



Semaphore

The official Newsletter of the Georgia Sociological
Association

January 2021

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Letter from the President

January 5th, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

To say that 2020 was an unprecedented and tumultuous year would be an understatement. As the COVID19 pandemic had challenged us in so many ways, we have discovered how Sociology as a discipline is more relevant than ever. Medical Sociology and Public Health, Race, Policing and Social Justice, Social Inequality, Future of Work, Race, Gender and Politics are currently topics in the mainstream discourse of 2020. The recently completed 2020 US Census will also be a great resource to inform our future research on the social trends in Georgia and the nation.

Although we did not have a traditional face to face conference in 2020, GSA was hard at work to engage with our community of scholars. One of the key moments of the year, the Keynote Lecture delivered by our GSA Sociologist of the Year Dr. Cynthia Neals Spence from Spelman College, was delivered on November 6th, 2020. Attended by more than 250 participants, this virtual event focused on “Answering the Call for Social Justice”. Dr Spence’s talk analyzed the myriad ways social scientists have interrogated the intersectional spaces occupied by marginalized communities and how their contributions have created a vocabulary and advocacy agenda for social justice engagement. While we have received a record number of nominations for the GSA Sociologist of the Year Award and the Student Paper Awards, we would like to remind you that GSA is also offering new awards for Outstanding Teaching and Outstanding Scholarship.

As we start the new journey into the new year, I would like to send you my warmest wishes for great health and strength to be there for our students, families and communities during these times of need and to use this unique moment in our history to enrich our teaching and practice of Sociology. With the new vaccination efforts starting in Georgia, I am hopeful that we will transition into the last stage of our fight against the pandemic. Thank you for the confidence that you have granted to our GSA Executive Board to organize a new and exciting face to face conference in November 2021. Details to follow.

Happy New Year!!

Darina Lepadatu

GSA President

2021 GSA Annual Conference

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!!

2020 Georgia Sociologist of the Year



Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Spelman College and Director of the UNCF/Mellon Programs. As Director of the UNCF/Mellon Programs, Dr. Spence creates, manages and oversees a suite of future faculty development and faculty career enhancement programs for UNCF (United Negro College Fund) students and faculty. Under her leadership, students are groomed to enter the Ph.D. pipeline and faculty throughout the UNCF consortium are supported in their development as teachers and scholars. The UNCF/Mellon Programs are housed at Spelman College and are funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Her teaching and research interests in the areas of sociology, criminology, law and violence against women support the Law and Criminology concentration in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Spence has served in the capacities of Assistant Dean for Freshman Studies, Associate Academic Dean and Academic Dean at Spelman College. Her interest in issues of higher education access, service-learning, gender role socialization and violence against women frame her research, writing, community service involvement and public speaking. Her publications include “A Woman’s College Perspective on the Education of Men” (2004) in *New Directors for Student Series* and “The Spelman College Total Person Commits to Positive Social Change” (2006) in *Engaging Departments: Moving Faculty Cultures from Private to Public, Individual to Collective Force for the Common Good*, “Does Race Trump Gender? Black Women Negotiating their Spaces of Intersection in the 2008 Presidential Campaign” which is included in the edited volume *Who Should Be First? Feminists Speak Out on the 2008 Presidential Campaign* (2010) and most recently, “How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? The Missing Kerner Commission Report.

Dr. Spence serves as the Director for the Spelman College Social Justice Fellows Program. She is committed to helping Spelman women fully actualize their commitment to “*making a choice to change the world*” through **social justice advocacy**. She has served as consultant for the Duke University Center for Exemplary Mentoring, the Ford Foundation Institutional Transformation Project, the University of Chicago Provost Initiative on Minority Affairs, the Agnes Scott College Center for Teaching and Learning, the Georgia Department of Corrections, and the Duke University Office of Graduate Student Affairs.

Dr. Spence is a graduate of Spelman College where she earned her B.A. degree. She earned both the Masters and Ph.D. degrees from Rutgers University.

2020 GSA Meritorious Service Award



Brandon K. Attell is the 2020 recipient of the Meritorious Service Award. He has been an active member of GSA since 2011, serving as a Member at Large on the Executive Board from 2018-2019 and Deputy Editor for *The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology* since 2019. Attell currently works as a contractor at the CDC, splitting time between the Mathematical Modeling Unit and Data Science & Analytics Team in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. His work at CDC focuses on the use of large administrative databases to improve risk adjustment models for healthcare associated infections and to evaluate patient sharing networks across healthcare facilities in infectious disease outbreaks. He is currently ABD in the Research, Measurement, and Statistics PhD program at GSU, completing his dissertation titled “Accuracy of Estimates in Hierarchical Age-Period-Cohort Models: Considering Larger Datasets and Cohort Selection Mechanisms.” His published research can be found in journals such as *Social Science Research*, *Qualitative Health Research*, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, *Journal of Death and Dying*, *Evaluation & the Health Professions*, *Advances in Medical Sociology*, and *Illness, Crisis, & Loss*.

2020 Student Paper Awards

Best Undergraduate Paper

1st Place - A Comprehensive Study on the Relationship between Religion and Gaming, Ryan Smith, Clayton State University

2nd Place- Women's Sexual Health in Georgia: Teenage Pregnancy, Sex Education, and The New Fetal Heartbeat Law, Callie Bernstein, Laura Brockmann, Kiara Graves, and Melissa Hooper, Kennesaw State University

3rd Place - Racial Disparities in Georgia: Looking into the Sectors of Employment, Education, Housing, Criminal Justice, Leandra Girma, Kaci Gilmer, Devin Johnson, Michael Kennedy, Kennesaw State University

Best Graduate Student Paper

1st Place- Untangling the Effects of Racism and Sexism on Mental Health, Jennifer McDonnell, Emory University

2nd Place- Diversity Management: Navigating Race and Identity in the French Workplace, Catherine Dietsch, Kennesaw State University

2020-2021 GSA Executive Board

President:

Darina Lepadatu: Kennesaw State University

Darina Lepadatu is Professor of Organizational Sociology and International Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University. She holds a Master's in Non-Profit Organizations from University of Bucharest and a PhD in Sociology from University of Kentucky. Her research interests are: organizational and intercultural conflict, diversity in the workplace and transnational migration. Growing up in Romania, Darina witnessed the fall of communism and transition to democratic society which had led her passion for the study and teaching of sociology. Prior to coming to the US, she had worked for the Ministry of Education and Research in Romania and participated in the negotiations for Romania's accession to the European Union. At Kennesaw State University, she teaches online and face-to-face classes with undergraduates and supervises dissertations on organizational and intercultural conflict for the PhD Program in International Conflict Management. Darina had published numerous articles and four books, *Diversity at Kaizen Motors: Gender, Race, Age and Insecurity in a Top Japanese Transplant and Dominant Divisions of Labor: Models of Production that Have Transformed the World of Work*, *Framing and Managing Lean Organizations in the New Economy* and the *Cambridge International Handbook of Lean Production* (co-authored with Tom Janoski). She is one of the few sociologists in the country conducting research on employment and labor relations in the auto industry.

President Elect:

Pamela Pitman Brown: Albany State University

Pamela Pitman Brown is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Albany State University. She holds a PhD in Social Gerontology from Miami University (OH), a Master's in Sociology from the University of South Alabama, and a B.S. in Curriculum and Education from Auburn University. Her research interests are in aging/life course, pedagogy, and relationship formation. She recently was selected as a Senior Faculty Fellow in the Center for Faculty Excellence and received ASU's Scholar of the Year Award. Pam has published numerous articles and two books, most recently in 2020, *Social Theories of Aging* with Drs. Kelly Niles-Yokum and Hallie Baker. She previously taught at Winston-Salem State University, University of Central Missouri, Eastern Michigan University, and Muskingum University.

Vice-President:

Anne Borden: Western Governors University

Anne Borden is a Sociology Faculty member at Western Governors University. She received her PhD in Sociology from Emory University, her Master's in Sociology at the University of New Hampshire, and her BA in Anthropology and Sociology from Rhodes College. Anne served on the GSA Board as Parliamentarian from 2018-2019, and as Member at large (Applied/Clinical) from 2017-2018 and 2016-2017.

Members at Large:

Ravi Ghadge: Kennesaw State University

Ravi Ghadge is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and the Sociology Program Coordinator at Kennesaw State University. He completed his PhD in sociology (with a specialization in Transnational Sociology) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Ghadge's research and teaching interests include transnational studies, urban studies, social development, social theory, qualitative methods, South Asia, and India. Dr. Ghadge's primary research focuses on how development planning addresses social inequality. Empirically, he studies this through his research on urban development—a key problematic that seeks to balance high growth and reduction in poverty and inequality in Asia. Dr. Ghadge is also currently involved in an interdisciplinary research project on racial emotions. Employing a mixed methodology, the team comprising of faculty and undergraduate students in psychology and sociology explore the affective dimensions of racial experiences among the KSU students, faculty, and staff. The goal of the study is to improve the overall racial climate and student retention, progression, and wellbeing on campus.

Allen Hyde: Georgia Institute of Technology

Allen Hyde Allen is an Assistant Professor in the School of History and Sociology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He completed his PhD and Master's in sociology at the University of Connecticut, and his BA in history/sociology at the University of Alabama Birmingham. He is a quantitative scholar whose main research areas are stratification and inequality, urban sociology, work and occupations, and immigration. He has published research on the effects of financialization on income inequality in affluent nations, the relationship between immigration and earnings inequality in small towns and major metropolitan areas in the United States, discrimination in job hiring, and the effects of the Great Recession on the college earnings premium. He is currently conducting research on the effects of race/ethnicity and immigration status on homeownership, social and demographic change in Clarkston, GA (known as the most diverse square mile in America), and flood and heat vulnerability's relationship to social vulnerability in neighborhoods of Savannah, GA.

Jewrell Rivers: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Jewrell Rivers is a Professor of Sociology, Marriage and Family, and Criminal Justice at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Tift County Commission of Children and Youth (TCCCY) and the Advisory Board for the Department of Social Work at Albany State University. He is also active on the Planning Committee for the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Conference. Along with his vast teaching duties, Dr. Rivers has also published research manuscripts in the Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research (JEQR), the Journal of Family Social Work (JFSW) and the Law Enforcement Executive Forum (LEEF). Along with his manuscript publications, Dr. Rivers has held professional memberships in the Georgia Sociological Association (GSA), The National Council of Family Relations (NCFR), the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), the Southeastern Council of Family Relations (SECFR) and the Rural Sociological Society (RSS). Statewide responsibilities include teaching sociology for eCore and serving on the Regents Advisory Committee for sociology (RAC). Most importantly, Dr. Rivers models community leadership and social advocacy for his students and strives to provide opportunities for them to engage civic, charitable and non-profit organizations and agencies.

Recording Officer

Devon Goss: Emory University

Devon Goss is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Oxford College of Emory University. She completed her PhD in 2018 at the University of Connecticut in Sociology with a graduate certificate in Feminist Studies. Much of her research centers on the experiences of those who cross racial boundaries, including transracial families, non-Black members of Black sororities and fraternities, and white students at HBCUs. She is an active participant in the Southern Sociological Society, Sociologists for Women in Society, and the Society for the Study of Social Problems, where she has been involved in student mentoring programs, conference planning, and organizing conference sessions. Devon joined the Georgia Sociological Association in 2019 and attended her first annual conference last year. She is excited to become more involved with her statewide sociological association and build connections between Georgia sociology programs.

Financial Officer

Michallene McDaniel: University of North Georgia

Michallene is a Professor of Sociology & Human Services at the University of North Georgia. She has been an active member of the GSA since 2002, and has served as an At-Large Member, Vice-President and Program Chair (twice!), and as President of the organization. In recent years she has served as a member of the ad hoc Registration Committee. She would like to apply her institutional memory and her ability to work well with committees to the role of Financial Officer, to ensure the economic health, transparency, and long-term stability of the GSA.

Semaphore Editor:

Diogo Pinheiro: University of North Georgia

Diogo Pinheiro is an assistant professor of sociology at the UNG Gainesville Campus. He received his Ph.D. and Master's in sociology from Emory University, and was a Post Doctoral fellow at Georgia Tech. Dr. Pinheiro's teaching and research focuses on economic and cultural factors that influence inequality, especially with regards to education and scientific careers. Diogo has served on the GSA Board for several years as the Semaphore Editor and Web Manager.

News and Events

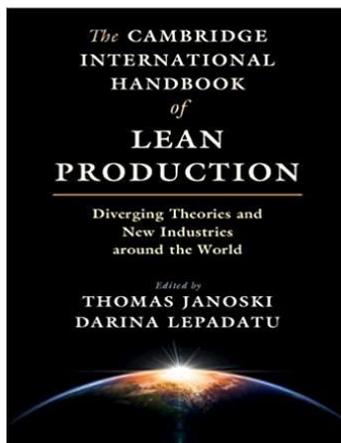
Albany State University

Dr. Pamela Pitman-Brown has published the text *Pandemic Education: Grandparenting in the New School* in *Generations Now*, by the American Society on Aging. The full text is available at:

<https://generations.asaging.org/pandemic-education-grandparenting-new-school>

Kennesaw State University

New Publication



Abstract: This handbook focuses on two sides of the lean production debate that rarely interact. On the one hand, management and industrial engineering scholars have presented a positive view of lean production as the epitome of efficiency and quality. On the other hand, sociology, industrial relations, and labor relations scholars focus on work speedups, management by stress, trade union positions, and self-exploitation in lean teams. The editors of this volume understand the merits of both views and present them accordingly, bridging the gaps among five disciplines and presenting the best of each perspective. Chapters by internationally acclaimed authors examine the positive, negative and neutral possible effects of lean, providing a global view of lean production while adjusting lean to the cultural and political contexts of different nation-states. As the first multi-lens view of lean production from academic and consultant perspectives, this volume charts a way forward in the world of work and management in our global economy.

Darina Lepadatu was also involved in sewing homemade masks that were donated to ICU healthcare workers at the North Fulton Hospital during the COVID19 pandemic.

Fellowship Awarded to GSA board member

Dr. Rabi Ghadge was awarded the 2020-21 KSU Diversity Faculty Fellowship in Spring 2020 for a project that uses both qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the racial and ethnic experiences of students, faculty, and staff of color on the two KSU campuses. More information at:

<https://diversity.kennesaw.edu/faculty-staff-fellows.php>

University of North Georgia

Dr. Carly Redding was involved in efforts to increase voter turn out in the 2020 elections. More information at:

<https://accesswdun.com/article/2020/10/949433/students-at-ung-taking-action-to-encourage-classmates-to-vote>

Dr. Redding has also helped organize a food pantry for UNG students:

<https://ung.edu/news/articles/2020/11/food-pantry-to-provide-thanksgiving-meals-to-campus-community.php>

Western Governor's University



It began at WGU's All Hands on Thursday, September 10. Anne Borden, a Sociology Course Instructor, heard Scott's [Pulsipher, WGU's President] call to take time and collect food for our local food banks. Anne realized she didn't want to give just once and be done. She thought, What if there's a way I could begin raising money. Then it hit her: what if she started selling t-shirts? Maybe she could raise money to donate to her foodbank.

Early in the pandemic, Anne had handmade a shirt with a fun 70s design and the words "Try Softer"—an antidote to the notion of trying harder—for herself and a friend. Anne found a company who would make and sell her shirts so she could donate profits to her local food bank—a win-win for all.



Anne had been contemplating the idea of self-compassion and "trying softer" since the pandemic began. More than ever, Anne knew we all have a need for compassion in our lives, we needed to be a little less hard on ourselves and be a lot more soft. Anne also knows that compassion is contagious and if we really want to help our students to succeed, then they need to feel our compassion.

For more information, you can check out Try Softer. Proceeds will go to the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

-Bob Rasmussen