



Semaphore

The official Newsletter of the Georgia Sociological
Association

March 2023

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Letter from the President

Dear GSA Members and Community,

I am honored to serve as the President of the GSA for the second time! The theme of this year's meeting is "Community Health: It's a social issue." I would like us to focus on the sociocultural factors, including the beliefs, norms, and traditions of place that shape attitudes toward health and influence the habits that contribute to healthful practices or detract from them. Access is a crucial point, giving everyone, especially those most on the margins, access to healthy food, safe and reliable childcare, after-school programs, and transportation services. Community health thinks through the 'how' as much as the 'what,' taking on the responsibility of the long-term wellness of vulnerable populations. This includes how we can collaborate across multiple sectors, employing culturally sensitive methods and using evidence-based approaches to address the needs and interests of a defined community. While each of you considers presenting your work, I hope you will encourage your students to contribute. Students are and have always been an integral part of the GSA.

Planning for this year's meeting is underway! The 2023 GSA Annual Meeting will be at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center on the Savannah River waterfront, October 25-27, 2023. While attending the conference, please take advantage of this historic and beautiful city. Augusta is known as the 'Garden City' because of the number of gardens planted throughout the city. I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy and explore!

The 2022 GSA Meeting was a tremendous success. Callaway Gardens was most enjoyable. Thank you to Pam and everyone who contributed to and participated in making the meeting memorable.

I look forward to seeing everyone in October and having the opportunity to share our work and our vision of community health. I hope that you all will join us!

Respectfully,

Carly L. Redding

GSA President

Georgia Sociological Association Annual Conference:

2023 GSA Annual Conference

@ Augusta Marriott, October 25-27, 2023, on the Augusta Riverwalk!



"The Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center is located along the scenic Savannah River. Augusta is renowned for the Masters golf tournament and being the birthplace of the late James Brown, but it also holds a significant place in history as a site of resistance against racial oppression. In 1970, a civil rights riot broke out resulting in the tragic deaths of 6 black residents. This painful past is unfortunately still relevant today, making our conference addressing social justice issues all the more important. When taking a break from our intellectual pursuits, attendees can explore local art galleries, savor the flavors of the region at tasting bars, and stroll the lush gardens and fountains that line the riverwalk. Keep an eye out for more details about the conference coming in Summer 2023. For your information, ChatGPT assisted with this paragraph!

2022 Awards

Georgia Sociologist of the Year:

Ned Rinalducci Georgia Southern University

Meritorious Service Award:

Diogo Pinheiro University of North Georgia

Outstanding Publication Award:

Darina Lepadatu Kennesaw State University
Framing and Managing Lean Organizations in the New Economy
(co-author Thomas Janoski)

Outstanding Teacher Award:

Daniel Farr - Kennesaw State University

2022 Sociologist of the Year



Dr. Ned Rinalducci is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Georgia Southern University. His work examines religious and ethnic political movements and cultural identity. He teaches courses including Global Sociology; Comparative Societies, Politics, and Institutions; the Sociology of Media; the Sociology of Terrorism; the Sociology of Tourism; and the Sociology of Nationalism. Dr. Rinalducci holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Georgia State University, a M.S. in Social Psychology from Mississippi State University, and a B.S. in Sociology and Psychology from Florida State University. He is a two-time former president of the Georgia Sociological Association (2004-2005, 2014-2015) and a recipient of the GSA Meritorious Service Award (2008). His most recent publication “Kurdish Resistance and Agenda Setting in a Time of Renewed Turkish Hostility: Social Media and the HDP” was published in *In Nonviolent Resistance in the Contemporary World: Case Studies from India, Poland, and Turkey*, Routledge Press 2021. He is also the author of the first article published in the first edition of *The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology*, titled “Sociological Accessibility and the Institutionalizing of Professional ‘Public Sociology’” Volume 1:1, 2006. After September 11, 2001, Dr. Rinalducci’s expertise in terrorism led to lectures and media interviews around the world. In 2004, at the start of the Iraq war, Dr. Rinalducci found himself as a regular on Jamaica’s KLAS Radio program, *The Breakfast Club*, hosted by former Jamaican First Lady Beverly Manley and former Minister of Tourism and Senator Eric Abrahams. In 2007 he was invited to speak to the National Senate of Argentina as well as the Police, Security and Armed Forces of Argentina on the topic of Global Terrorism. Dr. Rinalducci is passionate about the value of the study abroad experience and has taken students to Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Chile, Vietnam, the Czech Republic, and Cuba. He is currently planning another trip to Cuba for the summer of 2023. Through directing these programs he has formed professional relationships with institutions around the world including the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (T&T), The University of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), Universidad de La Serena (Chile), Universidad Católica de Salta (Argentina), University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (Czech), and the Instituto de Filosofía (Cuba). In his community work, he engages in public sociology, regularly organizing and coordinating political candidate forums and debates. He runs forums from the local level (Mayor, City Council, County Commission, School Board) to the state level (State Senate, State House) all the way to the Federal level (U.S House of Representatives and U.S. Senate). He works with various government and community organizations ranging from the City of Savannah to the Chatham County District Attorney’s office. He contributes to Southeast Georgia’s local media outlets with his expertise on all things political, as well as issues of social and cultural concern. He can be seen regularly on Savannah stations WSAV, WJCL, and WTOG, as well as in Southeast Georgia’s various print media outlets.

2022 Student Paper Awards

Undergraduate Papers:

First Place:

Selena Jones - Kennesaw State University "Examining Generational Differences in the Workplace"

Second Place:

Sarah El-Masri - Kennesaw State University "Society and Criminality: A Sociological Approach"

Third Place:

Kayla Williams - University of North Georgia "Issues in Educational Institutions"

Honorable Mention:

Emily Macuga - Kennesaw State University "Racial Inequalities in the Workplace"

Graduate Papers:

First Place:

Helen Hobson - Kennesaw State University "The Roots of Conflict in the Northern Triangle Countries of Central America"

Second Place

Thomas Hodges - Kennesaw State University "Lies, Damn Lies, and Graduate School in the McWorld: An Autoethnography"

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2023 GSA Executive Board

President

Carly Redding: University of North Georgia

Carly Redding joined the faculty at the University of North Georgia (UNG) in 2008. Currently, she resides in the Department of Sociology and Human Services, where she also serves as assessment coordinator for the department. However, she frequently teaches courses in the area of assessment, diagnosis and counseling for the Psychological Science department. Carly presently researches in the area of human trafficking, specifically how maternal warmth and attachment are protective factors associated with human trafficking in high risk, impoverished communities.

President Elect

Brandon Attell

Brandon Attell is a senior research associate at the Georgia Health Policy Center. His areas of expertise include quantitative research and evaluation methods, complex statistical programming, and health services research using large administrative databases. Attell works as a member of the Medicaid Policy and Business team and the Blood Disorders team. Additionally, he works across teams to grow the data analytic capacities and practices at the center. Attell's published research has appeared in journals such as Social Science Research, Advances in Medical Sociology, Journal of Death and Dying, Qualitative Health Research, Evaluation & the Health Professions, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, and Illness, Crisis, & Loss.

Vice-President

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.

Past President

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.

Recording Officer

Melinda Johnson: University of North Georgia

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.

Members-at-Large

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.

Ellis Logan: Valdosta State University

Dr. Logan's research interests include health and wellness issues, food systems and food security, neighborhood and place-based effects, quantitative analysis, and demography. He teaches introduction to sociology, introduction to social problems, sociological theory, social science statistics, and medical sociology. Dr. Logan earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Richmond, his Master of Science degree in Sociology and Demography from The Pennsylvania State University, and his PhD in Sociology and Demography from The Pennsylvania State University. His current research focus on food security issues and retail food shopping behaviors in low-income urban neighborhoods.

Christy Flatt: Gordon State College

Christy Flatt is a Professor of Sociology at Gordon State College. She serves on the Social Action Committee for Women in Society. Formerly she has served the Southern Sociological Association. Her areas of specialty are Marriage and Family, Gender, Work, Social Policy, and Social Inequality. Her research has focused on the Impact of gender, personal resources, and national policy on the work rewards in Post-Industrial Nation, Gender ideologies and marital relationships in Chinese society, and gender in the classroom.

Semaphore Editor

Denise Woodall: University of North Georgia

Denise Woodall began teaching at the University of North Georgia in 2013 and currently holds the position of Senior Lecturer. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Georgia with substantive areas in Crime, Law, Deviance, and Gender, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Miami, with substantive areas in Criminology and Race and Ethnic Relations. Dr. Woodall has conducted research on several National Institute of Health grants exploring the lives of people who use drugs. She has also served as principal investigator on projects studying color-blind racism in media messaging, whiteness in college classrooms, the policing of protests, constructions of carceral status identities and their intersections with gender, race, class, and sexual identities, child-reunification experiences of formerly incarcerated mothers, and carceral citizen activists. Denise has a long history of service and leadership most notably in the American Society of Criminology's Division of Convict Criminology and on the board of directors for a recovery clubhouse in North Georgia. She is published in *Humanity and Society*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Social Justice*, *Teaching Sociology*, *Journal of Drug Issues*, and the *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology*.

Parliamentarian

Sara Mason: University of North Georgia

Dr. Mason's research focuses on the intersections of race, culture, knowledge production, and power, with a particular emphasis on cultural practices (particularly tourism, place-making, and consumption), in relation to racial identities, class, history, and memory. She is currently working on a book length manuscript based on her research on the growth and popularity of heritage tourism in relation to the politics of place-making and a growing Black tourist class.

Highlights from the 2022 Conference

Ned Rinalducci's Keynote on Adventures in Public Sociology inspired us!



The tradition continues:
Passing of the gavel

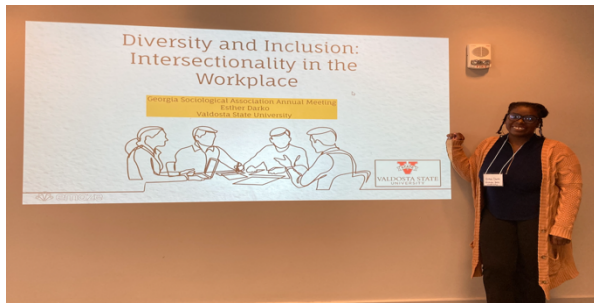


Luncheon and business meeting

Awards Galore! Check out our winners.



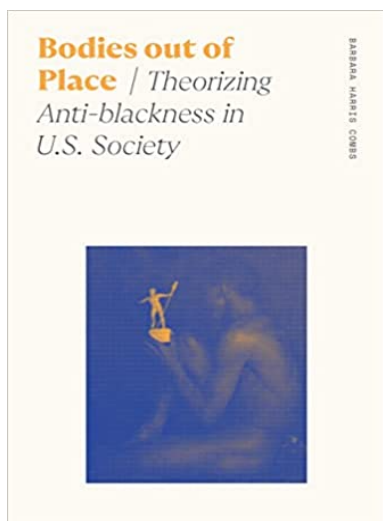
An array of research, teaching insights, and activism were presented on and discussed by faculty and students from colleges and universities across Georgia. Below are some highlights.



Valdosta State University scholars Nashie Wesley and Esther Darko presented on diversity and inclusion in the workplace and gender identity socialization through institutions, respectively.



Rave reviews for Kennesaw State's Barbara Comb's new book *Bodies Out of Place: Theorizing Anti-Blackness in U.S. Society* in her author meets critic session. Dr. Comb says "GSA offers a warm and welcoming place where students can get feedback on their research. They get bitten by that bug where they can even see themselves replacing us someday doing this work. I just love this. My research looks at the felt experience of racism, and in this environment, GSA, provides a welcoming space and that matters."



Dr. MC Whitlock organized a panel of University of North Georgia students who presented their content analyses from a special topics course on representations of social horrors. The students, Chloe Cox, Sarah Jones, Sarah Kohrmann, Savannah Thomas, and Roxie Fricton, shared their experiences of presenting at the conference. Rosie commented that watching professors present was inspiring and made her think about pursuing a similar path in the future. Savannah expressed that she was initially nervous but found the experience less intimidating than expected. Dr. Whitlock structured the course in a way that allowed students to have a presentable project by the end of the semester, which helped prepare them for the conference. Sarah Jones mentioned that while the content analysis was challenging at first, it became more enjoyable as they worked on it in class. Roxie noted that the process was enjoyable and helped her understand how an old film could still be relevant today. Chloe said that the content analysis was a fun experience and allowed her to see the impact of media on the world. Sarah Jones added that she can now apply this method in future projects. Funding was also a critical factor in enabling the students to attend the conference.



The GSA is all about the students! We encourage students to get involved at the conference for their own academic and professional development. Every year students provide supportive roles.

Ankitha Kaguturu from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College enjoyed working the registration table at GSA saying, “I get to talk to a lot of people from many colleges and universities, it gives me extra time to learn more about their presentations and what they study.”



Much comradery and catching up at the welcome reception on the patio!



Expect the next call for papers in late Summer/early Fall of 2023!

Teaching Note

Writing Instead of Testing Online – A Teaching Essay

David Broad, University of North Georgia

The online environment presents challenges and opportunities. Testing security is a challenge, and substituting written assignments for tests is an opportunity to give students expanded, and needed, practice with writing skills. There are measures that can be taken to make writing assignments secure from the dread Google, Quizlet and other sites that entice students with convenient plagiarism. One such preventive measure is to design assignments that draw on individual students' direct experience. For example, in my online version of "Population and Society," a course in demography, I use a text by Harm de Blij, *The Power of Place*. De Blij constructs a foundational typology of groups of people – globals, locals and mobals. This typology can be Googled but if the assignment is to apply the typology to the student's hometown, or the community surrounding their campus, that makes such searches largely inapplicable. Similarly, in my online "Introduction to Sociology," the weekly assignments are to define (in their own words) a list of concepts from the week's current text chapter, and then to supply an empirical example of each of the concepts. I advise students that empirical examples drawn from their own experience will have more "ring of authenticity." For example, when examining the types of norms – folkways, mores, taboos, and law-norms – empirical examples drawn from campus life often exhibit that ring of authenticity, and students seem to enjoy writing those examples. In my online version of *Introduction to Social Theory*, I made a recent assignment on Weber's three types of authority – charismatic, traditional, and legal-rational – and required that students apply those concepts to the news of the last month, naming names of charismatic figures, historical sources of traditional authority currently manifested, and institutions that have adjudicated legal-rational authority in the immediate past and with what effect. Sticking with Weber (he IS a favorite!) in *Social Stratification*, one assignment is to apply the constructs of inequality -- class, status, and party -- and again, to real places and events in recent history. Is the middle-class shrinking due to the increasing disparities of wealth and income? Among people known to you personally, how impactful are markers of status such as college degrees and from whence they were earned? Other than formal political parties, what meets the Weberian definition of party in your hometown?

Besides the advantage of assignments of this sort obviating security issues, students often report that these brief writing exercises bring to life the course concepts which they would otherwise find dry, and the writing practice afforded makes longer assignments in upper-level courses less daunting.

Journal of Public and Professional Sociology

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The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology is the official journal of the Georgia Sociological Association. *JPPS* publishes refereed works of research and theory focusing on both public and professional sociology.

For more information, see our Aims and Scope page.

Publisher Information

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