

The North Central Sociologist

2019 NCSA Conference in Cincinnati, March 29th-30th

The theme for the 2019 North Central Sociological Association Annual meeting is **Storytelling: Sociological Methods, Motives, and Mantras**. One potential critique of Sociology, as a discipline, is that all too often our macro, “big picture” approach can be inaccessible to the general public. As a result, powerful explanations are frequently overlooked for lack of a narrative thread or story to draw people into the message. One oversight of the critique, however, is that Sociology, as a field, is fundamentally rich with story-telling traditions. We have research methods that exemplify the power of stories and work to give voice to stories untold. Our work in teaching, scholarship, and service is inspired by stories about inequality, power, identity and more. In fact, the field as a whole advances stories and narratives that sustain the discipline itself; some that inspire us and some that may constrain us as we navigate our collective future. Join us as we explore the stories that drive our methods, inspire our research questions, enrich our classrooms, and remind us of who we are.

As the submission deadline approaches, we urge you submit an abstract to present a paper, develop and participate in professional workshops, present a poster, or just attend the conference to hear about the research, teaching, and activism your colleagues are engaged in right now.

Individual presentations can be submitted to formal paper sessions, roundtables, or poster presentations. We also welcome complete, or closed sessions, where organizers have a fully developed topic and have identified presenters prior to submitting the proposal. These sessions can include research papers, panels, author meets critic sessions, or workshops on academic writing/publishing, teaching, and professional development.

Clearly, proposals that advance the theme of the conference are encouraged, but submissions outside of the theme are also

appreciated. To submit a proposal or an abstract of a paper, please visit the online submission portal on the NCSA website, located at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2019-annual-meeting>. The online submission system is currently open. Please note that all submissions should be uploaded before **December 6th, 2018**. We look forward to seeing you in Cincy in 2019!

Undergraduate Students

The NCSA always welcomes undergraduate participants for the annual conference. Undergraduates wishing to participate in roundtables, poster sessions, or in the undergraduate paper sessions should contact Alan McEvoy, Chair of the Undergraduate Student Division, and organizer of the undergraduate student presentation sessions at amcevoy@nmu.edu.

Student Paper Competitions

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit papers for the student paper competitions. The first-place paper in the graduate division will be considered for publication in Sociological Focus, the official journal of the NCSA. More information can be found at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/student-paper-competition>.

Butler A. Jones Award

The Butler A. Jones Award recognizes one promising African American student who honors the intellectual traditions of the work of Butler A. Jones. The award comes with a \$400 prize, plus one year’s membership and annual meeting registration for NCSA. Interested students, or faculty nominators should visit the link on the NCSA website <http://www.ncsanet.org/butler-a-jones-award> for more information. Applications are due **December 15th, 2018**.



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Ruth & John Useem

Each year, the North Central Sociological Association invites a renowned speaker to address the membership on a topic of cultural, social, and/or political significance in the Ruth and John Useem Plenary Address. The biographies of Ruth Hill Useem and John Useem not only demonstrate their unique contributions to the NCSA, but also the discipline of sociology as a whole.

Useem Plenary Speakers

(2010-2019)

2019 ♦ Dr. Francesca Polletta

“The Trouble with Stories”

2018 ♦ Dr. Victor Rios

“Urban Dynamism, Sociological Double Consciousness, and Paradoxical Resistance”

2017 ♦ Dr. Bruce Keith

“Managing Dynamic Social Systems”

2016 ♦ Dr. Douglas S. Massey

“Segregation and Stratification: Social and Biological Mechanisms”

2015 ♦ Dr. Layli Maparyan

“A Womanist Perspective on Human Flourishing”

2014 ♦ Dr. Erik Olin Wright

“Doing Good Through Real Utopias”

2013 ♦ Dr. Sheldon Stryker

“Paradox: Sociological Theory Should Need No Defense, But Apparently Does. Why?”

2012 ♦ Dr. Daniel Myers

Political Renewal: Occupations, Springs, and Tea Parties”

2011 ♦ Dr. Jack Goldstone

“Pragmatism and Ideology in Revolutionary Leadership”

2010 ♦ Dr. Ann Swidler

“Visions of Community: Chiefs, Churches and Human Rights in Contemporary Malawi.”

Useem Plenary Address

The Trouble with Stories...

Dr. Francesca Polletta, currently a Professor of Sociology at the University of California at Irvine, began her academic career at Columbia University. Her work encompasses culture, politics, social movements, and the law, exploring the degree to which the ideals of the democratic process impede the implementation of its goals. In her award-winning *Freedom Is an Endless Meeting: Democracy in American Social Movements* (2002), Dr. Polletta use a 100 year history of social movements to describe how activists have used principles of participatory democracies to shape their movements and found that these become the fault lines in the movements themselves.

In her prizewinning *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics* (2006), she investigates the opportunities and challenges of telling stories, especially for minoritized and disadvantaged groups. The methods and means of storytelling tend to maintain



Pictured: Professor Francesca Polletta

stratification, she argues, “less by limiting what disadvantaged groups can imagine than by limiting the occasions on which they can tell authoritative stories.”

Polletta’s current research focuses on the effectiveness of citizen participation, and strives to provide insights on how these movements can achieve greater success.

Schnabel Teaching Address

Dr. Lissa Yogan, Valparaiso University

This year’s recipient of the NCSA’s John F. Schnabel Distinguished Teaching Award was Dr. Lissa Yogan. At the 2019 NCSA meeting, she will present her teaching address on the pedagogical value of micro stories for a macro discipline.

Dr. Yogan is the Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Valparaiso University, as well as a past President of the NCSA. However, she has served on Council in a wide range of capacities over the years Presently, she serves on the council of the American Sociological Association’s section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology, and is also a member of the ASA’s Departmental Resource Group (DRG) which performs comprehensive program reviews at institutions of higher education across the country. Her areas of interest within sociology include: Social Psychology, Education, Race, and Gender.



Pictured: Professor Lissa Yogan

There's Still Time to Submit for the 2019 NCSA Annual Meeting

Submission Guidelines at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2019-annual-meeting>

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS/POSTERS—RESEARCH:

If you want to present a portion of a research project you are working on, then please submit it as an individual research paper or poster. The program committee will organize the individual submissions into coherent sessions. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words). Please select the general topic category that most closely corresponds to your submission (see list on page 6 of the [NCSA Call for Papers 2019](#)). If your submission does not fit any of the general research topics, you can choose the "RESEARCH: other" option. For questions and more information please contact incoming NCSA vice president Mellisa Holtzman at mkholtzman@bsu.edu.

INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS OR POSTERS—TEACHING:

If you want to give a presentation on a particular teaching-related topic, then please submit it as an individual teaching paper or poster. The program committee will organize the individual presentations into coherent sessions. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words). Please note the general topic that best fits your submission (see list online). If your submission does not fit any of the general teaching topics, you can choose the "TEACHING: other" option. For questions and more information please contact Tamika Odum at odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu.

SPECIAL FORMAT (E.G., WORKSHOPS, ROUND TABLES, PANEL DISCUSSION, AUTHOR-MEETS-CRITIC, ETC.):

We accept workshops, panel discussions, or special format sessions on any sociology-related topic. These proposals should be submitted the same as a complete or "closed" session, meaning all participants will be focusing on a single topic and must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the proposal. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words) as well as the names and email addresses of the session participants. For questions and more information contact Mellisa Holtzman at mkholtzman@bsu.edu.

COMPLETE SESSIONS—RESEARCH:

Also referred to "closed" sessions, we accept complete panels on any research topic. These panels should have between 3 and 4 participants who present papers on a similar topic. All participants must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the session. You will also need to submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of all the presenters, the title of the individual presentations, and a brief abstract for each presentation (no more than 150 words). For questions and more information please contact Mellisa Holtzman at mkholtzman@bsu.edu.

COMPLETE SESSIONS—TEACHING :

Also referred to "closed" sessions, we accept complete panels on any teaching-related topic. These panels should have between 3 and 5 participants who do presentations on similar topics. All participants must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the session. You will also need to submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of all the presenters, the title of the individual presentations, and a brief abstract for each presentation (no more than 150 words). For questions and more information contact Tamika Odum at odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

For research or teaching papers, and special format sessions, please submit your information online via the submissions system. For complete sessions, please have on hand all the author(s)' first and last names, institutional affiliations, most frequently checked email, and an abstract up to 150 words. Indicate the topic that best fits your submission. We do not collect finished papers, so papers or posters in progress may be submitted.

A NOTE ON NCSA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUBMISSIONS:

The North Central Sociological Association welcomes the participation of undergraduate students in our annual conference. The submission link can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/19NCSAug> . Undergraduate submissions are due by January 10th, 2019. If you have any additional questions about the undergraduate submission process, please contact Alan McEvoy at amcevoy@nmu.edu. For more information, visit the NCSA website at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2019-annual-meeting>.

Featured Presentations at NCSA's 2019 Meeting

The Facing Project: Sharing Your Community's Story

Every community has a story. NCSA is pleased to welcome the founders of the grass-roots community-based initiative "The Facing Project," J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman.

The Facing Project is a nonprofit organization (<http://facingproject.com/about/>) that connects people through stories to strengthen communities. They provide tools, a platform, funds, and inspiration so communities can share the stories of citizens through the talent of local writers, artists, and actors. Hear powerful stories that have changed people's perspectives and learn how you can bring this approach to your own community.



Pictured: Author, and Co-Founder of The Facing Project, Kelsey Timmerman



Pictured: Author, and Co-Founder of The Facing Project, J.R. Jamison

Stories of Struggle: Teaching Social Movements Through Song

Social movements are often driven by powerful stories, relayed not only through stirring speeches, but also through music and song. The NCSA is proud to offer conference attendees the opportunity to attend an interactive singing lecture that adopts this approach. Presented by Professor Corey Dolgon, a Folksinger and Sociologist, the performance uses labor folksongs to capture the emotional and material costs of living as a worker in the United States. The parallels to the struggles faced by today's workers illustrate how stories delivered as pedagogy can connect with and engage diverse learners in a variety of contexts.



Pictured: Professor Corey Dolgon

What is your story?

Stories have the potential to transform individuals, neighborhoods, communities, and societies. They are part of our identity, our goals, and our vision of the future. Likewise, they form the basis for the work that gets done by organizations and institutions.

Stories can join people from varied backgrounds, and when told properly, can transform ideology, inform policy and practice, and contribute to social change.

At the same time, stories can also serve to divide us, prompting the questioning of their legitimacy, and even the storytellers themselves.

Nevertheless, stories are central to the discipline of Sociology, forming the basis for ethnographic, qualitative, and narrative-based research, as well as informing how we do activism and public sociology.

So, what is your story? And, are you willing to share it with us?

Submit an abstract or session idea now to be part of creating a new, collaborative story at the 2019 NCSA meeting.

What to do in Cincinnati...



Cincinnati is rapidly becoming a cultural hub, offering visitors and residents a unique combination of dining options, museums, shopping excursions, and neighborhood sightseeing. From streetcar food tours to *Smale Riverfront Park*, there are ample opportunities to mill around the city, good food in hand, and take in the local culture.

Where to Eat...

If you are looking to indulge a little, you don't have to stray too far from the conference hotel to find *Abby Girl* sweets and grab one of their gourmet cupcakes. For breakfast, lunch, or dinner, don't miss out on *Maplewood Kitchen and Bar*. Steps from the hotel, the restaurant has been touted as a local gem with an eclectic style and the best burger and fries you have ever eaten.

For the Museum Minded...

Cincinnati has a number of local museums to enjoy, including the *Cincinnati Art Museum*, the *Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust &*

Humanity Center, and the *National Underground Railroad Freedom Center* (Do. Not. Miss. This). For a less traditional museum experience, try out the *American Sign Museum* (think neon), police museum, fire museum, and yes, even a *Lucky Cat Museum*.

Photogs Will Love...

Stroll along the Riverwalk for phenomenal scenery. Or, take in the breathtaking views of the *Roebling Suspension Bridge*. The *Cincinnati Music Hall*, *Fountain Square*, and the *Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption* are majestic from any angle.

Animal Instincts...

The *Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden* is the second oldest zoo in the United States; A classic at any age. Not to be overlooked, the *Newport Aquarium* boasts a penguin experience, along with a jellyfish room, and see through acrylic tunnels that transect a wide array of exhibits from under the sea.

Conference Philanthropy Partner

NCSA Selects the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati

2019 Conference Site City Philanthropy Partner

Reading makes sharing stories possible. With a theme that centers on "storytelling," NCSA wanted literacy to be central when selecting our Conference Site City Philanthropy Partner. The Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati champions the development of literacy in the individual, the family, the workplace, the school, and the community by raising awareness, improving access, and serving as a catalyst for literacy efforts. With almost 400,000 individuals in the Greater Cincinnati community officially classified as illiterate, the nonprofit organization functions as a repository for literacy programs within the tri-state area. Cultivating connections with more than 60 literacy programs, the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati also partners with a coalition of over 100 local agencies and schools throughout the region to enrich the lives of community residents. Follow their work, volunteer, or donate at <http://www.lngc.org/>.

NCSA is pleased to recognize the Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati for their efforts to increase literacy in the tri-state area. We will feature the work of this organization at the conference and mobilize our membership for the donation of items for their "wish list". Want to get involved? Check out the wish list here: <http://www.lngc.org/wish-list> Watch for future calls and what to bring to Cincinnati!

Remembering Keith A. Roberts (1947- 2018)

Keith A. Roberts, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, Hanover College

If you had the honor of knowing Dr. Keith Roberts, then you were indeed one of the lucky ones. The consummate teacher, mentor, and researcher, he received countless awards for his dedication to teaching and to the discipline, including several teaching awards from the ASA and the J. Milton Yinger Award for Distinguished Lifetime Career in Sociology from the NCSA. His dedication to NCSA, in almost every position imaginable, is but one part of his legacy.



Pictured: Professor Keith Roberts

Conducting workshops on teaching throughout the nation, he was known for his advancement of “deep learning.” However, his contributions also extended beyond the boundaries of the classroom and the discipline, as he immersed himself in the realm of activism and public sociology. Concerned with issues of racism, classism, and poverty, he made his presence known through advocacy, political involvement, and participation in global delegations aimed at ending human rights abuses. Even as he battled cancer, he approached it with an academically-oriented and thoughtful mind, chronicling the meaning making process involved in facing terminal illness in his final book. Perhaps what will be missed most about Keith Roberts, however, is the enthusiasm, kindness, empathy, and dedication with which he navigated the world.

Sociological Focus

Consider submitting your manuscript to Sociological Focus, the official publication of the North Central Sociological Association (NCSA). Published continuously since 1968, the quarterly journal is international in scope, covering a full range of topics of current interest to sociology and related social science disciplines. Sociological Focus is peer reviewed and committed to publishing high quality research on substantive issues of importance to the study of society.

The journal's mission is broad in scope, encompassing empirical works (both quantitative and qualitative in nature), as well as manuscripts presenting up to date literature review of any field of sociology. Look for upcoming issues focused on a specific theme, and dedicated to timely topics. Current author and submissions guidelines available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/usfo20#.VE-62fldWTM>

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Editorial Assistant: Brittany Kowalski, West Virginia University

Founding Editor: Kent P. Schwirian, Ohio State University

AKD

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is the International Sociology Honor Society. AKD was founded in 1920 at the University of Southern California by Dr. Emory S. Bogardus and became affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) in 1967. AKD is also affiliated with the American Sociological Association (ASA). The purpose of Alpha Kappa Delta is to seek to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

Membership is open to all interested undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members from active chapters who meet the minimum standards for consideration. Currently, there are more than 120,000 members in Alpha Kappa Delta and over 660 chapters.

The NCSA is proud to partner with AKD to offer students, faculty, and sociologists in the public and private sector high quality, hands-on pre conference programming.



NCSA Pre Conference Workshop

Stories in the Classroom: How Student and Teacher Stories Impact Learning

Thursday, March 28th from 12:00-5:00 PM

Storytelling helps form the foundation of empathy, understanding, and learning. Join us as we explore the ways student and teacher stories impact learning. We will explore our own stories and share ideas about how “storytelling as pedagogy” can break down barriers and increase student success. Stories can help faculty find new inspiration as well!

Join us for the NCSA Preconference Workshop – Thursday March 28th – 12– 5pm. Workshop attendees will engage in reflection, exploration, and planning activities over the course of the afternoon. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will leave with ideas they can use in the classroom tomorrow, as well as be inspired to think of new ways of teaching for years to come. Registration fee: \$22 Sign up online at <http://www.ncsanet.org/2019-annual-meeting>

Affirmation of Participation

Preferred Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Current Position(s):

_____ Faculty Member at: _____ (institutional affiliation)

_____ Graduate Student at: _____ (institutional affiliation)

_____ Applied Sociologist at: _____ (institutional affiliation)

Years of teaching experience: _____

Your responses to the questions below will help us finalize session topics. Please send this form to mmessine@bsu.edu

(1) Please discuss your motivation(s) for attending this workshop. What you would most like to learn and explore?

(2) Would you like to assist with the conversation? What is a topic of interest/expertise that you could help contribute to or lead?

(3) Please initial: _____ “If an emergency prevents my attendance, I will contact Melinda in advance as soon as possible so that a replacement attendee may be selected from the waiting list.”

(4) Please share with us what we can do to create a more inclusive event (ex. Do you have food allergies or observances, accessibility needs, etc.).

This workshop is sponsored by the NCSA Section on Teaching and Learning and Alpha Kappa Delta in service to its members and to the discipline as a whole. We accept applications on a rolling basis but appreciate receiving them no later than March 1st in order to confirm space and food needs. Early submission ensures space for you and space is limited. A waiting list will be maintained. Registration fee is non-refundable. Questions about the workshop retreat should be directed to Melinda Messineo: mmessine@bsu.edu. Please feel free to call as well 765-285-5530.

Key Information

If you have questions about the *2019 NCSA Conference*, please contact us.

General Program Questions:

Mellisa Holtzman

Program Chair/Vice President

mkholtzman@bsu.edu

All Research Sessions:

Mellisa Holtzman

Program Chair/Vice President

mkholtzman@bsu.edu

All Teaching Sessions:

Tamika Odum

Teaching Section Chair

odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu

All Undergraduate Papers:

Alan McEvoy

Student Conference Chair

amcevoy@nmu.edu

Hotel/Conference Arrangements:

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NCSA Conference Coordinator

ncsa@paragonme.net

Public Relations:

Danielle Lavin-Loucks

NCSA PR Coordinator

danielle.lavin-loucks@valpo.edu

For information on the NCSA, membership inquiries, sociology in the news, and conference events, like us on [Facebook](#) and visit the NCSA website. Please contact the public relations coordinator if you are interested in writing a guest blog for the [NCSA website](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).



2018-2019 NCSA Officers

Current President.....	Melinda Messineo, Ball State University
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J. Milton Yinger Award.....	Lynn Ritchey, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash
Teaching Section/Schnabel Award.....	Tamika Odum, University of Cincinnati
Scholarly Achievement Award.....	Joshua Woods, West Virginia University
Student Paper Awards.....	Pam Koch, Hope College
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Profession, Freedom & Responsibility.....	Veronica Medina, Indiana University Southeast
Community College.....	Amaha Sellassie, Sinclair Community College
Publication Policy.....	Robyn White, Cuyahoga Community College-West
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