



# Semaphore

The official Newsletter of the Georgia Sociological  
Association

July 2021

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## Letter from the President

Dear GSA Community:

We are all excited to welcome you to the 2021 GSA annual conference which will take place on November 4-6, 2021, at Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge. Located near Buford in metropolitan Atlanta, Lake Lanier Lodge is an ideal setting for team building meetings and conferences, has miles of hiking and biking trails and great access to the most diverse immigrant communities and restaurants in the state of Georgia.

The theme of this year's conference is "Georgia and the New Sociology of the South". I would like us to debate and research together the impact of the pandemic on the transformation of Georgia and its new place in the economy, society, and politics of the US South. You are encouraged to share with us your 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.

A block of rooms is available for conference attendees at the rate of 159\$/night. Conference attendees may use the GSA discount 2 days before and 2 days after the conference if they wish to stay longer at the lodge. Please call 770 945 8787 to reserve your rooms early, so we know in advance if we must increase the number of rooms reserved for GSA if needed. Please mention that you would like to use the GSA discount, so you can book the rooms allocated for the GSA. We would also like to encourage you apply or renew your GSA membership for this year. The student membership (50\$) and regular membership (150\$) grant you access to attend the conference, including luncheon, reception, and refreshments during the conference. Please go to our GSA main page and scroll down to the bottom for Membership.

After a gap year during the 2020 pandemic, we are excited to learn from your best practices in teaching, research, and practice, and to see you all the conference in November. Please join us!

Sincerely,

Darina Lepadatu, PhD

GSA President

## **Georgia Sociological Association Annual Conference:**

**November 4-6, 2021**

**Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge, GA**



After almost a decade, our conference is returning to the metropolitan Atlanta area, a central location with easy access from the entire state. Located in Buford, Lanier Islands Legacy Lodge is on a lake, minutes from Pine Isle Golf Course, and close to Lake Lanier Islands. This beach lodge is within the vicinity of Buford Dam Park and Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Most notable, Gwinnett County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation and the most cosmopolitan region of Georgia, so get ready to sample its famous variety of ethnic cuisines.

With the vaccination efforts well under way in Georgia, we have high hope to deliver a safe and successful face to face conference in November 2021, following all the CDC guidance and regulations. Looking forward to seeing you all in November!!

## Call for Papers



### CALL FOR PAPERS

2021 Georgia Sociological Association Meeting

Dates: November 4-6

Lake Lanier Lodge

## Georgia and the New Sociology of the South

Please find below information about the following:

1. Paper Presentation Proposals
2. Workshop or Panel Proposals
3. GSA Student Paper Awards
4. GSA Faculty Awards
5. Please indicate if you are submitting more than one paper or panel. **Use the online form for each submission.**
6. Deadline for all applications is: **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.** Please submit early! We will notify you of your acceptance shortly after we receive a successful application, but the final program with exact dates and times will be finalized around October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **FORM A – Paper Presentation – 2021 GSA Meeting**

November 4-6 at Lake Lanier Lodge

Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please submit your paper proposal by clicking on the link below:

[GSA 2021 Paper Submission Form](#)

The form will be submitted to Anne Borden automatically. You may select “Send me a copy of my responses” for you own records. Please direct any questions to Anne at [anne.borden@wgu.edu](mailto:anne.borden@wgu.edu) with GSA 2021 in the subject line.

**Anne Borden, PhD**

Vice-President of Georgia Sociological Association  
Western Governors University

## **FORM B – COMPLETE SESSION PROPOSAL – 2021 GSA Meeting**

November 4-6 at Lake Lanier Lodge

Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please submit your proposal by clicking on link below:

[GSA 2021 Panel/Workshop Submission Form](#)

The form will be submitted to Anne Borden automatically. You may select “Send me a copy of my responses” for you own records. Please direct any questions to Anne at [anne.borden@wgu.edu](mailto:anne.borden@wgu.edu) with GSA 2021 in the subject line.

**Anne Borden, PhD**

Vice-President of Georgia Sociological Association  
Western Governors University

## **FORM C – STUDENT PAPER AWARDS –**

### **2021 GSA Meetings**

**November 4-6 at Lake Lanier Lodge**

Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>. Email to [carly.redding@ung.edu](mailto:carly.redding@ung.edu)

GSA offers First Place, Second Place and Third Place Awards for both the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Paper competition. We are looking for well written and articulate papers that are sociological in nature. Special consideration will be given to papers that:

-apply sociological themes, theories, and analysis

-discuss research projects conducted by the author(s)

-length and format: min. 15 pages (undergraduate papers) and min. 20 pages (graduate papers), Times New Roman 12 double space. Papers should follow the American Sociological Association guidelines in format and paper structure, and should have a cover page including the title, student name and affiliation, student status (undergraduate or graduate student), faculty advisor name and affiliation, and short abstract of no more than 200 words. While faculty advisors may provide mentorship on student's work, the student papers submitted for this competition must be entirely authored by the student.

- student award winners must be available to present their papers and receive the award in person at the 2021 GSA Conference

Completed Papers must be received by **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**Email your papers to Carly Redding at: [carly.redding@ung.edu](mailto:carly.redding@ung.edu)**

**Carly Redding, PhD**

**Past President of GSA**

**University of North Georgia**

## **GSA Faculty Awards Guidelines**

**Sociologist of the Year Award.** The purpose of this lifetime achievement award is to solicit nominations in order to recognize an outstanding sociologist who made a significant impact in the field of Sociology in the state of Georgia. The application should include: 1) letter of support offering a brief rationale for nomination; 2) Curriculum Vitae of nominee. 3) a brief narrative highlighting the nominee's impact in the field of Sociology (up to 3 pages). Self-nominations are also accepted. All the application materials should be submitted as one PDF document.

**Meritorious Service Award.** The purpose of this award is to recognize the outstanding service of a GSA member for our professional association. The application should include: 1) letter of support offering a brief rationale for nomination; 2) Curriculum Vitae of nominee. 3) brief narrative highlighting the nominee's service engagement with the GSA. All the application materials should be submitted as one PDF document.

### **Outstanding Teaching Award**

The purpose of this award is to honor a GSA member for outstanding contributions to the teaching of sociology at the undergraduate and/or graduate level. The recipients of the award must be members of the GSA with a minimum of 5 years teaching experience. The award recipient will be invited to share their teaching expertise during a Teaching related presentation/workshop at the GSA annual conference. The applications should include: 1) Curriculum Vitae; 2) a brief narrative highlighting the candidate's excellence in teaching (up to 3 pages); 3) relevant supporting materials (syllabi, data analysis of student evaluations, textbooks, manuals, or any other evidence that demonstrate excellence in teaching); 4) minimum one letter of support explaining how the nominee has excelled in the teaching of sociology. All the application materials should be submitted as one PDF document.

### **Outstanding Publication Award**

The purpose of this award is to honor a GSA member for an outstanding peer reviewed publication (e.g. book/ journal article). The recipient of the award must be a member of the GSA. The award recipient will be invited to discuss about the research publication during a Research related presentation/ workshop/ Meet the Author session at the GSA annual conference. The publication submitted should have a publication date in the past two years. The applications should include: 1) Curriculum Vitae; 2) PDF copy of the publication; 3) short narrative highlighting the quality and significance of the publication; 4) relevant supporting materials to show the significance and impact of the publication (book reviews, impact/ citation factor, book sales, course adoption etc.). All the application materials should be submitted as one PDF document.

**Please forward your application for these awards to: Darina Lepadatu, PhD, President of GSA, [dlepadat@kennesaw.edu](mailto:dlepadat@kennesaw.edu) by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**

## News and Notes

### Kennesaw State University

#### Sociology professor Darina Lepadatu earns international book award

KSU professor and GSA President Darina Lepadatu was awarded the 2021 Best Book Award by the International Lean Six Sigma Institute in Cambridge, UK.

“Cambridge University Press, one of the top presses in the world, really loved our project because of its interdisciplinary nature and because we're trying to create a dialogue between disciplines that do not always talk to each other: management, engineering and the social sciences,” she said. “I am thrilled of this recognition. You don't get an international award every day.”

See more at <https://radow.kennesaw.edu/about/news/posts/2021-06-14-darina-lepadatu-story.php>

## University of North Georgia

### The Sociological Dictionary Exercise: An Instructional Note

David Broad, University of North Georgia

We have typically been instructed in the use of the dictionary for the purpose of finding definitions, spelling, pronunciation, etymology and usage – things we don't know about a word. That instruction begins in early elementary grades. The sociological use of the dictionary is about looking up words that we DO know, for the purpose of finding differences between what we know and the official dictionary definitions. Here's how the sociological dictionary exercise works and what it can accomplish: first, we identify a word or list of words that are in common English usage and that we DO know. Then, before opening the dictionary, we write down the definition of the word as we know it. Then we look up the word in the dictionary. No matter how close our own definition is to the official definition in the dictionary, there will be differences – they can be small, but they should not be ignored. (Note: students will tend to minimize the differences, because they are motivated to be right, but it is precisely the differences that we are after!) The differences are accounted for by what symbolic interactionists have referred to as experiential associations – elements of our understanding of the meaning of a symbol that have been shaped by previous exposures and experience with the symbol. The two parts of every symbol are the shared associations, which are the meanings we have in common with other people of our culture, and for which the dictionary is the most reliable source, and the experiential associations which probably include the shared associations, but also have the unique personal sources of the pattern of our experiences which shape our mind, our self/identity, and ultimately our society. The dictionary exercise is a valuable tool for a sociologist and a useful pedagogical device. Once we have found a difference between the personal definition written and the dictionary definitions, we can ask “where did that difference come from?” When done numerous times, over an extended period, the differences between experiential associations and dictionary (shared) associations can reveal patterns, such as are created by social class, education, cultural background, gender, generation, and attitudes and values.