroom B

Perspectives on Inequality

Moderator: Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Gender Stratification in Russia

Natasha Trotsiouk, University of North Georgia, natrot9744@ung.edu

During Soviet rule in Russia, there was a sense of equality among genders that existed in all spheres of society. With the collapse of the Soviet rule came the collapse of gender equality. Russian women face inequality today due to market, economic, and social changes after a brief time spent in an egalitarian society. Their inequality is found in occupational segregation, lack of labor mobility, and discrimination in the work place.

Begging in India: To Give or Not to Give Alms

Philip Thomas, Paine College, PThomas@paine.edu

In spite of India's rapid economic growth, India is still a poverty driven country which lead to the growth of beggars in the country. There are a number of people, including children, who live on the streets and beg for the whole day to eat a meal. Begging has become a big racket in

the country and it thrives on lost children. Many of these children are kidnapped and forced to work as beggars for organized criminal groups. What measures should the government and other organization take to solve this social problem?

Your Blues Ain't Like Mine: Has the South Really Transformed?

Marva Stewart, Paine College, mstewart@paine.edu

Jeffrey Lanier Jones, Paine College , JJones3@paine.edu

As demonstrated in Bebe Moore Campbell's novel, Your Blues Ain't Like Mine, which is loosely based on the Emmett Till story, all Americans, especially Southerners, are affected by racial strife and racism. This presentation will juxtapose the novel's plot with real events during Till's time and current day events to examine if the current moment displays progress in overcoming racial tension.

The Matilda Effect in Leading Sociology Journals

Diogo L Pinheiro, Savannah State University, pinheirod@savannahstate.edu

The Matthew effect states that rewards and recognition tend to flow to established scholars in prestigious positions. A parallel process to the Matthew Effect is the Matilda Effect, which has found that women's contributions to science tend to be overlooked or downplayed. Using data from 1992 to 2002, I analyze citation patterns in sociological journals. This paper shows that male lead authors from top departments have an advantage in citations when compared to other groups.

8:00- 9:15 AM

SESSION 12

Ballroom C

Learning by Doing: High Impact Teaching Practices

Moderator: David Strickland, East Georgia State College

"What Do You Mean There's No Lecture?":

Using a Service Learning Project and Student-Led Discussions to Teach Social Stratification

Rebecca Nees, Middle Georgia State University, rebecca.nees@mga.edu

Providing students with opportunities to link real-world experiences with knowledge gained in their courses has become a predominant focus among higher education professionals. This presentation discusses the use of a service-learning project designed to connect community service experience with issues pertaining to social stratification through assignments, readings, and discussions and student feedback on these teaching methods.

Service-Learning among the Elderly in Georgia

Orsolya Kolozsvari, College of Coastal Georgia, okolozsvari@ccga.edu

Cassandra Lee, College of Coastal Georgia

Lindsey Hipschen, College of Coastal Georgia

The proposed presentation addresses a professor's and students' perspectives on results of a service-learning project at Home Life on Glyngo, a residence for the elderly in Brunswick, GA. The students explored stereotypes, ageism, sociological mindfulness, as well as Cooley's looking glass self in the lives of the elderly. They also studied feeling rules and the gendering of bodies, linking it all to class material on the self and society.

Using Instagram: A New Idea for Increasing Student Learning

Richard Newton, Columbus State University, newton_richard@columbusstate.edu

Fifty-three undergraduate students enrolled in two sections of an introductory course in sociology were required to either post responses to a standard text discussion forum or record 15-second Instagram responses. Both sections were also asked to rate the postings of their fellow students. Results show that students in the Instagram group performed better on 12 exams that were identical for both sections. Limitations of the study are discussed, as are suggestions for future research.

FRIDAY 9:30-10:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:30-10:45 PM

Session 13

Ballroom A

Community Studies

Moderator: Sara F. Mason, University of North Georgia

Promoting Active Transportation and Community Health in South Central Georgia

Anne Price, Valdosta State University, annprice@valdosta.edu

Carl M. Hand, Valdosta State University, chand@valdosta.edu

This research examines the relationship between transportation and health for the 18 county area of the South Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC). The region's health profile varies by county but evidences overall a number of health risk factors. The prevalence of walking and cycling as mode shares of transportation are low but higher in disadvantaged Census tracts. A multi-method approach is needed to increase walking and bicycling safety and decrease bike/walk crash and fatality rates.

Advancing the Development of Rural Locales: The Case for Rural Amenities

Harry L. Vogel, East Georgia State College, hvogel@ega.edu

Past research has increasingly identified amenities as important ‘pull’ factors encouraging people to move to and visit non-metropolitan areas. Moreover, previous research suggests that rural amenities enhance the quality of life of those areas and, therefore, encourage people to stay in a particular non-metropolitan locale. However, little consensus has been reached on just what amenities are or what they refer to. This paper will review pertinent literature as well as attempt to conceptualize amenities for the purposes of further research.

***From Mass Consumer Society to a Society of Consumers:
Consumption and the Experience of Community in Late Modernity***

Josh Stovall, Georgia Highlands College, jstovall@highlands.edu

Matthew R. Colling, Canadian Red Cross

Jeremy Flaherty, Danville, Indiana

Michael R. Cope, Brigham Young University

Ralph B. Brown, Brigham Young University

Scholars argue that consumption of goods and services has eclipsed the local community as the locus of contact between the individual and society. Residents of two Mississippi Delta communities, in 1996 and again in 2007, were asked how often they shopped for consumable items outside of their communities. Logistic regression demonstrates a significant interaction effect between year and outshopping. These results may reflect larger shifts in society, as the function which community traditionally served may have been replaced.

9:30-10:45 PM

Session 14

Ballroom B

Children and the Family

Moderator: David Strickland, East Georgia State College

Adoption Processes and Relationships

Victoria Allegood, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, vallegoo@stallions.abac.edu

The purpose of this study is to examine how adopted children are integrated into their new families and to find possible ways to make the adoption process easier on children and parents involved. Using thematic analysis, the data is separated into three themes: “perfect fit”, misconceptions, and legalities. Findings suggest that each adoption is different, so each family connects in different ways, but there is usually a way to make that process better.

Family Structure and Delinquent Behavior

Elijah Banks, University of West Georgia, ebanks4@my.westga.edu

This research examines if there is a positive correlation between adolescents' family structures and rates of delinquency during high school. Though existing Sociological studies on this subject suggests so, this may not be the case at all. My research is important when understanding whether previous research on this subject is reliable and whether being raised in a single-parent household is harmful to an adolescent's behavioral development.

Violence Prevention in Georgia's Rural Public Schools: An Analysis of Three Decades of Data from School Superintendents

Chet Ballard, Valdosta State University, cballard@valdosta.edu

Rudy Prine, Valdosta State University, rprine@valdosta.edu

Survey data from Georgia's rural public school superintendents collected in 1995, 2005, and 2015 forms the basis of this longitudinal study of school safety and violence prevention. The analysis compares responses across the three decades and provides a look at changes over time in school policies, violence prevention strategies, and the role of technology.

9:30- 10:45 AM

SESSION 15

Ballroom C

Student Papers

Moderator: Donald Gregory, Reinhardt University

Pub Culture in London

Nia Odessa McClurkin, Reinhardt University, mcclurkin119215@students.reinhardt.edu

This paper defines what constitutes a traditional British pub and what has changed the pub from what it was to what it is today. This paper also outlines the various definitions of "pub culture" and pub etiquette such as when/where to order, how to get noticed, and how to speak to the natives and regulars.

A Solution to the Mental Illness Crisis in Juvenile Mental Health Courts

Lindsey Gattman, Armstrong State University, lindseygattman@gmail.com

This research paper looks at the mental illness crisis gripping this country and how the criminal justice system is having to take on this burden. Looking at the history of mental illness in this country as well as the various laws passed to help alleviate this burden. A focus is put on Mental Health Courts and how this program is able to address problems and keep individuals out of jail.

C. Wright Mills: American Sociologist

Holly Hampton, Clayton State University, HollyHampton@clayton.edu

Charles Wright Mills, or C. Wright Mills, had many professions during his lifetime. He was a journalist, professor, critic, theorist, and eventually became one of the most influential sociologists in America. Mills was committed to social change due to incidents of oppression that he witnessed. This presentation explores the life of C. Wright Mills to discover how his upbringing affected his legacy and the ways in which he affected contemporary sociology.

Charles Wright Mills

Elizabeth Camp, Clayton State University, ecamp@student.clayton.edu

Mills was pragmatic in his approach and followed classical sociology using analysis to interpret sociocultural systems. His writings were of interest to intellectuals as well as sociologists. Mills studied and wrote on topics that interested him and his independent background enabled him to take on topics that were unpopular, but important to him. Mills personal life was tumultuous at times, but professionally he enjoyed great success.

FRIDAY 11:00-12:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00-12:15 PM

SESSION 16

Ballroom A

Sociological Perspectives on Violence and Trauma

Moderator: Alison Hatch, Armstrong State University

Terrorism: Motivation and Theory

Koye Wayne Korbl, University of West Georgia, kkorbl1@my.westga.edu

This paper attempts to determine motivations behind terrorism from the perspectives of Rational Choice Theory and Social Solidarity Theory. Understanding motivation for terrorist acts cannot be determined uni-dimensionally and different levels of terrorist organizations are best understood using different theories – with individual suicide bombers' motivations best explained by Social Solidarity Theory and sponsoring organizations' motives best explained by Rational Choice Theory.

Rape Culture in the Military: Building her Up and Breaking her Down

Steven Hawkins, Armstrong State University, hawkins.steven.g@gmail.com

This study's purpose is to explore and create awareness about the culture of rape within the military. While contemporary efforts have been made to curb sexual violence within the ranks,

little is done to address the underlying rape culture that exists. Based on an analysis of existing research and personal anecdotes, this paper discusses the military atmosphere of intimidation and misogyny and the widespread mishandling of reported sexual assaults.

PTSD: What We Know and Don't Know

Shane M. Kiral, Columbus State University, Kiral_Shane@ColumbusState.edu

Richard Newton, Columbus State University, newton_richard@columbusstate.edu

Current research reports around 22 suicides per day among veterans. Methods being used to treat PTSD range from counseling to fitness regimens, though most are designed around the family. Our research finds that those who know someone with PTSD are slightly more likely to recognize signs and symptoms of PTSD and only 30.5% judged the military as having an effective treatment plan for vets suffering from PTSD.

11:00-12:15 PM

SESSION 17

Ballroom B

**Georgia Transforms into A Battleground State in The Upcoming Presidential Election
- Sociological Implications**

Moderator: Karen Young, Clayton State University

Georgia Acts to Become a Battle Ground State for the 2016 Presidential Election

Karen Young, Clayton State University, KarenYoung@clayton.edu

Georgia has the opportunity this November to change the course of history by turning its voter turnout from the traditional conservative majority voters to a majority of liberal voters who go to the polls. This presentation will examine some of the major issues to pay attention to as the South and the United States braces for what can become another historical landmark for our country.

The Issue of 'Black Lives Matter' for the 2016 Presidential Candidates

Barbara Thomas, Clayton State University

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has moved America's domestic agenda regarding violence and systemic racism toward Blacks to the "front of the bus" throughout the 2016 presidential race. This group's unrelenting protests and calls for criminal justice reform has forced police brutality and the "War on Black Men" to become major topics of discussion for all presidential candidates. BLM has also helped the country's next generation or the Millennials come of age and realize their significant political power.

Are Transgender Relations Important in the 2016 Presidential Election?

Jeannie Detar, Clayton State University

The transgendered community's influence on the presidential election in GA depends on the weight of direct and indirect influences of transgendered culture. Though they are a minority within a minority, pop culture, including social media, is shining a light on transgendered issues even as southern states are disenfranchising minorities. However, even in the face of such blatant bias the transgendered community continues to influence and sway the opinions of the American public.

Women at the Forefront of our Nation's Present and Future

Velinsie Burden, Clayton State University

The 2016 Presidential Election marks a pivotal change in the politics of the United States. For the first time, an establishment party has nominated a woman to hold the office of president. The former Secretary of State's viability to be elected the first woman president places women at the forefront of this election cycle and alters social barriers that have systemically challenged women in advancing to executive leadership positions in public office.

11:00-12:15PM

SESSION 18

Ballroom C

Managing the Challenges of Classroom Diversity

Moderators:

Amanda K. Damarin, GSU-Perimeter

Romney S. Norwood, GSU-Perimeter

Panelists:

George E. Lonberger, GSU-Perimeter

Romney S. Norwood, GSU-Perimeter

Brenda Beach, Athens Technical College

Amanda K. Damarin, Ph.D., GSU-Perimeter

We increasingly teach students who are diverse in terms of social categories (ethnicity, age), resources (money, academic preparation), and life experiences (parenting, addiction, military service). This panel will address relevant pedagogical questions such as: How can we communicate to fragmented audiences who do not all "speak the same language"? Can we support the least-prepared without forsaking the best-prepared? How can we increase students' chances of collegiate success, given widely varied needs?

FRIDAY 12:30 PM

12:30 PM

Talmadge Grill

GSA Incoming and Outgoing Executive Board Meeting and Lunch

Thank you!

It has truly been my pleasure to create this program. The research that will be presented at this year's meeting represents institutions from across the state and covers a rich variety of ideas from students and faculty alike. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to prepare and present your work in Savannah. Additionally, thank you to the members of the executive board for their planning and hard work. I am looking forward to seeing you again at the next GSA conference!

Sincerely,
Sara Mason
University of North Georgia

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

Sociologist of the Year Award Winners

Peggy Herrman	2001-02	Claire Sterk	2009-10
Robert Agnew	2002-03	Lana Wachniak	2010-11
Jacqueline Boles	2003-04	Miriam Boeri	2011-12
Douglas Bachtel	2004-05	Michael Hodge	2012-13
Catherine Meeks	2005-06	Ralph LaRossa	2013-14
Barbara Karcher	2006-07	Linda Grant	2014-15
Sandra Stone	2007-08	Kathleen Lowney	2015-16
Charlie Jaret	2008-09		

Meritorious Service Award Winners

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



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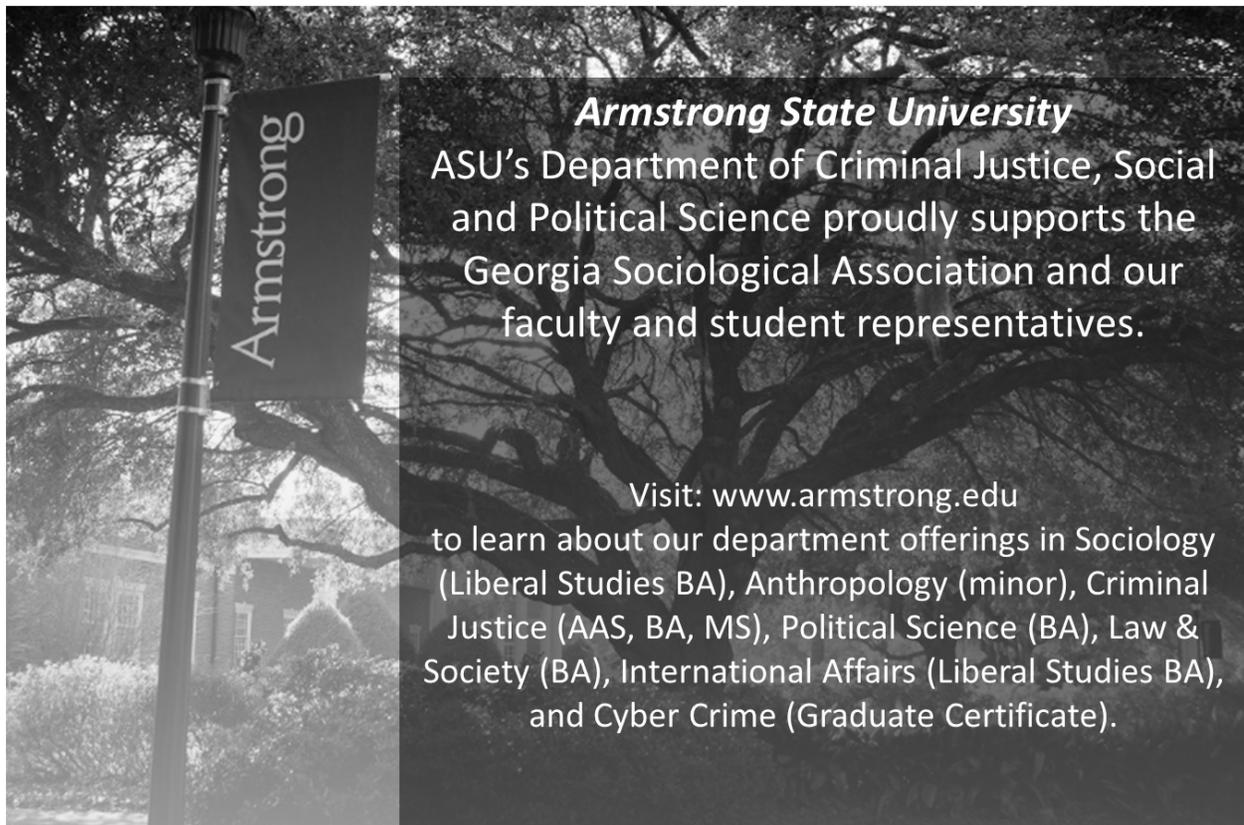
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