

# THE NORTH CENTRAL SOCIOLOGIST

The Official Newsletter of the NCSA

## 2020 NCSA CONFERENCE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

### MARCH 27-28<sup>th</sup>



The theme for the 2020 North Central Sociological Association’s Annual meeting, *Constant Crisis in the Modern World*, represents a core concern of the discipline of sociology. Indeed, our work as sociologists illuminates the causes and consequences of ongoing crises, while also seeking to demystify the short and long-term effects on individuals and the larger social structure. Moreover, our attention to such issues allows us to better comprehend the myriad crises, cope with them, and use our unique skills and abilities to move through them, ideally helping to improve local, state, national, and global communities.

Join us in Cleveland next year, as we approach the 2020 election season, to confront crisis, seek understanding, and uncover the innumerable commonalities that continue to unite us.

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 simply 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 *all of the presenters* prior to submitting the proposal. These sessions can include research or teaching papers, panels, author meets critic sessions, or workshops on academic writing/publishing, teaching, mentoring, and professional development.

While proposals that are directly aligned with the conference theme are clearly encouraged, submissions outside of the theme are also welcomed. To submit a proposal for a closed session, or an abstract of a paper for a regular session, please visit the conference portal on the NCSA website, at: <https://www.ncsanet.org/annual-meeting/2020mtg/2020submissions/>. The online submission system is currently open. Make sure to submit before *December 6th, 2019*. We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in 2020!

#### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The NCSA always welcomes undergraduate participation in our annual conference. Undergraduates wishing to participate in roundtables, poster sessions, or in the undergraduate paper sessions should contact

*“The measure of a country’s greatness is its ability to retain compassion in time of crisis.”*  
~Thurgood Marshall

Mellisa Holtzman, Chair of the Undergraduate Student Division, and organizer of undergraduate student sessions at [mkholtzman@bsu.edu](mailto:mkholtzman@bsu.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. To be eligible, all graduate and undergraduate students must submit full papers by January 10th, 2020. Graduate students must also submit an abstract of their paper to present at the conference via the conference portal by December 6th, 2019. More information on the graduate student paper competition can be found at: <https://www.ncsanet.org/students/seidler-competition/>. Undergraduates interested in submitting a paper for consideration should visit the NCSA website at <https://www.ncsanet.org/students/presidents-competition/> for more information. T

#### 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 <https://www.ncsanet.org/students/bajones-scholarship/> for more information or to submit an application. Applications are due by *December 15th, 2019*.

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## 2020 CONFERENCE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

There's Still Time to Submit for the 2020 NCSA Annual Meeting!

An Abstract is All You Need for Regular Session Submissions

*Submission Guidelines at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2020-annual-meeting>*

### INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS OR POSTER - RESEARCH

If you are interested in presenting a research project you are engaged in (or even a small portion of a larger endeavor), please submit as an individual *research* paper or poster. The program committee will organize the individual submissions into coherent sessions based on topic, overarching theme, methodology, theoretical approach, etc. You are only required to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words) to be considered for the conference. Please indicate the general topic that best fits your submission (see online list). If your submission does not fit any of the general research topics, you can choose the "RESEARCH: other" option. For questions or more information please contact Geoffrey Wood at [geoff.wood@pitt.edu](mailto:geoff.wood@pitt.edu).

### INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS OR POSTER - 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 only need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words). Please note that you can select the general topic that best fits your submission in the online portal (see online list). If your submission does not fit any of the general teaching topics, you can choose the "TEACHING: other" option. For questions or more information please contact Tamika Odum at [odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu).

### SPECIAL FORMAT (E.G., WORKSHOPS, ROUND TABLES, FILM/ART, AUTHOR-MEETS-CRITIC, ETC.)

NCSA accepts applied workshops, discussions, film/art showings, author meets critic sessions, and other special formats on any sociologically-related topic. These proposals should be submitted 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. Please submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words) as well as the names and email addresses of all session participants via the conference portal. For questions or more information, please contact Danielle Lavin-Loucks at [danielle.lavin-loucks@valpo.edu](mailto:danielle.lavin-loucks@valpo.edu).

### COMPLETE SESSIONS - RESEARCH

Also referred to as 'closed' sessions, an individual session creator organizes the research session topic, and solicits all participants. Complete panels can focus on any research topic, although those aligned with the theme of the conference are always appreciated. Panels should include 3-4 panelists who have committed to present papers on a similar topic. All participants must have agreed to participate *before* the organizer submits the session. To organize a complete session, please submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of ALL presenters, the title of the individual presentations within the session, and a brief abstract for *each* presentation (no more than 150 words). For questions or more information please contact Geoffrey Wood at [geoff.wood@pitt.edu](mailto:geoff.wood@pitt.edu).

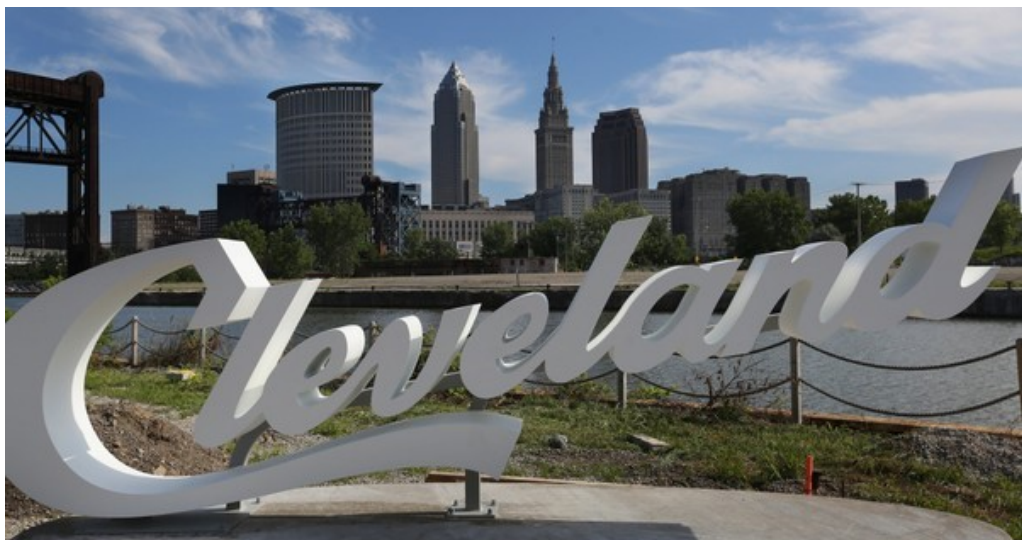
### COMPLETE SESSIONS - TEACHING

The second type of 'closed' sessions available to session creators focuses on teaching. Complete panels on any teaching-related topic should include 3-5 participants who present on topics related to pedagogy, mentoring, and/or the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL). All participants in the session must agree to participate *before* the organizer submits the session. To organize a complete teaching session, please submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session as a whole (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of ALL 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](mailto:odumtc@ucmail.uc.edu).

### STAY UP TO DATE WITH NCSA

To stay up to date with the North Central Sociological Association, make sure to check out our webpage at <https://www.ncsanet.org/>. You can also Like us on [Facebook](#) by clicking on the link or just searching for @TheNCSA in the Facebook app. Add your name to our email list so you don't miss out on important conference information, job postings, calls for papers, and other discipline-related news.

## IN AND AROUND CLEVELAND...



If it has been a while since you've visited Cleveland, you're in for a treat. The city has undertaken significant redevelopment and restoration projects to enhance this quaint urban center. Although we highlight certain attractions here, before you head to Cleveland for the conference, make sure to drop by the city's Visitor's Bureau, [This is Cleveland](#), to see everything that's going on in the Rock and Roll Capital of the World.

### ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME

A trip to Cleveland would be utterly incomplete without a stop at the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#). Less than a ten minute walk from the Westin conference hotel, the site is newly redesigned, with an oversized atrium featuring many of your favorite icons and rock legends. If you have never visited the site, plan on adding it to your conference -to- do list this year. Although the tickets are a little pricey, for fans of rock and roll, the experience is unforgettable.

### EAST FOURTH STREET

An urban oasis with a village-like atmosphere, [East Fourth Street](#) is widely considered the heart of downtown Cleveland. Whether you are doing a little shopping, grabbing some food, or heading out to listen to live music, this little street features something for everyone. Most notably, the world-class dining options, taverns, craft breweries, and coffee shops beckon visitors to the city and Cleveland natives alike, with an array of libations, snacking, and dining options. There's also a comedy club, a House of Blues, innumerable lounges, and even bowling on this energetic pedestrian street. Touted as an urban experiment, plan to spend a few hours in the evening taking in the lights, the sights, and the food and entertainment options.

### WEST SIDE MARKET

Although a little bit of a hike from the conference hotel, if you are enamored with European style markets, the [West Side Market](#) is worth the walk. Just under two miles away from the conference, you can sample baked goods, fresh seafood, seasonal fruits/vegetables, artisan cheeses, and prepared foods from some of Cleveland's favorite restaurants, cafes, and bistros. The market itself is over 100 years old, and is the last remaining public market in the city. Named one of the *10 Great Public Places in America*, it is a

foodie paradise. Just make sure to go early, as the market closes long before the sun sets.

### DINING OPTIONS

While there are far too many options to mention here when it comes to fine dining, comfort food, and international cuisine in Cleveland, we have managed to compile some of the best dining recommendations from local residents, savvy conferencegoers, and food critics.

If healthy fare is your speed, or you are a vegan/vegetarian, check out [The Flying Fig](#). With a charming atmosphere and a variety of locally sourced dishes, the restaurant offers a unique take on classic comfort food. For a 100% non-GMO foodie experience, head to [REBoI](#) to sample the internationally- inspired urban café's menu, which includes paleo, vegan, and gluten-free options. Craving Thai food? Try the Pho at [Saigon](#), a tiny, trendy Thai restaurant on East Fourth Street. If you are in the mood for fine wine, try [Adega](#), a Mediterranean locale in the Metropolitan Hotel boasts a breathtaking wine cellar in the center of the restaurant.

For true fans of the program *Iron Chef*, the prospect of eating in Michael Symon's restaurant, [Mabel's BBQ](#), is likely high on your bucket list. A self-described carnivore's dream, it is credited with establishing Cleveland-style barbecue. More on the trendy, hipster, brew-pub side of the dining spectrum, [The Greenhouse Tavern](#) garnered the 2018 Diners' Choice Award, and for good reason. An eclectic mix of modern cuisine and reimagined classics, the innovative home-grown chef, and winner of the Beard Award for the Great Lakes region, masterfully elevates fresh, local ingredients and homestyle favorites to a whole new level. Then, the shortest walk ever from the conference hotel brings you just downstairs in the Westin, where [Urban Farmer](#) serves up dishes worthy of the modern steakhouse moniker, but with funky style and a farmhouse vibe nestled in an urban locale.

Finally, truly upscale, swanky, and on the pricey side, [The Marble Room](#) is indeed a gem. Located within the former National City Bank, the majesty of the marble columns, with intricate hand carved detail, are only surpassed by the quality of the cuisine. Locals tout the seafood and steaks as some of the best in town. So, if you have a special occasion to splurge on, this is the place.



## 2020 CONFERENCE PREVIEW

*“In times of crisis, people reach for meaning. Meaning is strength. Our survival may depend on our seeking and finding it.”*

*~Viktor E. Frankl*

### 2020 NCSA Presidential Address



Dr. Bob Carrothers, Chair of the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Criminal Justice at Ohio Northern University and current NCSA President, will deliver the 2020 NCSA Presidential Address. The tentative title of his talk, mirroring the overall theme of the conference, is *“Grasping Constant Crisis: Sociological Imagination Revisited.”* Using Mills’ classic notion of the sociological imagination as a framework, Dr. Carrothers will investigate how we can apply classical and contemporary works in an effort to understand the consistent disturbances in equilibrium over the past several years. Sociology has a fundamental appreciation for the value of pattern and consistency in daily life. Yet, in the past several years, persistent violations of expected behavior, core values, social norms, and social equilibrium more generally have become regular features of our social world. As threats to disrupt the social order permeate macro structures, and jeopardize that which unites us, they simultaneously disturb our sense of peace at the micro level. As sociology also appreciates the complexity and diversity of experiences, we find the importance of Mills’ biography, location, and the historical era in which we exist to understanding these feelings and rediscover commonalities. Contemporaneously, as a discipline, we clearly recognize that despite a more widespread experience of social volatility and disequilibrium in the recency, such expected feelings of belonging and stasis during times of relative “calm” are privileges that have never been extended to many of those among us.

### 2020 Useem Plenary Address

The 2020 Useem Plenary Address will feature Dr. Rayshawn Ray, Associate Professor of Sociology and Executive Director of the Lab for Applied Social Science Research (LASSR) at the University of Maryland, and the current co-editor of the journal, *Contexts Magazine: Sociology for the Public*. A David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution, Dr. Ray has aided in the expansion of sociology into mainstream and “new” media. With appearances on NPR, MSNBC, C-SPAN, Al Jazeera, HLN, and Fox News, in addition to his notable contributions to print outlets like NBC News, Huff Post, and the New York Times, Dr. Ray’s commitment to public sociology and expanding public awareness of social problems represent a fundamentally necessary response to the crises we face in the modern world. With research in the areas of inequality, race/ethnic relations, public health, crime, policing, and the family, his broad approach to studying the genesis and implications of large scale social issues also provides strategies for addressing these problems. The tentative title for his address, *“Creating Civility and Tolerance in an Uncivil and Intolerant Society,”* hints at just this- the methods whereby we can respond to incivility in the world, as opposed to simply documenting or studying it. You can check out Dr. Ray’s webpage at <http://rashawnray.com> and follow him on Twitter (@SociologistRay).



*Photo Credit: SociologistRay on YouTube*

### 2020 John F. Schnabel Address



The 2020 Schnabel address will be delivered by Dr. Stephanie Medley-Rath, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Indiana University Kokomo, and last year’s winner of the John F. Schnabel Award. With research interests in the sociology of autobiography, cognitive sociology, and the sociology of the senses, among others, her dedication to creative and meaningful pedagogy and the scholarship of teaching and learning embodies many of the core interests of NCSA and its membership. A frequent contributor to award winning sociology blogs, her work transcends the standard boundaries of the discipline, into the realm of public sociology, engaging students to make their sociology matter. You can follow Dr. Medley-Rath on Twitter (@learnsociology) or check out her webpage at <http://stephaniemedleyrath.com/>.

# AKD PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

## Teaching Resilience in a World of Constant Crisis



Join us the day before the official conference start date for the Pre-Conference Workshop, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Delta. This year's theme is "Teaching Resilience in a World of Constant Crisis." These are challenging times and it often feels like we are struggling against exhausting and seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Our students also share that feeling, as they become overwhelmed by the magnitude and depth of the social problems our courses reveal. In this polarized and crisis-ridden climate, how can faculty and students persist? How can they collectively foster resilience?

We are looking forward to partnering once again with Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociological Honor Society, on a half day pre-conference workshop on March 26th, 2020 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm in Cleveland, Ohio. Using roundtables, small group discussions, and expert panels, this workshop will benefit faculty at all experience levels, helping them to identify concrete approaches to building resilience in students, and in ourselves, while developing strategies to grow and thrive in an era of uncertainty and "constant crisis."

*Additional details will be posted on the NCSA conference website in the coming weeks.*

For more information on how to register please go to:

<https://www.ncsanet.org/annual-meeting/2020mtg/akd-workshop/>

Pre-registration for the workshop closes on March 15, 2020.

The pre-conference fee is \$25.

Hosted by: Michelle Smith and Melinda Messineo

12:00-5:00 pm Thursday, March 26th, 2020

## Alpha Kappa Delta

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) is the International Honor Society for the discipline of Sociology. Founded in 1920, the organization strives to recognize and advance the quality of scholarship in the field, while supporting activities that promote the enhancement of the human condition. Society membership is open to students (undergraduate or graduate) who meet the membership requirements, and faculty members at institutions with active chapters. Information on membership criteria and how to start a chapter at your institution is available on the AKD Website at: <http://www.alphakappadelta.org/>.

## 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 submission guidelines available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/usfo20#.VE-62fldWTM>.

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