

South Carolina Sociologist



SCSA Newsletter
Fall 2022 Issue



Greetings From the SCSA President

Dear SCSA Colleagues,

I hope you are having a productive fall term and that you are enjoying the nice cool weather. I just wanted to give you an update about the latest news related to SCSA.

First, SCSA has joined the 21st century and we now have a Twitter account! The handle is: @SCSAsociology. If you are on Twitter, please follow us and be sure to tag us with any of your latest news. For the moment, Katya Terry is managing the account, but if anyone would like to take over this responsibility, please let us know. This would be a great service opportunity (and vitae line) for graduate students and tenure-track faculty (among others).



Second, I do hope that you will consider joining us for our 2023 Annual Meeting, which will be held again in downtown Florence, SC (Friday, February 24 through Sunday, February 26). The conference theme is "Opening Doors: Fostering Intercollegiate and Interdisciplinary Partnerships." Papers, presentations, and posters relating to this topic, to general research in sociology, or to the sociology of teaching and learning are welcome.

For more information, please visit the [SCSA Annual Meeting](#) page or contact the Program Chair Laura Jean Kerr at lkerr@lander.edu. Proposals are due by Saturday, December 31, 2022. Completed papers are not required to present.

The \$75 conference registration fee (with discounts for students) includes a one-year SCSA membership, a reception on Friday night, access to all sessions and lunch on Saturday, a reception on Saturday evening and a light breakfast and voting privileges at the Business Meeting on Sunday. A limited number of travel stipends will be awarded to those in need. If you are interested in getting more involved in SCSA, at the Business Meeting on Sunday, we will hold elections for SCSA Secretary, SCSA Treasurer, and three Executive Board positions. We hope to see you there!

Third, Lander University will be hosting the Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (CUSSS) on Thursday, April 20 through Friday, April 21, 2023. We hope that social science faculty across the state will bring their students to Greenwood and share their research. The event will begin with a keynote address Thursday evening at 7:00 pm by Lane Riley, Associate Coordinator of The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina. Lane is a 2012 sociology graduate of Lander University. Her talk is titled "Transforming Rural America Through Research

and Partnerships.”

On Friday, students will present their research papers, posters, and presentations. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in each category. Winners need to be present to win. Registration cost is \$20 per person, or \$15 per person for groups of 8 or more. For more information or to register, please visit the [CUSSS page](#) or contact Dr. Zach Rubin (zrubin@lander.edu).

Thanks again to Katya Terry for editing this newsletter. I hope you enjoy learning about the recent news and accomplishments of our members.

Enjoy the fall and winter seasons and I will look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Sincerely,

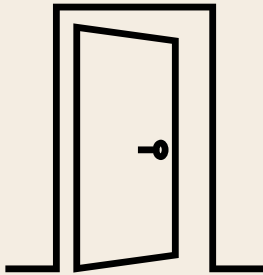
Daniel Harrison, President SCSA

2023 SCSA Annual Meeting

Friday, February 24 – Sunday, February 26, 2023
Florence, SC

Hosted by Francis Marion University

**Opening Doors:
Fostering Intercollegiate and
Interdisciplinary Partnerships**



The 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting will offer sociologists and other social scientists from across South Carolina an opportunity to share experiences regarding intercollegiate and interdisciplinary partnerships, discuss ideas for future partnerships, celebrate achievements and mishaps, and learn from experts. Join us for a lively discussion about the promises and pitfalls that happen when colleges and universities embark on a mission to do sociology together!

Please visit the [SCSA website](#) for online registration!

South Carolina Sociological Association is inviting proposals for papers and sessions for the 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting.

Click on the link to see the [Call for Proposals](#)

Email proposals to Laura Jean Kerr (lkerr@lander.edu). Please include “SCSA Proposal” in the subject line. Submissions are now being accepted, with preference given to proposals received before **December 31, 2022**.



Scholarship and Research

Earlier this year, Dr. Rusty Ward at Francis Marion University published “The Effects of Nonresponse and Follow-up Mailings on a Citizen Survey of Law Enforcement Services” in the peer-reviewed journal, *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*.

This study examined differences between responders vs. non-responders, and early vs. late responders, in a mailed survey of citizen satisfaction about law enforcement, and whether survey estimates changed with follow-up mailings. While follow-up mailings increased the number of returns, the characteristics and attitudes of responders changed very little with additional mailings. The findings imply that criminal justice scholars and law enforcement agencies that conduct citizen satisfaction surveys might consider increasing the initial sample size to boost statistical precision and power, or targeting unlikely respondents to reduce nonresponse bias, instead of investing in costly follow-up mailings.



Developing a Framework for Assessing Identity Development, Retention and Success of STEM Social and Behavioral Scientist (STEM-SBS): Sociology as a Case

In July 2022, Catherine Mobley (Clemson University) and Chloe Baird (Tufts Medical Center) were awarded a \$867,066 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their project “Developing a Framework for Assessing Identity Development, Retention and Success of STEM Social and Behavioral Scientists: The Case of Sociology” The NSF’s Education and Human Resources Core Research program is sponsoring this award and funds fundamental “curiosity-driven” basic research on STEM education.



There is a growing interest on the part of several organizations, in recognizing and fostering applied sociology. Also, the (NSF, American Sociological Association and other organizations have called for more research on the status of the social sciences in general, and sociology in particular, within the STEM research enterprise. This three-year project is one of the first to empirically examine identity development of sociologists and addresses the growing need for trained STEM-SBS researchers who can address complex societal challenges. In this project, Catherine and Chloe will investigate:

- Why sociology students and professionals choose to pursue a sociology degree and career;
- How sociology students and practicing sociologists conceptualize their professional and science identities;
- What factors contribute to or hinder retention, success, and identity development in sociology;
- How other social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, etc.) intersect with and influence the development and enactment of professional and science identities; and
- How competing demands and differential access to opportunities shape entry and retention of a diverse student population into sociology.

The study is among the first to investigate professional identity of sociologists. Catherine and Chloe will investigate pathways of interest of professionals at all levels by interviewing undergraduate students, graduate students and practicing sociologists in a variety of STEM-SBS research careers. They will also interview stakeholders in sociology to learn more about key issues pertaining to career pathways in the field and sociology as a STEM discipline.

Catherine and Chloe look forward to sharing their results as the project unfolds. If you are interested in or currently investigating identity development of sociologists or social scientists, Catherine and Chloe would love to hear from you!

Interesting in learning more? Please contact us at:
Catherine Mobley, Clemson University, camoble@clemson.edu
Chloe Bird, Tufts Medical Center cbird@tuftsmedicalcenter.org



Scan the QR code
for additional
information.

SCSA Is Now Accepting Applications for the 2023 EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The SCSA Excellence in Scholarship Award recognizes a SCSA member who has made outstanding scholarly and creative contributions to sociology.

The winner will be announced at the 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting and receive recognition in the SCSA newsletter and on the SCSA website. The recipient will also receive a cash award and plaque. It is expected that the winner will attend the 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting.

Candidates must be current SCSA members but need not reside in South Carolina. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. Registration for the 2023 annual meeting grants membership into SCSA. Please visit the [SCSA website](#) for online registration. Applicants must register before 11:59PM EST on Monday, January 16, 2023.

Email applications to SCSA Past President, Dr. Rusty Ward (rward@fmarion.edu). Submissions must be received by 11:59PM EST on Monday, January 16, 2023. Include the term “SCSA” in the subject line of your e-mail.

Click on the link [Excellence in Scholarship Award](#) to learn more about the eligibility requirements and the selection process.



The 2022 award was presented to Dr. Catherine Mobley, Professor of Sociology at Clemson University.

Laura Jean Kerr has joined the Lander University sociology faculty as a Visiting Lecturer. She comes to Lander from Mississippi State University, where her dissertation focused on factors affecting food security of Mississippi community college students. In the recent past she has worked with another SCSA member, Dr. Leslie Hossfeld, to co-author several publications related to food insecurity. Prior to returning to graduate school, she worked in education research for Pre-K and Career and Technical Education assessment. Laura Jean brings with her Contessa, her beloved rescue dog.

Welcome!



Dr. Danielle Lewis has joined Newberry College as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Dr. Lewis completed her Ph.D. in 2015 at the University of South Carolina. Her experimental research examined power and social values within exchange networks. She has published in sociological journals, presented at national conferences, and served as a judge at CUSSS. Dr. Lewis is a member of the American Sociological Association and the South Carolina Sociological Association. Prior to joining Newberry College in a full-time position, Dr. Lewis was an instructor at the University of South Carolina and an adjunct instructor at several schools, including Newberry College.

Food Research Symposium @ Clemson

Clemson University College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences hosted a three-day Food Summit and Food Research conference on Clemson campus from September 13-15th in partnership with Aramark Food Services, Clemson University College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, the Clemson University Watt Center, and with support and funding from USDA-NIFA.

The focus of the three-day event was on food systems and Farm to Institution and included a Food Summit focused on building farm businesses through local sourcing and procurement, and a Food Forward Research Symposium. The topic of food and nutrition security was examined, including a presentation on university food insecurity given by SCSA member Dr. Catherine Mobley. The 3-day event featured several farmer panels with farmers from the Southern Region who shared, from their vantage points, farm stressors, barriers and needs to build farm businesses; as well as a session focused on BIPOC Sourcing and Supplier Diversity. USDA South Carolina Director of Rural Development, Dr. Saundra Glover provided a plenary address on her vision for rural development in South Carolina. Dr. Alton Thompson, Executive Director of 1890 Research Directors was the keynote speaker and addressed the role of land grant institutions and socially disadvantaged farmers in sustainable food systems. Dr. Kim Niewolny, Director of Food Systems and Community Transformation shared the impressive food systems work being done at Virginia Tech. Farmers from the Gullah Farmers' Alliance also presented at the Summit. South Carolina Sociological Association members, Dr. Leslie Hossfeld and Dr. Catherine Mobley spoke at the event. Sociologists from Clemson, Virginia Tech, Furman, and NC A&T also gave presentations.

Over three hundred people attended the three-day event, including farmers from the southern region, providing rich networking opportunities and information sharing for all participants. You can read the [full article about the symposium](#) on the CU website.



Dr. Zach Rubin, Assistant Professor at Lander University won Lander's 2022 Young Faculty Scholar award. This award is given to one Lander University faculty member each year who have completed their terminal degree within the past five years and who is being recognized for his/her research and teaching.



Dr. Mitchell Mackinem was recently promoted to the Chair of Sociology & Criminal Justice Department at Wingate University.

Congratulations!

Job Opportunity:
Morris College continues their search for a full-time Assistant or Associate Professor of Sociology. The application for this position is available on the [Morris College website](#), or contact Ms. Abby Lawson, Dir. of Human Resources, at alawson@morris.edu.

Like Research, Like Guitar

Ken Horne, B.S. Sociology Major, Clemson University

I am a fourth-year Sociology major at Clemson University. This summer, I had the opportunity to be a Research Assistant with my professor, Dr. Catherine Mobley, on a project funded by the National Science Foundation. Together, we are using the sociological perspective to explore the experiences of first-generation Black students in engineering. Being a member of this research team has been one of my first in-depth experiences with research. Early on, it occurred to me that there are definite parallels between engaging in research and playing the guitar – one of my favorite things to do when I am not working on school assignments!

I try to practice music several times a week, strumming tunes on my MAB Speed of Light guitar. Every night after playing, I think about the lick or riff I am working on. Then, when I play the next day, I may change the picking attack, adding that little nuance of sound I missed the day before. Soon, I hear a new tune emerging or a sound I hadn't considered before. The possibilities are endless.

How does that relate to my research? After I finish my research for the day, I often think about the articles I have read or review my research notes. I realize I may need to examine a theme more deeply or I see a need for a different approach. So, I will change my methods and use other modifiers and keywords. Eventually, I get the shape of the idea I am seeking.

With those weekend breaks from research, it is often tough to get the brain to focus on the project again the following Monday. The lack of focus could last a day or just a few hours, as with any song I have been working on. If I don't play the guitar for a few days, I find it difficult to focus and replicate what I had produced the previous week. It takes some time to strum the guitar and get back into the groove, similar to my research project when I've had to step away for a few days.

Just like playing guitar, research is a process accomplished one step or chord at a time. We can't learn new songs in one day and have them sonically pleasant, especially if we have an audience who knows that music-making consistency is a must. Similarly, research takes practice, and the findings must make sense when presented to a well-versed audience, particularly those familiar with the research methods. If not, we produce results that aren't fully grounded in the data, or we may lessen our chances of getting funding for our research. The same goes for playing guitar: a terrible performance may lead to no audience, no growth, and sometimes, no money.

Perhaps one of the most important lessons I have learned from guitar playing and conducting research is that **PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!** Guitar playing and engaging in research are both crafts engaging various audiences for different purposes. I look forward to my continued lessons as I move forward in my guitar hobby and career as a sociological researcher!



Ken Horne

Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

SCSA and Lander University will hold the annual Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (CUSSS) on **Thursday, April 20 - Friday, April 21, 2023 in Greenwood, SC.**

The Symposium provides undergraduate students the opportunity to present their research at a professional meeting with the support of faculty. Presentations are based on research that students have created or been involved in, perhaps in one of their upper-level social science courses.

Research posters and papers are accepted in any area of social science including, but not limited to, the following disciplines:

Sociology
Psychology
Anthropology
Criminology
Government and Policy Studies
Economics
Gender Studies
Race and Ethnic Studies



First and second place cash prizes for best paper, best poster and best paper presentation will be awarded. Students must be present to win.

Please visit the [CUSSS page](#) on the SCSA website for more information about the Symposium or scan the QR code to register.



The 2022 1st place winner in the CUSS research paper category, Ms. Adonya Pertell, Coastal Carolina University, presented her winning paper “The Incarcerated VOICE Initiative: How to Successfully Elevate Incarcerated Students in Higher Education.”

Outstanding Research Project by a Sociology Student

Ms. Diamond Jackson, Sociology Senior at Morris College, participated in the federally funded McNair Scholars Program in Summer 2022.

Her 6 weeks of research, guided by Dr. Daniel Cooper and other mentors at USC-Columbia, resulted in a preliminary study titled “Exploring Parental Messages about Race, Gender and Sexuality for African American LGBTQ Young Adults.” For this summer project, Ms. Jackson conducted qualitative in-depth interviews with four African American participants who identified as being part of the LGBTQ community.

We are very proud of Ms. Jackson's accomplishments in this research mentor program and look forward to her furthering her studies in higher education after graduation from Morris College this year.

Announcements



SCSA Renews Travel Awards!

SCSSA will once again offer Graduate Student and Faculty Travel Awards to the 2023 SCSA Annual Meeting in Florence, SC! The call for applications will be announced soon. For more information, contact Dr. Jessica Doucet (jdoucet@fmarion.edu).

Alison McLetchie (South Carolina State University) is happy to announce that *Contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the 21st. Century* is now available for pre-sale. Dr. McLetchie's co-editors are Dr. Anisah Bagasra and Dr. Jonathan Wesley. The publication examines important contributions as well as ongoing and innovative work of HBCUs. Significantly, among the authors are one SCSU alumni and four current faculty members. You can order this publication online by visiting the [publisher website](#).



SCSA now has a Twitter account!
If you are on Twitter,
please follow us
[@SCSAsociology](#)



**Southern
Sociological
Society**

2023 Annual Meeting

*Theme: "I Will Find A Way or Make One":
Embracing and Advancing the American South's
Tradition of Sociological Innovation and Scholar-Activism*

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

March 29-April 1, 2023

For more information about this conference,
visit the [SSS website](#).

ASA American
Sociological
Association

118th Annual ASA Annual Meeting

Theme: "The Educative Power of Sociology"

Philadelphia, PA

August 17-21, 2023

For more information about this conference,
visit the [ASA website](#).

If you would like to contribute to the
Spring 2023 issue of the SCSA newsletter,
please email terry.C@ptc.edu

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Sociological Association