



**North Central
Sociological Association**

2025 Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency

Lexington, KY



Welcome to the 2025 Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association!



Welcome to the 101st North Central Sociological Association meeting: thanks for joining us in Lexington, Kentucky. There are a variety of sessions ranging from teaching and learning to applied and community-focused to research and scholarship. The range of topics and social issues addressed in these sessions support our theme "Sociology in a Pluralistic World: Finding Common Ground". We hope that our sessions and conference will allow a safe and meaningful space for sociology students, faculty, scholars, and community leaders to have the opportunity to share timely and constructive discussions as we work together to construct a better world for all.

Best,
Leslie

Leslie Wang, Saint Mary's College
NCSA President 24-25

A message from the Vice President and Program Chair

Welcome to Lexington, Kentucky. Our NCSA 2025 conference has so much to offer. With over 60 sessions and 150 papers, we have something for everyone: teaching, research, and applied sessions; workshops on op-ed writing, publishing your work, and preparing CVs for tenure review; thematic sessions and plenaries focused on ‘Sociology in a Pluralistic World.’ As chair of the program committee, I can testify to the fact that work submitted for this conference is eclectic, timely, and thought provoking. I hope you are able to attend many sessions and engage in discussion surrounding issues such as immigration, refugees, gender and sexuality, and religion, among others.

Many people committed numerous hours to creating this program and ensuring the success of this year’s conference and our association. Melinda Messineo, Ball State University, is in many respects the foundation of this organization – without her attention to detail, concern for our association, and words of encouragement, this conference would not have come to fruition. Brigit Dyer, Macomb County Community College, our new conference coordinator, went over and above in helping me get the sessions organized and staying connected with conference participants. Brigit and Melinda have both moved mountains in the planning and preparation for our 101st conference. Mellisa Holtzman, Ball State University, coordinated the undergraduate sessions – her dedication to undergraduate scholarship is awesome. And now in no particular order, I must also thank members of the program committee and those who I pulled in from time to time to assist in program planning: Gail McGuire, Indiana University South Bend; Michelle Jacobs, Wayne State University; Robert Carrothers, Ohio Northern University; Jay Howard, Butler University; Gregory Kordsmeier, Indiana University South Bend; David Merolla, Wayne State University; Mary Senter, Central Michigan University, and Stephen Keto (retired) Kent State University. Without their advice, social support, and trouble-shooting...well, I’m not sure where things would be!

Finally, my thanks goes out to the members of North Central Sociological Association. We are a small but mighty association. It is you, our members, who keep us going. Your participation is of critical importance in making the conference work for all of us; I look forward to engaged discussions in the sessions, in the hallways, and over coffee. Make connections, share information, and take the energy of the conference back to your campuses to sustain you and our discipline through these times.

In solidarity,

Michelle A. Smith

Lakeland Community College



2024 – 2025 NCSA COUNCIL

Leslie Wang, Saint Mary's College	President
Geoffrey Wood, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg	Past President
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Stephanie Medley-Rath, Indiana University, Kokomo	Member-at-Large
Melinda Messineo, Ball State University	Operations Manager

2024 – 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

R. Khari Brown, Wayne State University	<i>Sociological Focus</i> , Editor
Geoff Wood, University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg	Past President, Nominations Chair
Gregory Kordsmeier, Indiana University,	Schnabel Teaching Award
Mellisa Holtzman, Ball State University	Undergraduate Student Sessions
Jay Howard, Butler University	Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award
Temple Smith, Michigan Public Health Institute	Equity & Inclusion Chair, Butler A. Jones Scholarship
Brandon Million, Ball State University	Yinger Distinguished Career Award
Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks, Slippery Rock University	Scholarly Achievement Awards
Kevin Christiano, University of Notre Dame	Finance
Fang Gong, Ball State University	Student Paper Competition Awards
Pamela Koch, Hope College	Profession, Freedom & Responsibility
Bridget Smith-Botos, Henry Ford Community College	Applied, Clinical, & Other Public Sociology
Annulla (Anna) Linders, University of Cincinnati	Publication Policy
Melinda Messineo, Ball State University	Operations Manager
Brigit Dyer, Macomb Community College	Conference Planner

2025 RUTH & JOHN USEEM PLENARY ADDRESS

Finding (Non) Common Ground in Racially Divisive Times: The Role of White Victimization and Group Threat in Political Narratives

Charles “Chip” Gallagher, Ph.D.

Professor
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice (La Salle Univ.)

Charles A. Gallagher is professor of the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department at La Salle University. Prior to his move back to Philadelphia, Professor Gallagher was at Georgia State University for twelve years. His research focuses on social inequality, race relations and immigration and has published over 50 articles, reviews and books on these topics. As a Fulbright Research Scholar at the University of Birmingham in the UK in 2016-17 Professor Gallagher researched attitudes on immigration and Brexit. Professor Gallagher has given over sixty talks on these topics around the country, serves as an expert witness on civil rights cases dealing with allegations of institutional racism, and is a frequent media source on these issues, appearing on Jon Stewart, CNN, Don Lemon, NPR, Dr. Phil, Katie Couric, Bill O’Reilly, KYW and appears frequently on Philadelphia’s Fox network. He has been interviewed by the press or appeared in television and radio interviews over 150 times. He is currently writing a book on how institutions create self-reinforcing accounts of colorblind egalitarianism that serve to maintain, normalize and reproduce racial inequality. Last month he was the distinguished visiting scholar at The American University at Cairo presenting on race politics in the United States.



Professor Gallagher has published extensively on how whites in the United States understand their race, how ethnic ancestry informs their white identity and the social factors that make this identity more or less salient. Professor Gallagher’s current work examines the extent to which colorblindness has become the lens through which many whites view race relations and the role institutions have played in allowing this to happen.

Media appearances: CNN, BBC News, NPR, Dr. Phil, Katie Couric, Bill O’Reilly, KYW Newsradio, FOX 29, CBS 3 Philadelphia, Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Daily News, Christian Science Monitor

Education:

Ph.D., Sociology, Temple University
M.A., Temple University
B.S., Economics, Drexel University

**THANK YOU TO OUR GRACIOUS
2025 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!**

Special thanks to Sociological Focus for their ongoing support of our annual meetings.



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**College of Sciences
and Humanities
Department of Sociology
MASTER'S DEGREE**





**BALL STATE
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College of Sciences
and Humanities
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Are you interested in research or data analysis?

Would you enjoy working for a state agency, non-profit organization, or institution of higher education?

Are you considering earning a PhD, JD, or MD but are worried about getting lost in the competitive environment of a large program?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then I want to encourage you to learn more about how a Master's Degree in Sociology from Ball State University can help you achieve your goals. Our program is small enough to cater to your needs, yet rigorous enough to provide you with the skills that will ensure successful professional placements.

Our recent graduates now work at the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Census Bureau (among others). And they have been admitted to schools such as Purdue, Penn State, Notre Dame, and Indiana University for advanced study.

For more information contact Mellisa Holtzman:

mkholtzman@bsu.edu.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

1:00 PM—5:00 PM

AKD Teaching & Learning Workshop (*Jessamine*)

"Thriving in Uncertain Times" *Navigating this Changing Higher Education Landscape*

6:00-9:00 PM

Registration Desk and Information Tables (*Main Floor Lobby Area*)

6:00 PM—10:00 PM

Old Council Dinner/Meeting (*Scott-Woodford*)

chaired by 2024-2025 President, Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College)

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

7:00 AM—4:00 PM

Registration Desk and Information Tables (*Main Floor Lobby Area*)

8:30 AM—9:45 AM

Open Discussion: What Even IS Applied, Clinical & Public Sociology (*Jessamine*)

Facilitator: Liz Ziff (University of Indianapolis)

Political Processes and Systems (*Franklin*)

Presider: Andrew Buck (University of Southern Indiana)

Electoral Democracy and Social Cohesion, Security, and Quality of Life in Post-Colonial Independent Africa: Nigeria, a Case Study, Ahmadu A. Baba-Snghri (Grand View University)

Power and Praise: The Case of the Late Brezhnev Era, Andrew Buck (University of Southern Indiana)

Patterns of Political Integration across Immigrant Generations among Asian, Kim Chigon (Wright State University)

Qualitative Analysis of Retired Voters' Attitudes and Decision-Making Processes Related to Public School Funding Ballot Initiatives, Rebecca Parkhurst, (Cleveland State University)

"Perceptions of Necessary Political Tactics as Predictors of Latinx Intergroup Commonality", Randall Wyatt, (Oakland University)

Work and Occupations (Scott)

Presider: Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University)

Some of my Best Friends are interior designers: Professions, hierarchy, and sex-segregated work
Carla Corroto (Otterbein University)

Community or Commodity?: How the Rise of Gig Economy Platforms has Reshaped Nonstandard Workers' Motivations and Outcomes, Jean Hardy (Michigan State University), Emily Wornell (Ball State University), Justin Schupp (Wheaton College, MA), Amanda McMillan Lequieu (Drexel University)

Bringing Back Occupational Prestige: The Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Heterosexual Men and Women in the U.S., Roberto Ortiz (Indiana University-Bloomington)

Expressions of Anti-Black Biases, Job Satisfaction, and Turnover Intentions in the Full-Service Restaurant Industry: A Replication and Extension, Zach Brewster (Wayne State University), Allen Heffner (Wayne State University)

Health Disparities & Outcomes (Woodford)

Presider: Kirsten Ostergren Clark (Wilberforce University)

Fitting Sociological Theory to Handbell Ensemble Playing, Kirsten Ostergren Clark (Wilberforce University)

A Decade of Progress, Sihra Harshman (University of Cincinnati), Katy McFarland (University of Cincinnati), Elizabeth Kelly (University of Cincinnati)

The association of cigarettes and self-rated health, Kana Turnell (Ball State University)

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Lyme Disease, Nicole Bray (Michigan State University)

Exploring How Race-related and General Social Stressors Explain Racial Differences in Biological Aging Deziree Jackson (Indiana University)

Racial Exclusion and Discrimination (Regency I)

Presider: Julie Zimmerman (University of Kentucky)

Legislating Action: Exploring the Antagonistic Relationship of Highways in Black Communities and Neighborhoods, Allen Marshall (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Perceived Everyday Discrimination Among Asian Americans: An Intersectional Analysis of Gender and Ethnicity, Fang Gong (Ball State University), Jun Xu (Ball State University), Grant Mu (Ball State University)

Historical Amnesia, Racialized Exclusion, and Remembering Those Who Went Before: Revealing Race in Rural Sociology's Hidden History, Julie Zimmerman (University of Kentucky)

Parasites of Predation: When Bankruptcy Turns Debts into Assets, Kasey Henricks, (University of Illinois-Chicago), Ruben Ortiz (Acacia Center for Justice), Nicole Sroka (University of Illinois at Chicago)

10:00 AM—11:15 AM

Food & the Environment (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Anya Galli Roberston (University of Dayton)

Farming for the Future? Small Farmer Motivations and the Local, Organic Food Movement, David Blouin (Indiana University at South Bend)

The Centrality of Food as a Stressor, Coping Mechanism, and Connector for Division III Student-Athletes: A Photovoice Study, Bella Saunders, Cami Sweet (Oberlin College), Alicia Smith-Tran (Oberlin College), Maggie Balderstone (Oberlin College)

Harvesting Heritage: Community Garden of War, Kristi McLeod (Marshall University)

Assessing Public Opinion on the Oil-Industry through Online Discourse, Will Hoffman (Ohio State University)

“What Clean Air?”: Frame Contests in Subnational Energy Policy Debates, Anya Galli Roberston (University of Dayton)

Confronting Challenges in Teaching (*Franklin*)

Presider: Todd Callais (University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash)

Facilitators: Sara Collas (Ball State University), Melinda Messineo (Ball State University), Chris Huggins (University of Kentucky)

Professional Portfolios: An Outline for Students (*Scott*)

Facilitators: Megan St. George (Wayne State University), Kristin Newvine (Penn State University), Annie McGhee (University of Cincinnati)

Teaching Students Public Sociology Skills (*Woodford*)

Facilitators: Gail McGuire (Indiana University South Bend), Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis), Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis)

Issues of Gender and Race (*Regency I*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

The impact of Workplace Discrimination on Black identity: The Role of Solidarity and Intersectionality, Avery Wagner (Ohio Northern University)

Skin Color: The Perpetuation of Implicit Bias in US Culture, Althea Jones (The University of Akron)

Not So Black and White: The Intersectionality of Gender Non-conformity and Race, Angel Cobb (Eastern Kentucky University)

Directing Love: A Content Analysis of Gendered Stereotypes and Power Dynamics in Hollywood Romance Films, Paige Struchen (Muskingum University)

Religion (*Regency 2*)

Presider: Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

Gender inequality in churchwork: Victorian diaconesses and Catholic Workers as gender equalizers within religious structures, Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

What does spirituality mean to you? Perspectives from nonreligious individuals in recovery
Caitlin Trombley (Marshall University)

Sociological Concept of Faith, Navk Pai Kaur (Independent Researcher)

Mormonism and Gender: An Intricate Tapestry, Leilani Mascio (Ball State University)

11:30 AM—12:45 PM

Crime (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

Police Officers Perceptions, Kelcie Schnitzler (Capital University)

Criminal Justice: Students' Perceptions, Jolie Parker (Bellarmine University)

Meta-Analysis on the Modern Research of Correctional Officers, Emma Terry (Wayne State University)

Is This Just Another Drill, Elliott Wilson (Indiana University Bloomington)

Applying Sociology: Making an Impact Beyond Academia (*Franklin*)

Presider: Bridget Smith -Botos (Henry Ford Community College)

Facilitators: Amber Neher (Detroit Chamber of Commerce), Lauren McClain (Grantibly)

Finding Common Ground in our Communities, on our Campuses, and in our Classrooms (*Scott*)

Presider: Michelle A. Smith (Lakeland Community College).

Panelists: Katherine Rowell (Sinclair Community College), Jay Howard (Butler University), Emma Curtis (Lexington City Council)

Caregiving (*Woodford*)

Presider: Rongjun Sun (Cleveland State University)

Objective / Subjective Stressors and the Well-Being of Caregivers for Advanced Cancer Patients
Rongjun Sun (Cleveland State University), Linda Francis (Cleveland State University)

Exploring Caregiver Social Support on Perceived Burden and Distress, Isabella Veri (Cleveland State University)

A Cost of Caring: The Impact of Healthcare Provider Communication on Caregiver Bereavement

Amanda Nill (Cleveland State University)

Assessing Student Learning (*Regency 1*)

Presider: Lia Wiley (The University of Akron)

Auto-Ethnography on the Changing Role of the Teacher, Shon Byrum (Ball State University)

An Examination of the Impact of Reducing the Literacy Level of Assignment Instructions on Student Confidence and Performance, J.A. Carter (University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash), Kelli Chapman (University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash), Taylor Wadian (University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash), Todd Callais (University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash)

Saying Goodbye to Exams? A Case for Reevaluating How We Evaluate Student Learning, Lia Wiley (The University of Akron)

Issues in Higher Education (*Regency 2*)

Presider: Sara Collas (Ball State University)

The Search for Common Ground: Analyzing Language Commonly Used For Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Hannah Friend (Ohio Northern University)

Student Faculty Interactions in the Undergraduate Classroom, Savannah Heemer (Ball State University)

From Alienation to Integration: The Role of Social and Cultural Capital in the Successes of Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Undergraduate Students, Leann Saul (Saint Mary's College)

Diverse Assessments: The Function of LGBTQ+ Zines in the Classroom, Victor Lee (Ball State University), Beckett Fehribach (Ball State University), Gabriel Del Greco (Ball State University)

1:15 PM—2:30 PM

The Influence of Structural Forces (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Hope Harvey (University of Kentucky)

From Family Trees to Crime Scenes: The Public's View on Forensic Genealogy, Maizie Braasch (Ohio Northern University)

Differences in crime reporting between Brazil and the United States, Laura Silva (University of Kentucky)

Breaking Barriers Beyond Bars: Navigating Discrimination Inside University for Formerly-Incarcerated and System-Impacted Students, Kayla Hoang (University of California, Irvine)

Exploring Belonging by Race/Ethnicity and First-Generation Student Status at Midwestern University. Anthony Castaneda (University of Indianapolis)

"They Are Not Climbing The Same Mountain." Examining Institutional Support for First-Generation and Income-Eligible College Students at Oberlin College and Conservatory, Kana Sakamoto (Oberlin University)

Media Representation and Media Analysis (Franklin)

Presider: Annulla Linders (University of Cincinnati)

Representing Death in Execution Accounts, Annulla Linders (University of Cincinnati)

Super moms or Superhero Moms: Representations of Motherhood in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Kate Durso (University of Cincinnati)

"I'm in Hillbilly Hell": Rurality in Disney and Pixar Animated Feature Films, Spencer Jarrett (University of Cincinnati)

Get Ready with Me [on social media]: Turning sartorial storytelling into social activism, Arti Sandhu (University of Cincinnati)

The Manosphere: Black Men Content Creators, Tya Smith (University of Cincinnati)

GIFTS: Good Ideas for Teaching Sociology and Publishing in TRAILS (Scott)

Facilitators: Stephanie Medley-Rath (Indiana University Kokomo), Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University)

Media (Regency 1)

Presider: Howard Welser (Ohio University)

The canary in the data mine: Precarious conditions for deliberative discussion across digital media systems Howard Welser (Ohio University)

The symbolic annihilation of Appalachia: Exploring West Virginia residents' perceptions of national media representation, Trenton Straight (Ohio University)

How Different News Sources Impact Fear of Crime Amongst College Students, Jared Rosenberger (Ashland University)

Innovative Teaching in Different Contexts (Regency 2)

Presider: Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis)

Increasing Retention in the Online Classroom: A Multi-Level Approach, Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis) Lisa Borerro (University of Indianapolis), Marsh Wilson Wood (University of Indianapolis)

Cluster Courses: Liberal Arts Innovation in a Small College, Kristin Park (Westminster College, PA)

Saving Sociology through Interdisciplinary Collaborations, Genevieve Ritchie-Ewing (Ball State University)

Pedagogy of Structured Disorganization, Chad Sloss (Wittenberg University)

Intersectionality in the Classroom (*Woodford*)

Presider: Bridget Smith Botos (Henry Ford Community College)

Facilitators: Megan St. George (Wayne State University) Amber Neher (Detroit Chamber of Commerce),
Marlanna Landeros (Schoolcraft College)

Educational Experiences and Outcomes (*Regency 3*)

Presider: Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College)

Navigating Parental Involvement: How Demographics and COVID-19 Have Reshaped Educational Engagement, Noah Crawford (Wayne State University)

The Pursuit of Belonging: A Study of how Working-Class Students Learn to Thrive at an Elite, Private University, Elizabeth Wyatt (Saint Mary's College)

LGBTQ+ Homeschoolers and their Mental Health, Rebekah Nolette (Muskingum University)

Impact of Homeschooling on the Formerly Homeschooled Adult, Rebekah Nolette (Muskingum University)

2:45 PM—4:00 PM

Innovative Teaching Techniques (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Ryan Steel (Miami University)

Experiencing Inequality: Can VR Transform the Teaching of Sociology?, Cynthia Emami (University of Kentucky), Jordan Brown (University of Kentucky)

Improving Engagement in Group Activities, Liz Klainot-Hess (Capital University)

The Roll of (Mis)Fortune: An In-Class Game for Teaching Life Course Theories of Crime, Inequality, and Cumulative (Dis)Advantage, Ryan Steel (Miami University)

Gender and Media (*Franklin*)

Presider: Rachael Green (West Virginia University)

(Mis)perceptions of Gender Symmetry in Culture and Media Erin Whitesitt (Northern Arizona University)

Twitch.tv and the Gender Game: How Femininity Shapes Earnings and Visibility in the Streaming World Amber Stone (Marshall University)

"Men hate things women love" Gamer Girls & Identity Threat on Reddit, Rachael Green (West Virginia University)

Testing Mulvey's Male Gaze: The Representation of Women in Arab Cinema, Mohammad Zannoun (University of Kentucky)

Updating Tenure and Promotion Rubrics at Capital University (Workshop & Discussion) (Scott)

Facilitator: Laura Boser-Kane (Capital University)

Putting Expertise into Action: Op-Ed Writing Workshop I (Woodford)

Facilitators: Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis), Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis), Liz Ziff (University of Indianapolis)

Crime and Incarceration (Regency 1)

Presider: Hope Harvey (University of Kentucky)

“I wanted to fight for my country...I wanted to see the world”: The experiences of incarcerated veterans while serving in the military, Melissa Stacer (University of Southern Indiana)

The relevance of polygenic scores in criminological research, Pat Seffrin (Marywood University), Corrin Hasty (Marywood University)

Colorblindness and the Incarceration of Black Americans, Kelsey Mosley (Ball State University)

Sexual and Romantic Relationships (Regency 2)

Presider: Robert Carrothers (Ohio Northern University)

Ethical Non-Monogamy: Culture and Boundaries in Practice, Kiki Higgins (University of Cincinnati)

Producing Inclusive Sexuality, Katherine Castiello-Jones (University of Cincinnati), Kayla Ramirez (University of Cincinnati)

Money, Kids, and In-Laws: Negotiating Gendered Expectations in the Transition to Marriage in South Korea Yunmyung Cho (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Social Construction of Race (Regency 3)

Presider: David Merolla (Wayne State University)

Genetic Ancestry Testing and Essentialist Attitudes Among Young Adults, Whitney Hunt (University of the Ozarks), David Merolla (Wayne State University)

“Mom You Can’t Sing the N-word”: Bidirectional Ethnic-Racial Socialization in Multiracial Families, Monica Heilman (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Multiple Dimensions of Race and Perceived Unfair Treatment, Cliff Broman (Michigan State University), Monique Kelly (Michigan State University)

3:30-4:30

Student Section Refreshment Networking Event (Kentucky)

4:30-5:15

Peer Review Publishing: Strategies for Sociological Focus (Jessamine)

Presenter: Khari Brown, Editor of Sociological Focus (Wayne State University)

5:15 PM—6:00 PM

2025 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentations (*Regency 1, 2 & 3*)

hosted by Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College) and Melinda Messineo (Ball State U)

J. Milton Yinger Lifetime Award for a Distinguished Career in Sociology

presented by Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College)

Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award

Awarded by Jay Howard (Butler University)

John F. Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

presented by Gregory Kordsmeier (Indiana U, Southeast)

Scholarly Achievement Award for a Book

presented by Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks (Slippery Rock U)

Scholarship Achievement Award for an Article

presented by Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks (Slippery Rock U)

Seidler Paper Competition for Graduate Students – finalists

presented by Fang Gong (Ball State U)

Roberto Ortiz, (Indiana University) *Bringing Back Occupational Prestige: The Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Heterosexual Men and Women in the U.S*

Yunmyung Cho, (Indiana University), *Money, Kids, and In-Laws: Negotiating Gendered Expectations in the Transition to Marriage in South Korea*

Marissa Morey, (Wayne State University) *The Empowerment Paradox: Identify Feminism in Conservative Spaces and the Impact of Neoliberal Rationality*

Presidents Paper Competition for Undergraduate Students

presented by Fang Gong (Ball State U)

Margaret Dunn, (Saint Mary's College) *The Complex Nature of Abortion: An Analysis of the Relationships Between Social Factors, State Abortion Rates and Abortion Legislation.*

Devon Skufca, (John Carroll University) *Shifting Tide: A Comparative Analysis of News Coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict*

Leann Saul, (Saint Mary's College) *From Alienation to Integration: The Role of Social and Cultural Capital in the Successes of Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Undergraduate Students*

6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Ruth & John Useem Plenary Address (*Regency 1, 2 & 3*)

Finding (Non) Common Ground in Racially Divisive Times: The Role of White Victimization and Group Threat in Political Narratives

Introduction by Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College)

Plenary address by Charles "Chip" Gallegher

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

7:00 AM—4:00 PM

Registration Desk and Information Tables (*Main Floor Lobby Area*)

7:45 AM—8:45 AM

Associations Sections Breakfast (*Kentucky*)

9:00 AM—10:15 AM

2025 Schnabel Distinguished Teaching Plenary (*Regency 1, 2 & 3*)

Presenter: Tamika Odum (University of Cincinnati), “Alpha, Beta, Gamma Oh My: Generational Shifts and the Future of Learning”

Collective Behavior and Social Movements (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Michelle Oyakawa (Muskingum University)

The Empowerment Paradox: Identifying Feminism in Conservative Spaces and the Impact of Neoliberal Rationality, Marissa Morey (Wayne State University)

Policing the Anti-Abortion Movement: Differences in Federal and Local Law Enforcement Strategies
Molly Broscoe (University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash)

Dead Gay Wizards: Conceptualizing Fanfiction as a Social Movement, Anna Meister (University of Cincinnati)

“From the Margins to the Margin of Victory”: A Case Study of the AAPI Civic Engagement Fund
Michelle Oyakawa (Muskingum University)

Political Sociology I (*Franklin*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

Criteria of Courage: Personally and normatively defining courage, Timothy Rosignol (University of Southern Indiana)

Shifting Tide: A Comparative Analysis of News Coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict, Devon Skufca (John Carroll University)

Social Movements on Campus: An ethnographic study of a student organization, Advait Save (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Healthcare Delivery (*Scott*)

Presider: Payton Bennett (Ball State University)

PsychoHairapy: A Call for Mental Health Training and Education for Hairstylists, Payton Bennett (Ball State University)

Examining Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Disorder, and Housing Instability among People with Serious Mental Illnesses, Shiah Kleinman (Kent State University, Northeast Ohio Medical University)
Stacey Barringer (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Natalie Bonfine (Northeast Ohio Medical University)

Mental Health for a Strong Black Woman, Goldie Griffin (Ball State University)

"The whole experience is for the client": Perspectives of Licensed Oregon Psilocybin Facilitators, Adam Sizemore (University of Southern Indiana)

Sociology and Nursing: Exploring the promise of Structural Competency, Anjel Stough-Hunter (Capital University), Katie Gorman-Ezell (Capital University)

Applied and Public Sociology (*Woodford*)

Presider: Gail McGuire (Indiana University, South Bend)

Using ArcGIS Story Maps to Illustrate the Assets of an Inner-city Neighborhood, Gail McGuire (Indiana University, South Bend)

Finding Common Ground: Advancing Community Resilience and Sustainability through Community based Innovative and Collaborative Solutions, Felix Fernando (University of Dayton)

Revisiting Public Sociology, Jo Anna Kelly (Walsh University)

The Detroit Reentry Photovoice Project, Michelle Jacobs (Wayne State University)

10:30 AM—11:45 AM

High Impact Practices (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Katherine Rowell (Sinclair Community College)

Teaching Sociology Through Banned Books, Jeanne Holcomb (University of Dayton)

Sports, Drugs and Religion: Applicable Papers and Field Trips in Course Development, Kirsten Ostergren Clark (Wilberforce University)

Community Action Research as Pedagogy: Eviction and Tenant Unions, Katherine Rowell (Sinclair Community College), Alaina Imboden (Sinclair Community College)

Political Sociology II (*Regency 2*)

Presider: Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University)

Big Brother's Bias: Racial Disparities in Attitudes Toward Government Surveillance, Naje Wright (Ohio Northern University)

The Complex Nature of Abortion: An Analysis of the Relationships Between Social Factors, State Abortion Rates and Abortion Legislation, Margaret Dunn (Saint Mary's College)

In a Colorful Sea of Fish: The Intersectional Participation of Race & Sexual Minorities in Social Movements

Kolbie Olson (University of Cincinnati)

Crime and Victimization (Regency 3)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

The Complexity of Blame: Investigating College Students' Perceptions of Sexual Violence, Megan Jessup (Ball State University), Melissa Holtzman (Ball State University)

Unknowing Victims: Student Perceptions of Victimhood and Crimes of the Powerful, Daniel Patten (Purdue University Fort Wayne)

Thinking Critically About the Intersections of Criminological Theories and Victimization, Carina Perrone (West Virginia University)

Gendered Hispanic Lives, Rayne Magnasco (Bowling Green State University), Audrey Simon (Bowling Green State University), Grady Schulz (Bowling Green State University)

Gender Norms and Expectations (Woodford)

Presider: Rin September (Ball State University)

Black Women's Beauty: Intricacies resulting from beauty socialization process, Mokoene Kearabetswe (Wayne State University)

Un-Gendering Patriarchy: The Internalization and Enactment of Masculinity Among Women in STEM Taylor Remsburg (West Virginia University)

The Oppressive Nature of Rigid Gender Structures, Rin September (Ball State University)

Refugees (Regency 1)

Presider: Karina Powell (Eastern Kentucky University)

A voice to the voiceless refugees with Disabilities and language divide in terms of accessing braille and Rohingya-friendly sign language through an inclusive justice system, Natasha Kabir (Southern Illinois University)

Challenges and Opportunities in the Resettlement of Ukrainian Refugees in Eastern and Central Kentucky: A Comprehensive Analysis of Socio-Economic Integration, Healthcare Access, and Legal Status, Karina Powell (Eastern Kentucky University)

Refugee Education Challenges, Aziz Hemin (Refugee Connect Organization in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky)

The Challenges of a Community Engaged Curriculum: Balancing the Needs of Students and Community Partners (Franklin)

Facilitators: Rebecca Christensen (University of Michigan Ann Arbor), Essence Uke (University of Michigan Ann Arbor), Enrique Barranda (University of Michigan Ann Arbor)

History of the NCSA (*Scott*)

Presider: Brigit Dyer (Macomb Community College)

Facilitators: Vicky Demos (University of Minnesota Morris), Tony Cortese (Southern Methodist University), Hussain Fayyaz (Michigan State University), Joe Vershaeve (Ferris State University), Bob Newby (Professor Emeritus, Central Michigan University)

12:00 PM—1:15 PM

Presidential Address (*Regency 1, 2 & 3*)

Leslie Wang, NCSA President (Saint Mary's College), "Why Race Matters: How is a Race and Ethnicity Course Meaningful to Multiple Groups of Students?"

2:00 PM—3:15 PM

Gender and Violence (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Fayyaz Hussain (Michigan State University)

Critical analysis of violence against women in Pakistan: Qualitative research in Women's Shelter Homes,

Fayyaz Hussain (Michigan State University)

Thinking Critically About Sports and Violence Against Women. Leah Oldman (West Virginia University)

Skepticism in Science: Reflections from Nobel Laureates Alexandra Hendley (Murray State University)

Disparities in Education (*Franklin*)

Presider: Monita Mungo (University of Toledo)

Racial Discrimination of International Students on College Campuses in the United States: Analysis of Coping and Adaptation Strategies using Eva Kahana's Preventive and Corrective Adaptation Model, Aborisade Oluwatimileyin (Case Western Reserve University)

Disproportionality in Special Education Identification in a Suburban Midwestern School District, Rebecca Parkhurst (Cleveland State University)

Racialized Experiences of African International Graduate Students in the United States, Anthonia Ishabiyi (University of Cincinnati)

Voices of Resilience: Exploring the Academic Experiences of Black Male Students in Engineering Technology Monita Mungo (University of Toledo), Lesley Berhan (University of Toledo), Anne Lucietto (Purdue University), Ananya Bhatt (University of Toledo), Tiobisto Kidane (University of Toledo), Revathy Kumar (University of Toledo)

Qualitative Analysis of Contentious Social Issues (Regency 1)

Presider: Annulla Linders (University of Cincinnati)

Legislative Limbo: A Critical Analysis of the Online DACA Activist Movement, Martha Ramirez (University of Cincinnati), Brianna Jones-Williams (University of Cincinnati)

Social Movements and Social Media: A Critical Analysis of the SARS Protest in Nigeria, Miracle Eunice Bolorundoro (University of Cincinnati)

The Policing of Black Protests in Cincinnati, 2001 & 2020, Izzy Jeavons (University of Cincinnati)

Moving Beyond The Sick Role & Docile Bodies: An Interpretive Framework to Reconstitute Patients as Active Agents of Social Change, John Roth (University of Cincinnati)

Teaching Introduction to Sociology: The Content and Role of Introductory Sociology Classes

(Woodford)

Facilitators: Stephanie Medley-Rath (University of Indiana, Kokomo), Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast), Jay Howard (Butler University), Jamie Oslawski-Lopez (Indiana University, Kokomo)

Putting Expertise into Action: Op-Ed Writing Workshop II (Scott)

Facilitators: Collen Wynn (University of Indianapolis), Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis), Liz Ziff (University of Indianapolis)

Sexuality and Sex Education (Regency 2)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

The Effects of Sex Education and Socialization On US Raised and Foreign Raised Latinas Living in the U.S. Meylin Lucha-Lopez (University of Indianapolis)

Sex Ed Limitations and Expectations in Schools Around the United States, Emma Bass (The University of Akron)

The impact of age on the perception of sexual culture: A study analyzing survey results from an intergenerational population, Elecia Curtis (Wayne State University)

Vegans and Their Relationship with Veganism, Rory Odum (Murray State University)

Political Discourse (Regency 3)

Presider: Geoff Wood, (Pitt-Greensburg)

The evolution of spite: How the proliferation of negative relations can shape political discourse and drive social change, Howard T. Welser (Ohio University)

Project 2025: America's Social Movement toward Authoritarianism, Geoff Wood (Pitt-Greensburg)

I Believe, Therefore it is True: An Analysis of Post-Truth Phenomenon, Nirmal Acharya (Wayne State University)

3:30 PM—4:45 PM

Teaching and Learning (*Jessamine*)

Presider: TBD

Assessment of Learning: Resetting Academic Success: Culturally Intelligent and Multimodal Strategies for College Classrooms, Sheyenne Graininger (Ohio University, Athens Campus)

Enhancing Educational Outcomes: Evaluating the Impact of Volunteering at a Student-Run Free Clinic
Hannah Haynie (Northeast Ohio Medical University & Kent State University), Kristin Baughman (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Stacey Garner-Buckshaw (Northeast Ohio Medical University)

Estrangement from Genuine Learning: Exploring Perspectives on Academic Motivation in the Modern Classroom, Will Hoffman (Ohio University), Shirley Wang (Ohio University), Bebe Acuna (Ohio University)

The Impact of Cellphone use on Academic Performance Among University Students
Opeyeoluwa Alde (West Virginia University)

LGBTQ+ (*Franklin*)

Presider: Sara Collas (Ball State University)

Why is Tito Vodka In Love with Dinah? A photo ethnography of a sizzling lesbian party scene, Sara Collas (Ball State University)

Biographical Discovery, Tension, and Disruption: Trans Peoples' Experiences Negotiating Chronic Illness Annie McGhee (University of Cincinnati)

After Obergefell: Perceptions of Marriage Among LGBTQ+ Young Adults, Shelby Frye (Ohio State University)

Protecting Reproductive Organs of Minors: Anti-Trans Legislation in 2024, Kenneth Gourlay (Wayne State University), Mohammad Ridwan Mostafa (Wayne State University)

Environmental and Social Conditions (*Scott*)

Presider: Alexandra Hendley, (Murray State University)

Survival of the Richest: The Link Between Poverty and Disaster Recovery, Madilyn Sams (Ball State University)

Economic Recessions and Attitudes towards Gender Roles, Ian Ritchey (Ball State University)

Socioeconomic Status and Environmental Concern, Kevin Oliver (John Carroll University)

"What Should I Be Doing?": Social Media and Sense of Progress, Kasey Price (University of Cincinnati)

Parents and Children (Regency 1)

Presider: Martina Sharp-Grier (Stark State College National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity)

It Takes a Village: Narratives of Black Women Faculty Navigating Motherhood in Academe, Martina Sharp-Grier (Stark State College National Alliance for Partnership in Equity)

Crafting the Perfect Mother: Domestic Arts as Obscured Leisure in Intensive Mothering, Christina Carney (Wayne State University)

Parents and Daughters: Exploring Youth Ability to Predict Parent's Anger Levels in India, Anjali Biswas (Indiana University)

It Takes a Village... or does it?: A Quantitative Analysis of FFCWS Mothers Receiving Financial Assistance on Child Health Outcomes within the First Year, Hanna Brenner (Ball State University)

From CV to Hire Me: Strategies to Transform your Academic Portfolio into an Industry Ready Resume (Woodford)

Facilitator: Temple Smith Whetstone

Education (Regency 2)

Presider: Mary Senter (Central Michigan University)

Impacts of Agricultural Education on the Resilience of Rural Appalachian High School Students, Ruth D. Toole (University of Kentucky), Stacy K. Vincent (University of Kentucky), Julie M. Zimmerman (University of Kentucky)

Alumni Well-being after College: A Critique of the Neo-liberal Mindset, Mary Senter (Central Michigan University), Lucas Ashby (Law Firm/Applied), Kathy Rise (Central Michigan University)

Dress to Impress? Examining the Effect of Uniforms on Student Outcomes?, Amber Anderson (Wayne State University)

Bourdieu and Classroom Management: The Social Origins of Reproductive Teacher Practices, Paul Poggemeyer (University of Kentucky)

Interpersonal and Sexual Violence (Regency 3)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

The Effect of Hegemonic Masculinity on Male Rape Survivors, Clayton Hines (Capital University)

Age as a Predictor for Attitudes on Sexual Harassment, Emma Perdziak (John Carroll University)

The color of Hyper-Sexualization, Larry Payne (University of Akron)

5:00 PM—6:15 PM

Race and Religion (*Jessamine*)

Presider: Amy Krull (Western Kentucky University)

A Church Beyond Color: In(Ex)clusionary Experiences of Blacks in Predominantly White Churches, Emmanuel Ulzen (University of Louisville)

"When Sunday Comes: Understanding the Association Between Church Life and Mental Health in Black Men," Antonio Toliver III (University of Indianapolis)

The Long and Winding path of African American Clergywomen's Career Attainment, Amy Krull (Western Kentucky University)

Community Engaged Research and Teaching (*Franklin*)

Presider: Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (University of Akron)

It takes a Village: Community-Engaged Research through Higher Ed Partnerships, Jillian Lain (University of Indianapolis)

Using Community-Based Learning to Teach Sociological Research Methods, Kaelyn Wiles (Centre College)

Mentoring Student Leaders to Effectively Design and Implement Group Projects, Janice Proctor (Ohio University), MJ Banovsk (Ohio University), Jay Lucas (Ohio University)

"Set yourself on fire:" Lessons learned from a community-engaged research project on police-inflicted trauma in Black urban communities, Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (University of Akron), Robert Peralta (University of Akron), Auriel Jasper-Morris (University of Akron), Courtney Michael (University of Akron), Juan Xi (University of Akron)

Teaching with AI (*Scott*)

Facilitators: Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast), Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University), and Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis)

Immigration and Migration (*Woodford*)

Presider: Jennifer Johnson (Kenyon College)

The Legal consciousness of immigrant visa regimes, Reema Sen (Case Western Reserve University)

On the Road & in the Crosshairs: Migrant Mobility & Border Patrol Strategies for Policing Immigration in Northern Ohio, Jennifer Johnson (Kenyon College), Eric Holdener (Kenyon College)

Analysis of forced migration patterns out of Africa post colonization, Tiobista Kidane (University of Toledo)

SUNDAY, APRIL 6th

7:00 AM—8:00 AM

Program Planning Committee Meeting with Breakfast (*Jessamine – Scott*)

8:00 AM—11:00 PM

New Council Meeting with Breakfast (*Jessamine – Scott*)

SAVE THE DATE!

April 17th and 18th, 2026

**Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square
300 W. Station Square Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

NCSA 2026 Annual Meeting

Theme: The Future of Sociology

Public confidence in core institutions is at historically low levels. There is pervasive distrust of empirical evidence, and a backlash against knowledge-producing and knowledge-disseminating activities such as we pursue in academia.

According to Gallup, a majority (68%) of Americans now believe that higher education is headed in the wrong direction. Little more than a third (36%) express a high level of confidence in U.S. colleges and universities, down from 57% only a decade ago. Among those survey respondents who say that they have very little confidence in higher education, the most frequent reasons given are related to “political agendas,” followed by “wrong focus/teaching the wrong things” and “cost/expenses.”

Sociology has not been immune to these trends. In the current national climate, a number of actors and institutions are strongly anti-sociological in focus and actions around issues we claim as central to our discipline. Our enrollments have been falling. Departments are being shuttered and programs discontinued. In some places politicians have moved to ban the teaching of sociology altogether. The field of sociology, as well as the larger academy, should rightfully defend itself against unfair attacks. But it is also important that we take any valid criticisms seriously—such as a need for a better pipeline from a sociology degree to a job, concerns about a lack of viewpoint diversity in the field, the need for better and more rigorous graduate preparation, flaws in the peer review process, and more. We urgently need to determine how to address these criticisms in order to build a vibrant sociology that survives and thrives for years to come. This will make our discipline healthier and more sustainable and hopefully reverse enrollment declines. It is no guarantee that it will slow political attacks, but if it helps restore the public’s confidence in us then it may make it more difficult for politicians to unfairly target us.

So what is the future of sociology? Which criticisms are valid? What should be done to address them? How do we reorient sociology so that it is stronger and more sustainable in the long term? In short: where should sociology go from here?

Barbara Jones Denison
Shippensburg University (emeritus)
NCSA President, 2025-2026

2026 Ruth and John Useem Plenary Address



Lawrence Eppard, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Connors Institute for Nonpartisan Research & Civic Engagement at Shippensburg University (ConnorsInstitute.org). He has published several books, including *The Poisoning of the American Mind*, *Virtuous Nonsense: Progressive America's Epistemic Crisis*, *Seeing America Clearly: Heterodox Reflections on Current Issues*, *Poorly Understood: What America Gets Wrong About Poverty, On Inequality and Freedom*, and *Rugged Individualism and the Misunderstanding of American Inequality*. He is also the host of the Connors Institute's *Utterly Moderate* Podcast and regular contributor to their Substack the Connors Journal.

