Semaphore

The official Newsletter of the Georgia Sociological Association

August 2026

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Annual Conference Location

The 2026 GSA conference that will take place on October 28th – 30th in Clarkston (at Refuge Coffee on the 28th) and Decatur, GA (at Agnes Scott College on the 29th and 30th)

Clarkston!

The conference begins in Clarkston, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta located just outside the I-285 Perimeter and often known as "the most diverse square mile in America." While incorporated in 1882 as a railroad and agricultural community, Clarkston is now a vibrant refugee and immigrant community. Its legacy of integration and subsequent white flight set the stage for the city becoming a hub for refugee resettlement. Today, Clarkston serves as an excellent community in which to think about difficult but often rewarding conversations about the past, memory, immigration, and diversity. Refuge Coffee, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, embodies the spirit of Clarkston by providing paid job training and employment opportunities for resettled refugees and immigrants while creating a welcoming, multiethnic gathering place. Along with Clarkston's many immigrant-owned restaurants and businesses, it reflects the city's commitment to inclusion, community building, and cross-cultural connection.

Decatur!

The main conference sessions will be held at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. Established in 1823, Decatur evolved from a rural settlement into the historic seat of DeKalb County while preserving its identity as a beautiful and distinctive small city. Decatur's history also reflects the complexities of the American South, from the thriving African American Beacon community and the struggle for civil rights to more recent efforts to preserve Black history and advance LGBTQ+ inclusion. Today, Decatur is recognized as one of the Southeast's most progressive and welcoming communities. Founded in 1889, Agnes Scott College is a private women's liberal arts college renowned for its innovative SUMMIT curriculum, which emphasizes leadership development, global learning, and digital literacy. The college fosters a diverse and inclusive community, educating women—including trans and nonbinary students—to think deeply, lead ethically, and engage with the world. Its historic campus provides an ideal setting for a conference focused on history, teaching, and social justice.

Call for Papers

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

2026 Georgia Sociological Association Meeting
Submission Deadline: September 15, 2026

Theme: *Reflecting on Our Shared Histories, Looking Forward to Our Shared Futures*

As we mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, questions of history, memory, and civic identity are at the forefront of sociopolitical debate. At the same time, society faces an increasingly uncertain future driven by economic instability, political polarization, and the rapid emergence of technologies like AI.

In light of these dynamics, the Georgia Sociological Association invites submissions that align with this year's theme: **"Reflecting on Our Shared Histories, Looking Forward to Our Shared Futures."** We especially encourage sociological work that reflects on the interconnected (and often forgotten) historical legacies of our diverse nation and state, as well as proposals that imagine more equitable, sustainable futures.

We also welcome general sociological submissions across the full breadth of the discipline and adjacent fields. Accepted formats include:

- Individual Paper Presentations
- Formal Panels
- Interactive Workshops

Submission Information

Click Here to Access the Submission Portal

Questions: For inquiries regarding submissions or technical assistance with the portal, please contact **Christy Flatt** at cflatt@gordonstate.edu and **Allen Hyde** at allen.hyde@hsoc.gatech.edu.

Conference Hotel and Conference Registration Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Courtyard by Marriott Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory 130 Clairemont Ave, Decatur, GA 30030** for conference attendees at a special group rate of **$172.00 per night** (plus applicable taxes and fees). The hotel is conveniently located near Agnes Scott College and the conference venues, with easy access to restaurants, shops, and downtown Decatur.

Reserve your room:

Click here to Book Your Group Rate for the GSA

Conference Registration, Membership, and Sponsorships

Registration Rates

- **Regular Membership + Conference Registration: $200**
- **Student Membership + Conference Registration: $100**
- **Guest Registration (2 Sessions + Lunch): $50**

New This Year: Guest Registration

We are pleased to introduce a new **Guest Registration** option for those who may not be able to attend the full conference. For just **$50**, guests may attend **two conference sessions and the conference luncheon**. This option is perfect for individuals with limited time, those interested in a particular workshop or topic, or family members and friends who want to support a presenter and celebrate their accomplishments while enjoying part of the conference experience.

Sponsorships and Student Travel Support

If you are able, please consider making a sponsorship donation when you register. Sponsorships help the Georgia Sociological Association advance its mission by supporting student travel scholarships and increasing opportunities for students to present their research, build professional networks, and strengthen their career prospects. Your generosity helps ensure that the next generation of sociologists can thrive while supporting the continued vitality of our discipline. Conference registration includes the opportunity to contribute at several levels:

- **$25-$50** – General Support
- **$100** – Sponsor One Student Registration Scholarship
- **$200** – Sponsor One Student Registration Scholarship + General Support

Every contribution, regardless of size, helps invest in our students and the future of Sociology in Georgia.

Student Paper Awards

2026 GSA Meeting

Student Paper Awards

Deadline: September 15th

Email to jrivers@abac.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 GSA Conference

Completed Papers must be received **by September 15th**

GSA Faculty Awards Guidelines

GSA Meeting
Faculty Award Guidelines

Deadline for Sociologist of the Year Nominations: September 1st
Deadline for Other Award Nominations: September 15th
Email: Allen Hyde at allen.hyde@hsoc.gatech.edu

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.

Welcoming GSA Board Nominations

The Georgia Sociological Association welcomes nominations and expressions of interest from members who would like to serve in leadership roles within the Association. Serving on the Executive Board is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the sociological community in Georgia, collaborate with colleagues from across the state, and help shape the future of the Association.

The Executive Board includes the offices of President, President-Elect, Vice President, Past President, Recording Officer, Financial Officer, Semaphore Editor, Parliamentarian, and Members-at-Large. Some positions rotate on a regular basis, while others become available as terms are completed or vacancies arise.

At this time, we are especially seeking nominations for the position of **Semaphore Editor**. The Semaphore Editor oversees the Association's biannual newsletter and maintains the GSA website, helping to keep members informed about Association news, events, and opportunities.

Members interested in a longer-term leadership role may also wish to consider the presidential leadership sequence. This progression typically begins with service as Vice President, followed by President-Elect, President, and Past President. Each role provides opportunities to contribute to different aspects of the Association's work, including conference planning, leadership development, awards, and the overall direction of GSA.

If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate yourself or a colleague for a current or future leadership position, we encourage you to contact Ellis Logan at eslogan@valdosta.edu by September 15th. We welcome participation from members at all career stages and institution types.

News and Notes

The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology®

Journal of Public and Professional Sociology

The *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology (JPPS)* has published its newest issue:

Volume 18, Issue 1 (2026): *Health and Illness through a Sociological Lens*

The current issue is available here:

https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/

Upcoming Special Issue: Sociology of Sport

JPPS is also planning a forthcoming special issue focused on the sociology of sport. Additional details and a call for papers will be announced soon.

Manuscripts may be submitted as:

- **Short Reports:** 10–20 pages (approximately 2,500–5,250 words)
- **Research Articles:** 21–25 pages (approximately 5,250–7,000 words)

Longer manuscripts may be considered as space permits. Submissions should follow either the **American Sociological Association (ASA)** or **American Psychological Association (APA)** style guidelines.

For submission information and journal guidelines, please visit the *Journal of Public and Professional Sociology* website. Questions may be directed to **Dr. Linda Treiber, Editor**, at **ltreiber@kennesaw.edu**.