

South Carolina Sociologist



SCSA Newsletter
Spring 2022 Issue



Greetings From the SCSA President



Dear SCSA Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits as we approach the end of the spring 2022 semester.

Thank you for your involvement in and support of SCSA. Founded in 1976, SCSA is now 46 years old! At a time when higher education in general and sociology in particular are facing very serious challenges, I appreciate the value and importance of this organization. Like Durkheim, I am a big believer in the importance of secondary associations like the SCSA to help maintain/build professional solidarity and fight anomie. South Carolina Sociologists Unite!

I would like to send a welcome and word of thanks to Laura Jean Kerr (Lander University), Catherine Mobley (Clemson University), and Jenny Schlosser (Coastal Carolina University) for joining the SCSA Executive Board this year. I would also like to thank Todd Couch (Francis Marion University), Jessica Doucet (Francis Marion University), Nancy Rhoads (Allen University) and Rusty Ward (Francis Marion University) for their continued service on the board.

It was great to see so many of you at the 2022 SCSA Annual Meeting in Florence, SC, February 25-26. I would like to thank Jessica Doucet, Rusty Ward and Todd Couch for their fantastic work putting the meeting together. I have attended many SCSA meetings over the years, and this was one of the best. We had some lively panel sessions, excellent papers, wonderful meals, and all the great conversations and discussions for which we are known. It was wonderful to see so many graduate students participating. The meeting spaces, hotels, and restaurants in downtown Florence were all superb.

Our 2022 SCSA Annual Meeting was so successful, in fact, that we have decided to hold the meeting again in Florence next year. Please save the dates of February 24-26, 2023, on your calendar. The theme of next year's meeting will be "Opening Doors: Fostering Intercollegiate and Interdisciplinary Partnerships." Laura Jean Kerr is Program Chair and Jenny Schlosser is Program Co-Chair. More details and a Call for Participation will be available in the fall.

Allen University hosted CUSSS on April 22, 2022. It was great to see students and faculty from so many schools around the state attending. Look for pictures, awards winners, and the CUSSS program on the website. The 2023 CUSSS will take place at Lander University. Zach Rubin is the Organizer. More details on this event will be provided in the fall.

Finally, a very special thanks to Katya Terry for her great work editing this newsletter. As you can see, our members, their students, and associates are all doing some very exciting things. The SCSA is a small association, and we are thriving. However, any group is only as strong as its members. Through this newsletter, I will hope that you will become more interested and involved in the SCSA.

I wish you a relaxing and productive summer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Harrison, President SCSA

SCSA 2022 Annual Meeting

This year's SCSA meeting was held at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina on February 25-26, 2022. The evening reception on Friday was hosted by FMU President Dr. Luther F. Carter and Mrs. Folly Carter. Conference attendees were welcomed on Saturday morning by Dr. Peter King, FMU Provost, followed by the Presidential Address given by Dr. Rusty Ward, President of SCSA.

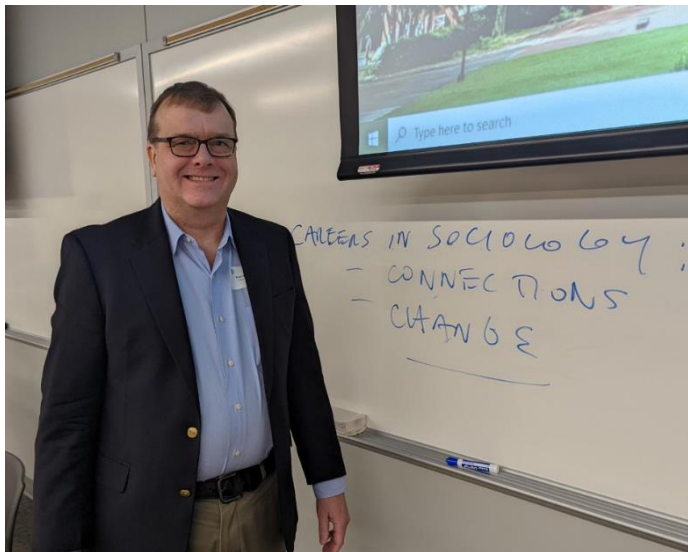
The conference program consisted of thematic panels, research session presentations, poster presentations, lunch and award presentations, and concluded with the business meeting.

Catherine Mobley, Clemson University, received the 2022 SCSA Excellence in Scholarship Award. Congratulations!

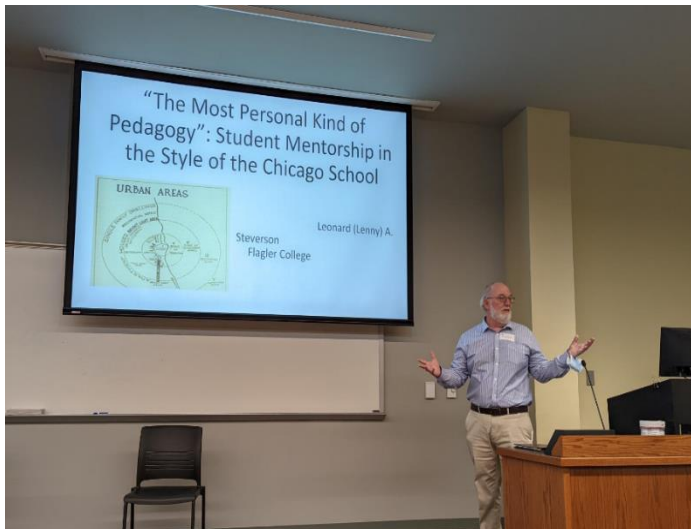
At the business meeting, we elected Daniel Harrison (Lander University) to become President of SCSA and Todd Couch to become President-Elect. Catherine Mobley was elected to the position of Secretary. We also elected Laura Jean Kerr, Nancy Rhoads, and Jenny Schlosser to at-large positions on the Executive Committee. Congratulations to all of you! Thanks to the outgoing member of the SCSA Executive Committee, Vinetta Witt, for her service.



If you would like to see the full 2022 SCSA Conference program please visit the [SCSA website](#).



Dan Harrison, serving as president over the thematic panel on “Careers in Sociology.”

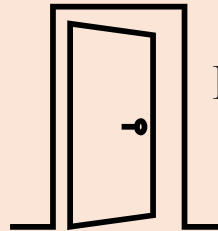


We learned a lot from Leonard Stevenson’s presentation on student mentorship.



The afternoon research session featured presentations on diverse topics, including surveillance labor and sexual violence, college choice of Black engineering students, a college-based health communication campaign, sexism and traditional masculinity in country music, and community bail funds.

SAVE THE DATE!
 Next SCSA Conference –
 February 24-26, 2023



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

Intercollegiate partnerships refer to the practice of multiple colleges and universities sharing resources to develop and accumulate knowledge, or to apply knowledge to solve societal problems. Interdisciplinarity offers an opportunity for scientists in many disciplines to collaborate on developing solutions to society’s most vexing challenges.

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. To “open doors” to these partnerships, we hope that at least one sociologist from every sociology program in South Carolina can attend our meeting next year – we’d love to see you all there! 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!

Paul Roof’s poster, “Just a Cup of Joe”, highlighted the local history of coffee.



Excerpts from the 2022 SCSA Presidential Address
On Making Sociology Matter:
Lessons to (Un)Learn
Rusty Ward, FMU, President, SCSA
February 26, 2022

The theme of the meeting and title of my address includes the words “learn” and “unlearn.” For me, learning means to obtain knowledge or expand on what we already know through independent study, experience, or having been taught. Learning is a complex and difficult process. It involves struggling, making mistakes, dealing with critical feedback, and feelings of vulnerability. Unlearning presents challenges as well. I think of unlearning as letting go of what is no longer helpful.

... What have I learned after reading critiques on sociology that I can pass on, and what would I like to unlearn about the discipline that I can share? One lesson I have learned is it seems to me that Deshotels, House, and Burawoy illustrate a long-lasting tension in sociology between intellectual unity and intellectual diversity. On the one hand, there are sociologists who argue we should strive toward cohesion, coherence, and consensus. On the other hand, there are sociologists who argue that conflict, disunity, and disagreement are inherent within the sociological study of society. I do not know whether this struggle has reached a level where it impedes progress in sociology, or if it remains a source of disciplinary strength, but the friction between unity and diversity has wormed its way into sociology at every level, including international, national, regional, state associations, and departments of sociology across colleges and universities. This tension occurs at the individual level as well, when we experience an internal struggle of whether to pursue a “legitimate” research agenda characterized by maximum consensus on its relevance to society, or to pursue a “risky” research agenda with minimum consensus on whether it matters or should matter to other individuals and groups.



So, what do I want to unlearn about sociology, in particular, with respect to making it relevant to society? In other words, what do I want to let go of that is no longer helpful to me? I would like to unlearn the expectation to make sociology relevant.

My journey to unlearn making sociology relevant applies to my teaching and service as well. In regard to teaching, I feel the most stress when I enter a classroom, thinking how am I going to get students to see the relevance of a sociological concept, for instance, linguistic domination, relative deprivation, the difference between role conflict and role strain, to name just a few. When I try to make sociology relevant to students, I fail more often than not. Some of them may interpret my efforts as having a certain agenda rather than having the genuine goal of increasing their knowledge of social processes. I feel most at ease when I simply present the concept as best I can, and ask the students to do the hard work of thinking about the implications of that concept to society and their own lives.

Please read the full version of the Presidential Address [here](#).

SCSA 2022 EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The South Carolina Sociological Association (SCSA) 2022 Excellence in Scholarship Award recognizes a SCSA member who has made outstanding scholarly and creative contributions to sociology. This year's winner was announced at the SCSA annual meeting in February. The award was presented to Dr. Catherine Mobley, Professor of Sociology at Clemson University.

Dr. Rusty Ward, SCSA President, stated the following while presenting this award to Dr. Mobley: *“The winner of this year’s inaugural Excellence in Scholarship Award has had several accomplishments over the past three years. The awardee has been author or co-author of 7 peer-reviewed journal articles, one book chapter, and 18 peer-reviewed conference proceeding publications. This person has also been the PI or Co-PI on grants totaling more than \$650,000. The awardee has been recognized as Senior Researcher of the Year by the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences.”*

Congratulations Dr. Catherine Mobley!



Rusty Ward passing the gavel to the new SCSA President Dan Harrison



Rusty Ward presenting the SCSA 2022 Excellence in Scholarship Award to Catherine Mobley



SCSA members enjoying lunch at the award ceremony

Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (CUSSS)

SCSA and Allen University held the annual Carolina Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (CUSSS) on April 21 and 22, 2022 in Columbia, SC.

The Symposium provided undergraduate students the opportunity to present their research at a professional meeting with the support of faculty. Presentations were based on research that students had created in or because of one of their upper-level social science courses.

The Symposium kicked off on Thursday, April 21, at 7 pm with a warm welcome from Dr. Toni Muhammad, Allen University Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs followed by the keynote address.



On Friday, April 22 attendees were welcomed by Dr. Tracey Carter, Social Science Department Chair and by Nancy Rhodes, Assistant Professor at Allen University.

The day consisted of paper presentations, poster sessions, lunch, and award presentations.



The keynote speaker was James L. Felder, a life-long civil rights activist, who worked with Vernon Jordan and Modjeska Simkins on voting rights, and planned one of the first marches on civil rights in Atlanta with Julian Bond and Martin Luther King, Jr. In his keynote address, Mr. Felder spoke on the need for youth activism, relating his own experiences with civil rights activism in South Carolina. His talk was truly inspiring!

AWARD WINNERS BY CATEGORY

1st Place Paper:

Adonya Pertell, Coastal Carolina University

1st Place Poster:

Alxis Nicholas, Allen University

2nd Place Poster:

Illie Benton, Allen University

1st Place Presentation:

Adonya Pertell. Coastal Carolina University

2nd Place Presentation:

Javonne Richardson. USC-Aiken



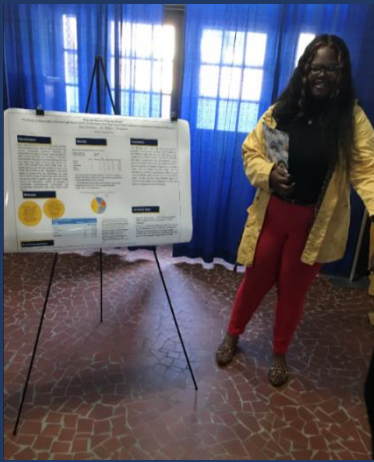


Adonya Pertell, Coastal Carolina University, presented her winning paper “The Incarcerated VOICE Initiative: How to Successfully Elevate Incarcerated Students in Higher Education”



Adonya Pertell with her faculty advisor Dr. Jennifer Schlosser, Coastal Carolina University

FROM AROUND CUSSS



Please visit the [CUSSS page](#) on the SCSA website for more information about the Symposium. To see full 2022 CUSSS program click [here](#).

Scholarship and Research



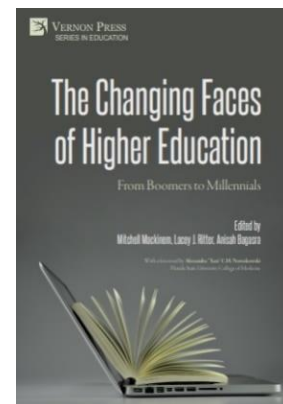
My name is Monika Nwajei. I was born and raised in Georgia but my family is from Nigeria. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in conflict resolution/prelaw. Within the last few years, I've been working as a paralegal at a Bankruptcy and Foreclosure Law firm in Atlanta, Georgia. I love all things law related especially juvenile justice.

My initial interest in Sociology surrounded the idea that bringing the knowledge of human relationships into the legal realm could potentially be beneficial to the criminal justice system as a whole. More recently, I have grown an interest and better understanding of sociological theories such as strain and conflict and its effects on the criminal justice system.

My future professional plans are unknown at the moment. But within the past semester I have strongly considered pursuing my Ph.D. due to the advice and opportunities given by the excellent professors at Clemson University. My current research projects are: identifying state-level predictors of juvenile sex offender registration policies, the mental health wellness of those participating in team sports, and the juvenile waiver system. I'm also learning the ins and outs of grant writing.

Best Regards,
Monika Nwajei

Mitch Mackinem's edited book, *The Changing Faces of Higher Education*, was recently published by Vernon Press. This book, on millennial professionals in higher education, is Mitch's sixth book, which helped in his recent promotion to full professor at Wingate University.



With Larry Isaac and Paul Lipold, Daniel Harrison published "Class Conflict in Capitalist Society: Foundations and Comparative-Historical Patterns," pp. 118-136 in *The Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict* (3rd Edition), edited by Lester Kurtz. Elsevier. See order information [here](#).

With Mike Palmer of Palmer Media, Daniel Harrison developed a six-episode podcast called "Inside Jackson Station" which takes listeners behind the scenes at this iconic South Carolina blues bar. The podcast is an accompaniment to Harrison's book, *Live at Jackson Station: Music, Community & Tragedy in a Southern Blues Bar*, published by the University Press of South Carolina in 2021. You can find the podcast at <http://www.insidejacksonstation.com>, on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, and everywhere else podcasts are found. Harrison spoke about his book and the podcast at the 2022 SXSW EDU conference in Austin, TX, on March 7. You can listen to that discussion [here](#).

Job Opportunity:

South Carolina State University has an opening for an assistant professor of Sociology to teach Introduction to Sociology; Sociological Theory; Sociological Methods: Senior Seminar; and at least two of the following: Rural Sociology; Qualitative Methods/Statistics; Medical Sociology; Human Sexuality; or Gerontology. Ph.D. in Sociology or a related field is required for this position. Contact Dr. Benedict Jua by email bjua@scsu.edu or phone 803-533-3714. You can see the full job announcement at <https://careers.scsu.edu/en/job/492405/assistant-professor>

If you would like to contribute to the Fall 2022 issue of the SCSA newsletter, please email Terry.C@ptc.edu

© 2022 South Carolina Sociological Association