



Spring 2020

NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM THE SCSA PRESIDENT



Rusty Ward
Francis Marion University

Greetings members!

I feel honored to assume the position of your new President. Many thanks to Aristide Sechandice for his past presidency. During his two-year term, he developed an attractive “front porch” with a new website, traveled to the North Carolina Sociological Association to discuss potential collaboration projects with SCSA, and arranged this year to have SCSA 2020 at a new location, Hickory Knob State Park and Resort, with a compelling theme (“Am I Really Here? Faculty from Working-Class and Poverty Backgrounds in Academia”). The conference had one of the highest turnouts in years and the theme resonated strongly with conference attendees.

At the conference, many of the presenters and panelists included personal narratives about living in urban or rural poverty, or growing up working class, and they discussed how such narratives have influenced their careers. On a broader level, the talks encouraged us to acknowledge stratification within the discipline of sociology. As sociologists, we often look outward for signs of hierarchies and their implications. Of course, that is quite appropriate. However, at this conference we had the rare opportunity to look inward and converse with colleagues about the signs and consequences of inequalities in the very discipline we love. It was truly a very special occasion.

I am looking forward to working with all of you!

Rusty

THE 2020 SCSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Conference Presentations

Mitchell Mackinem (Wingate University), “When What You Teach Smacks You in the Face: Sociological Awareness.” Mills famously described the sociological imagination as a “quality of mind” that allows one to grasp “history and biography and the relations between the two within society.” The presentation explores what happens when that “quality of mind” turns on our own unique biographies. The presentation explores how the academic understanding transmogrifies as experience, reflection, insight, and understanding accumulate as we live our lives.

Colby King (University of South Carolina-Upstate) and **Michelle Corbin** (Worcester State University). Because state comprehensive universities (or SCUs) are state-supported institutions with at least one traditional objective of providing broad access to quality higher education in their region, these schools have been referred to as “the people’s universities.” The presentation uses an intersectional, class-conscious sociological perspective to outline a model for how SCUs can better serve their multi-racial working-class students in part by embracing their identity as “the people’s universities” and viewing multiracial working-class cultures and identities as assets rather than deficits.

Leonard Steverson (Flagler College), “Adjunct as Stranger: Otherness and the Higher Learning in America.” Classical sociological theorist Georg Simmel offered insights of otherness and marginalization in his concept of the Stranger. The idea, established in a short essay, has been incredibly fruitful for sociological analysis and can provide insight into otherness as it relates to current social concerns such as the changing nature of academia — the so-called adjunctification of higher education. This presentation reviews the role of the adjunct professor in light of the current situation in academia.

Conference Presentations (cont'd)

Catherine Mobley, Cassius Hossfeld, Michelle Eichinger, and Leslie Hossfeld (Clemson University), “Food Insecurity and Hunger in Rural Communities: A Mixed-Method Case Study of Pickens County, South Carolina.” Despite encouraging developments since the Great Recession, hunger and food insecurity remain persistent and vexing challenges, especially in rural communities, where it is difficult to obtain healthy, affordable food. Our mixed-method case study, conducted in rural Pickens County, South Carolina, included community surveys, key informant focus groups, in-depth client interviews, a transportation audit, and mapping of food deserts, transportation routes, and other geographic measures. This presentation highlights the study results, focusing on current challenges present in Pickens County.

Aristide Sechandice (Tri-County Technical College), “Flags of the World: A Durkheimian Analysis.” The problem of social morphology, as delineated by Émile Durkheim, was in many ways foundational of the discipline of sociology. The degree of development of a society, particularly its placement on the scale from mechanical to organic social relations, determines almost every other structural feature of that society. This presentation reflects on a cultural expression of that dynamic, the likelihood of a modern nation displaying an animal on its flag.



Photo Credit: Carol Black

THE SCSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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SCSA MEMBER PROFILE

Zach Rubin

Zach Rubin is an assistant professor at Lander University and a midwesterner displaced to the South and learning all the norms of his new land. He specializes in the study of social movements, political sociology, environmental sociology, and deviant behavior. This research agenda focused on life at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage in northeast Missouri, culminating in his defending a dissertation on that topic in 2017. Today that research agenda has expanded to an emphasis on the of activism in everyday life at other present-day intentional communities. He also sits on the board of the Communal Studies Association. In his spare time, Zach enjoys hiking, biking, and video games. See Zach's recent publications listed in the Publications section of this newsletter.



Zach Rubin is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Lander University in Greenwood, SC.

SCSA MEMBER PROFILE



Mary Hilliard is a student at Tri-County Technical College. She is planning to graduate in May 2020. She attended this year's meeting of the South Carolina Sociological Association at Hickory Knob State Park and Resort in McCormick, SC.

Mary Hilliard

Greetings and Hello!

My name is Mary Hilliard. To share a brief history, my father was a marine stationed in Japan when he met my mother Asako Yoshimoto. They married and relocated to the United States. Four years and two little girls later, they divorced. I was raised by my hardworking abusive mother in Southern California where I was born. My professional background is the hard working blue collar high school education kind. I have worked in many fields, but primarily in the legal field as a district court clerk and more recently, in the nuclear industry. When informed that my nuclear contracts would begin to dwindle, I (a grandmother of three) went back to school to get a degree in Criminal Justice with a Paralegal Emphasis. I was required to take Sociology and it changed me. It is from the newly formed critical thinking skills I now possess, that cause me to challenge the long established status quo of education which should be changed to be: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Sociology! As a natural observer, sociology took me to a new level of thinking critically as it caused me to question, and challenge many of my core belief systems. This produced a newfound liberty in stripping away some self-defeating faulty social conditioning. The truth and sociology will set us free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 CUSSS

CUSSS originally scheduled for April 2020 to be held at Allen University has been canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled for 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Deborah J. Cohan



Dr. Deborah J. Cohan published several articles in *Inside Higher Ed*. Her most recent articles are "What Do We Need to Teach Now?" and "How To Grade Faster in 2020." For a full list of her articles see *Inside Higher Ed* website.

Mitchell B. Mackinem

Dr. Mitchell Mackinem has two new publications. Along with his co-authors Anisah Bagasra and Kurt Holzhausen, Mitchell published an article in the *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*, entitled "Religiosity as a Mediating Factor in Alcohol Use and Alcohol Related Problems Among Students Attending a Historically Black College." Mitchell with his long time colleague, Anisah Bagasra, published an edited book *Working With Muslim Clients in the Helping Professions*. Within the book, published by IGI Global, Dr. Mackinem and Dr. Spurl published a chapter entitled "A Primer on Substance Use and Islam."

Zach Rubin

Recent Publications:

- Rubin, Zach. 2019. "Ecovillagers' Assessment of Sustainability: Differing Perceptions of Technology as a Differing Account of Modernism." *Sustainability* 11(21):6167.
- Rubin, Zach. 2020. "Panel Discussions – A Gentler Introduction to Debating Social Problems." *TRAILS - Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*.
- Rubin, Zach, Yana Ludwig, and Don Willis. 2019. "Conflict Resolution and Satisfaction in Today's Intentional Communities." *Communities Magazine*.
- Rubin, Zach, Don Willis, and Yana Ludwig. 2019. "Measuring Success in Intentional Communities: A Critical Evaluation of Commitment and Longevity Theories." *Sociological Spectrum* 39(2).

Newsletter Editor - Catherine (Katya) Terry, Piedmont Technical College
If you would like to contribute to a future issue of the SCSA newsletter, please email

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