



# THE FUTURE OF SOCIOLOGY

NCSA  
2026 ANNUAL  
MEETING  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
APRIL 17 & 18

## **The 2026 Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association**

### **“The Future of Sociology”**

April 17th and 18th, 2026

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

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# WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NCSA PRESIDENT



Hello NCSA Friends,

Welcome to the 102<sup>nd</sup> NCSA 2026 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh! This year's theme, The Future of Sociology, is both timely and provocative as we find our discipline under some dark clouds. There are a number of sessions that I'm sure will engage you as we move forward as colleagues and advocates together. Research, teaching, applied and clinical, and sociological practice sessions and panels offer much to challenge you throughout the two very full days of this year's meeting. Of course there are several featured sessions I urge you to attend, including Lawrence Eppard's John and Ruth Useem Plenary address on Friday, Colleen Wynn's John Schnabel Teaching Award presentation on Saturday, and a thematic panel "Saving the Social Sciences" on Saturday to follow and expand upon the Useem talk.

Pittsburgh is a delightful city to visit. It has numerous historic and cultural opportunities, as well as great restaurants. Why not take advantage of the myriad activities listed for you by the NCSA Program Committee? My favorites are the Cathedral of Learning at University of Pittsburgh and riding the Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines. However you spend your time at the various sessions and in Pittsburgh overall, I wish for you a wonderful NCSA experience and invite you to make NCSA your regional sociology home.

Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

# A NOTE FROM THE CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Hello everyone! I'm so thrilled to welcome you all to this year's gathering. While I've been a familiar face around NCSA for a while, this is my first year stepping into this specific role, and I've had a wonderful time putting everything together for you. My goal was to make this meeting as seamless and enjoyable as possible, and I'm so glad we're finally here!

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of event planning, you might notice a few tweaks to our usual setup. I wanted to share some "behind-the-scenes" notes on how we're working to balance a top-tier conference experience with being responsible stewards of NCSA's funds.

## Conference Updates

As costs rise, we've had to make some thoughtful decisions to keep our community thriving. Here is what to expect this year:

- **WiFi & Connectivity:** To keep registration costs stable, we opted not to spend the \$5,000+ required for dedicated conference WiFi. Since most of us have mobile hotspots or access to general hotel WiFi, we decided those funds were better spent elsewhere.
  - **Pro Tip:** Please bring your own laptop to your session but also keep a copy of your presentation on a thumb drive just in case!
- In our commitment to sustainability and cost-efficiency, this year's conference is entirely paperless. We invite you to access the full schedule and session details through:
  - **QR Codes:** Simply scan the codes provided for instant access.
  - **Email:** Refer to the "Know Before You Go" email sent to all registered attendees.
  - **Daily Posters:** Check the physical posters displayed throughout the conference space each morning for a snapshot of the day's events.
  - **Room Displays:** View real-time session information on the digital screens located outside each meeting room.

## Did You Know?

Planning these events involves some interesting "hotel math," and your choices made a huge impact this year:

- **The Power of Your Stay:** When we book a hotel, we agree to a "room block." If those rooms don't fill up, the organization must pay for the empty space. Because so many of you stayed here at the Sheraton, you directly saved NCSA money! **Thank you for that.**
- **Coffee & Treats:** Our food and beverage agreement allowed us to provide **two coffee and snack stations each day**. Whether you need a morning jolt or an afternoon pick-me-up, please stop by, grab a cuppa, and enjoy a treat. You've earned it!

## Special Thanks

A massive thank you to the staff here at The Sheraton. They have been absolutely lovely to work with and went above and beyond to help us stay within our budget while ensuring we had everything needed for a successful week.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic meeting with all of you. Let's make it a great one!

Erin Baker-Giese (Henry Ford College)

# FEATURED ADDRESSES

## 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

### *Saints of Sociology*

This year's theme challenges us to consider the future of sociology. In that context, it is reasonable and pertinent to spend time considering how and why we became sociologists in the first place. How did we first find ourselves under the sociological canopy? Who inspired us? What motivations brought us through the refining process to lead within this Weberian-style vocation we call sociology? Though each journey is unique, sharing reflections will, with hope, uncover core stories to guide in building sociology's future.

Barbara Jones Denison is Professor Emeritus at Shippensburg University, where she was department chair, director of the interdisciplinary Organizational Development and Leadership graduate program, and director of the undergraduate Online Degree Completion program. NCSA member since 1984, Denison has held multiple officer and committee roles. She received the Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award in 2015. Denison has presented numerous times, and frequently brought students presenters to NCSA. Recent publications include "Giving Up the Good for the Better: Dorothy Day's Ethic of Direct Action" in *A Research Agenda for Organizational Ethics* (2023), and *Women, Religion and Leadership: Female Saints as Unexpected Leaders* (2017) includes "Hilda of Whitby: Unexpected Leadership by the Mother of Bishops." Denison was active with the Pennsylvania Sociological Society and the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Her research interest is the intersectionality of leadership and gender in re-examining the contemporary imaging of historical religious women towards a typology of women's religious leadership in differential contexts.

## 2026 RUTH AND JOHN USEEM PLENARY ADDRESS

Lawrence Eppard (Shippensburg University)



### *Rigor or Ruin: Sociology's Reckoning Has Arrived*

Many Americans are skeptical of colleges, believing them to be driven by politics, focused on the wrong priorities, and increasingly unaffordable. The social sciences, and sociology in particular, have felt these pressures acutely. Student demand has dropped, programs are being cut, and in some states the discipline itself has become a political target. Defending the field from mischaracterization is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Sociology must also reckon with genuine weaknesses, including unclear links between degrees and careers, limited viewpoint diversity, inconsistent graduate training, and shortcomings in peer review. If the discipline hopes to remain relevant and durable, it must take these concerns seriously. The central challenge is not simply survival, but renewal: how sociology can adapt, strengthen itself, and rebuild public confidence for the future.

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 a regular contributor to their Substack the *Connors Journal*.

## 2026 JOHN F. SCHNABEL AWARD WINNER ADDRESS

Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis)

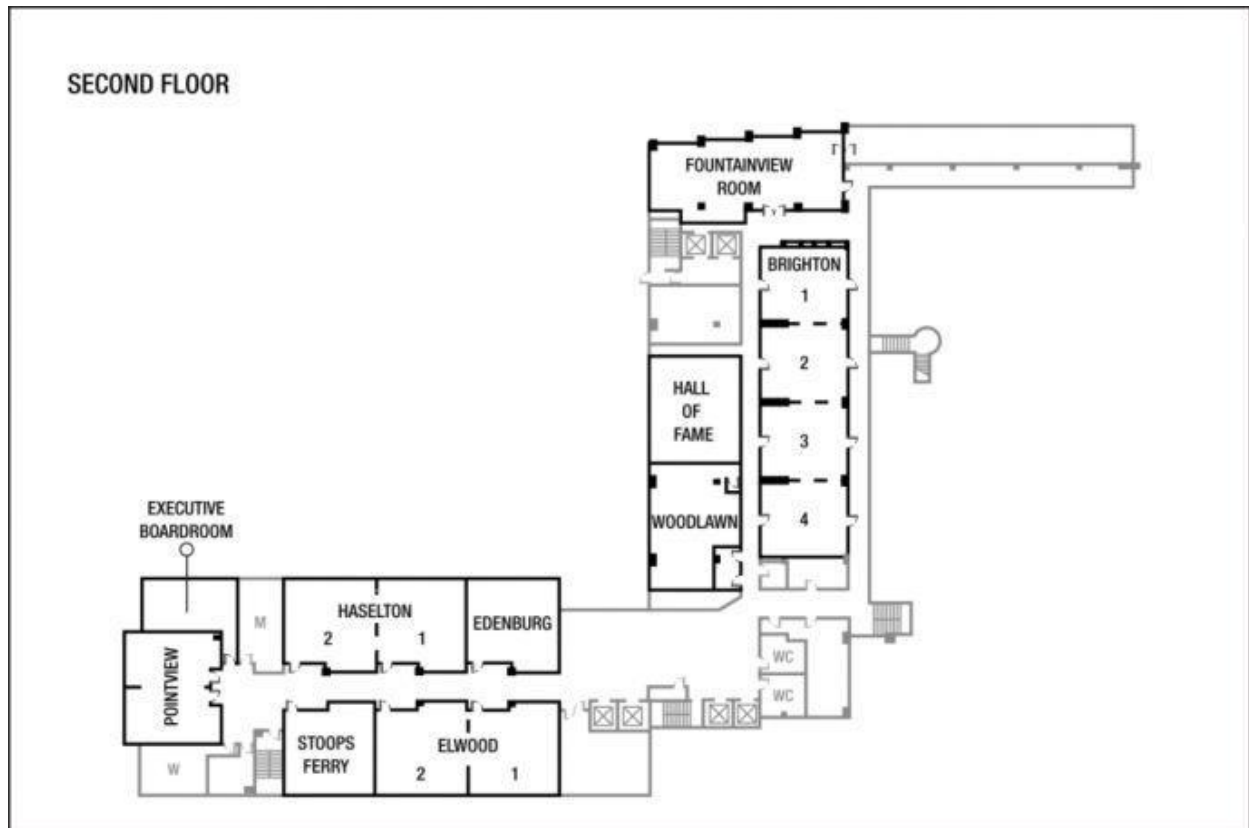
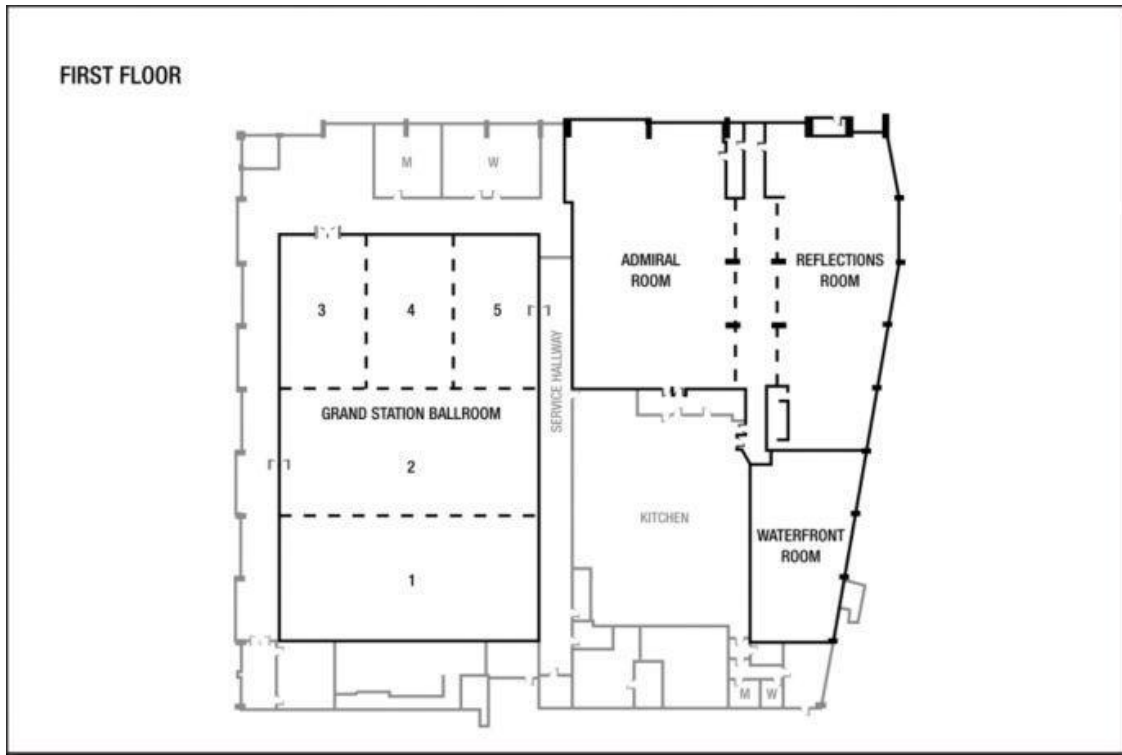


### *Teaching with Hope: A Sociological Approach to Dark Times*

Our current social and political moment requires sociologists more than ever. Every day feels like a deluge of information and it can feel like the ground is shifting under our feet. Students, colleagues, and others are looking to us for answers. This can feel overwhelming as a teacher. But, teaching and knowing sociology is imperative. We need the structural thinking and ability to see systems that sociology provides us. And more than that, we need the hope that sociology can give us. Sociological thinking offers a framework to understand where we are, and how we can move forward. By both returning to our sociological roots, and expanding in new directions, we can build students' skills to survive in the current world and inspire our students (and hopefully ourselves) to fight back, make change, and build a better world.

Colleen Wynn is an Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University of Indianapolis. She is also the Co-Director for the Community Research Center (CRC) housed in the Department of Sociology at the University of Indianapolis. Originally from Louisville, KY, she holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University at Albany, SUNY, and a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Western Kentucky University. Her research interests include urban sociology, families and households, demography, and housing. Her teaching interests include introductory sociology, research methods, urban sociology, family sociology, and demography.

# HOTEL FLOOR PLAN



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16

### 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

#### **Alpha Kappa Delta/NCSA Preconference Workshop** (*Ellwood D*)

*“The Future of Sociology” Reclaiming Sociology in the Classroom and Our Curriculum*

Organizers: Sara Collas (Ball State University), Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast), Kim Hennessee (Ball State University), Stephanie Medley-Rath (Indiana University Kokomo), Melinda Messineo (Ball State University)

It can be argued that sociology has lost control of the narrative surrounding the work we do and the discipline’s value to our students and our curriculum. The American Sociological Association published an open letter defending the vital role of sociology in universities. That effort reminds us of the unique skillset and perspective that sociologists contribute to our defining and solving social issues. Unfortunately, our ability to spread this message is challenged by efforts to erode higher education and the denigration of the pursuit of science. This workshop will explore how we continue to train the next generation of sociologists regardless of the career path they pursue and reclaim the narrative surrounding the discipline.

Please join us as we explore how we can “reclaim sociology” in the classroom and curriculum.

Through discussions, roundtables, reflections, and hands-on activities, this workshop will support participants as we explore ways to navigate these uncertain times. Designed for new and experienced instructors alike, we invite everyone to come together and support one another as we define the future of the discipline.

This session is sponsored by Alpha Kappa Delta, the international sociology honor society, whose mission is to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of sociology, the research of social problems, and social and intellectual activities that will lead to improvement in the human condition. AKD is hosting conversations on the theme “Reclaiming Sociology” at regional association meetings this academic year. We invite all to participate in these discussions.

### 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Registration and Packet Pickup (*Reflections Foyer*)

### 6:00 PM-10:00 PM

Old Council Dinner/Meeting (*Pointview*)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17

### 7:00 AM-4:00 PM

Registration and Packet Pickup (*Reflections Foyer*)

### 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Coffee and Muffins (*Reflections Foyer*)

### 8:30 AM-9:45 AM

#### **Innovative Classrooms** (*Brighton I*)

Presider: Kody Steffy (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Eliminating Grades to Build Community and Discourage Cheating*, Robyn White (Cuyahoga Community College)

*Sociology Students Write a Book! An Alternative Approach to High-Enrollment Introductory Sociology*, Kody Steffy (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Pedagogies of Freedom: The Democratic Classroom as Civic Learning*, Hillary Lazar (University of Pittsburgh)

*Pedagogy Under Pressure: Teaching Transgender Sociology in the Current Crisis of Higher Education*, Baker Rogers (Georgia Southern University) and Austin Johnson (Kenyon College)

#### **Sociology of Media** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

*"I'm Not Very Like Proud to Say That, but I Definitely Think I Prefer Content from People That Look and Sound Like Me": White Identity and Media Consumption*, Kyra Mackey (Miami University Oxford)

*Anonymity and Social Pressure: A Sociological Analysis of Lolcows on KiwiFarms*, Mary Smith (Eastern Kentucky University)

*A Content Analysis Exploring the Online Subculture of Looksmaxxing, and the Incentification of Beauty Standards*, Corrin Wade (Columbus State Community College)

*Support for Palestine and Social Media*, Zayd Chandiwala (University of Cincinnati)

### **Media, Politics, and Power** (*Brighton III*)

Presider: Kenneth Hanson (University of Wyoming)

*Framing Insecurity: Media Reporting on the Insurgency of Banditry in Nigeria*, Motunrayo Agboola (Wayne State University)

*Media Constructions of Identity Theft: A Replication Study*, Opeyeoluwa Alade (West Virginia University)

*Speaking Beyond Borders: The Role of Alternative News Media Platforms in Transnational Advocacy in Hybrid Regimes*, Hanning Wang (University of Pittsburgh)

*The Joe Rogan Experience: Ideologically Diverse or Just Contrarian?* Kenneth Hanson (University of Wyoming) and Whitney Brooks (University of Wyoming)

### **In/Fertility, Loss, and Adverse Birth Outcomes** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Desire Okpattah (Bowling Green State University)

*Experiences Through Journeys of Infertility: Delayed Expectations and Unexpected Outcomes*, Gabriel Lotarski (Wayne State University)

*From Celebration to Silence: The Sociological Consequences of Stillbirth*, Amber Kelly (Wayne State University)

*Male Fertility: The Influence of Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics on Men's Ideal Family Size in Ghana*, Desire Okpattah (Bowling Green State University)

*Reproductive Weathering in an Era of Rising Maternal Age: Implications for Low Birthweight and Macrosomia Across Race/Ethnicity*, John Whesu (Case Western Reserve University)

### **Gender, Feminism, and Anti-Feminist Backlash** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Kristin Johnston (Wayne State University)

*"LGB Without the T: The Curious Convergence of Gay Rights Rhetoric with Anti-Gender Campaigns*, Alina Hechler (Miami University Regionals)

*Exploring Latter Day Saints Womanhood in the Secret Lives of Mormon Wives*, Kristin Johnston (Wayne State University) and Marissa Morey (Wayne State University)

*That's "Fake News": A Stalled Feminist Revolution in Architecture*, Carla Corroto (Otterbein University)

**Race-Ethnicity and the University** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Steven Foy (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

*Barriers and Challenges Faced by Minority Women Faculty Being Promoted at HBCUs*, Denise Young (Tennessee State University)

*Cultivating Capital: How Latina Graduate STEM Students Promote Their STEM Perseverance*, Yolanda Arciniega (University of California Los Angeles)

*Student Racial Microaggression Experiences at a Hispanic-Serving Institution: Perceived Acceptability and Positionality*, Steven Foy (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Salvatore Restifo (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Erin Castillo (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Aliyah Hernandez (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Efe Latham (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Leonardo Rodriguez (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley) and Ismael Trujillo (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

*Universities as Racialized Organizations in the Black Lives Matter Era*, Jillian Royal (Cornell University)

**LGBTQ Studies I** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Sara Collas (Ball State University)

*Exploring the Relationship Between Mental and Physical Health for Queer Adults*, Mary Adams (University of Indianapolis)

*Trans Realities: Examining Misinformation, Fear, and Acceptance*, Joey Glover (Ball State University)

*(Under)Representation of Sapphic Relationships*, Kellie Ann Hughes (University of Akron)

*White Asexualities: Differing Invisibilities*, Katelyn Liu (Oberlin College)

**10:00 AM-11:15 AM**

**Enhancing Scholarly Teaching: Publishing and Learning with TRAILS** (*Brighton I*)

Facilitators: Stephanie Medley-Rath (Indiana University Kokomo) and Elizabeth Ziff (University of Indianapolis)

**“Doing” Applied, Public, and Clinical Sociology (Brighton II)**

Presider: Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (University of Akron)

*Infiltrate Local Politics! Applied, Public, and Clinical Sociology on the Ballot*, Sean Dunne (Shawnee State University)

*On Doing Antiracist Sociological Community Work*, Kamesha Spates (University of Pittsburgh)

*Clinical Sociology in the Women’s Prison Garden*, Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (The University of Akron)

**Contemporary Politics, Power, and Organizations (Brighton III)**

Presider: Geoff Wood (University of Pittsburgh Greensburg)

*Narratives and Discourse Promoting Anti-Trans Legislation*, Kenneth Gourlay (Wayne State University)

*The Corporate DAO as Digital Gemeinschaft: Tönnies and Simmel Revisited*, David Warner (University of Pittsburgh)

*The Second Gilded Age: America's Social Movement Toward Authoritarianism*, Geoff Wood (University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg)

*Unidos No Mas? The Trump Era and the Decline of Linked Fate Among Latinos*, Imelda Pozos (University of Indianapolis)

*Who Really Defends Democracy in the Digital Age? A Sociological Theory of Cyber Whistleblowing, Power, and Secrecy*, Emanuel Boussios (Hofstra University)

**Health, Aging, Families, and Care (Brighton IV)**

Presider: Rongjun Sun (Cleveland State University)

*Diversity in Family Networks of Caregivers for Advanced Cancer Patients*, Rongjun Sun (Cleveland State University) and Linda Francis (Cleveland State University)

*Understanding the Role of Place and Structural Racism in Biological Aging Disparities*, Deziree Jackson (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Engineered Social Support Companions: Analyzing the Role of Virtual Agents on Stress and Well-Being*, Shayna Morrison (Marshall University)

*Public Policy, Human Rights, and Health Literacy: A Systematic Review*, Amy Romanowski (Case Western Reserve University) and Brian Gran (Case Western Reserve University)

**Religion, Morality, and Meaning (Edenburg)**

Presider: Peter Blum (Hillsdale College)

*A Content Analysis of Doubt: How Latter-Day Saints Interact Online When One of Their Own Seeks Answers*, Leilani Mascio (Ball State University) and Ronald Smith (Hanover College)

*Belonging at the Margins: How Social Exclusion Shapes Participation in Gangs and Religious Fundamentalist Groups*, Sofia Liberti (University of Indianapolis)

*Changing the Rural Landscape of Central New York: The Amish*, Annette Mackay (SUNY Oneonta)

*Our God is an Awesome God: Evangelical Music*, Sarah Krueger (West Virginia University)

*The Future of the Sacred: Jacques Ellul Reconsidered*, Peter Blum (Hillsdale College)

**Social Stratification in Education and Work (Stoops Ferry)**

Presider: Jarron Bowman (Valparaiso University)

*Academic Performance and Teen Employment: The Interweave of School and Work Among Adolescents*, Timothy Madigan (Commonwealth University Mansfield) and Sampson Blair (SUNY Buffalo)

*Anticipating Barriers: How Youths' Attitudes of Gender Discrimination in Education, Work, and Politics Have Shifted Over Time*, Winter Johnson (West Virginia University), Abby Young (West Virginia University), and Allison Catlett (West Virginia University)

*Behind the Application: Partners' Cognitive and Emotional Labor in the Job Search Process*, Cassie Mead (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Parental Wealth Transfers in the Early-Career Period: Race, Gender, and the Reproduction of Inequality*, Jarron Bowman (Valparaiso University) and Amie Bostic (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

*Socioeconomic Status, Academic Achievement, and Mental Health: A Qualitative Study of Students at Wayne State University*, Nafisat Agunbiade (Wayne State University)

## **Bodies, Body Image, and Embodiment** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Rachel Kraus (Ball State University)

*Do You See What I See? A Qualitative Analysis of Self Talk in the Fitting Room*, Amber Anderson (Wayne State University)

*Serena Williams' Weight Loss: A Sociological Analysis of GLP-1 Advertisements and Subsequent Online Discourse*, Kelsey Mosley (Ball State University) and Payton Bennett (Ball State University)

*Toxic Positivity: How Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer Experience and Manage Excessive Bids to be Positive*, Rachel Kraus (Ball State University)

## **1:00 PM-5:00 PM**

Coffee and Cookies (*Reflections Foyer*)

## **11:30 AM-12:45 PM**

### **2026 John F. Schnabel Award Winner-Address**

(*Brighton I*)

*Teaching With Hope: A Sociological Approach to Dark Times*

Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis)

Introduction by Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast)

### **Networking Space** (*Woodlawn*)

Take a break to build professional community in a relaxed setting. A casual environment for peer discussions, recharging, and connecting with colleagues away from the main sessions.

### **Working Space** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Need a moment to focus? Whether you are finalizing slides or seeking a quiet spot to recharge, this space is yours. To support your colleagues, please keep this room a designated quiet zone.

### **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Fayyaz Hussain (Michigan State University)

*Abuse and Vulnerability in Plain Communities: A Critical Sociological Scoping Review of Existing Literature*, Brandie Pugh (West Virginia University), Faith Burrill (West Virginia University), Elizabeth Moberly (West Virginia University), Katrina Hewitt (West Virginia University), and Lauren Clark (West Virginia University)

*Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence Victimization and Duration in the LGBTQ Community*, Mel Jones (Ball State University)

*Critical Analysis of Stories of Violence Against Women in South Asia: Pakistan Revisited*, Fayyaz Hussain (Michigan State University)

*The Continued Cycle: How We Are Not Stopping Domestic Violence*, Aubrey Cogell (Ball State University)

### **AI, Knowledge, and the University (Brighton III)**

Presider: Jieli Li (Ohio University)

*AI as a Social Form: A Simmelian Analysis of Disinformation, Public Opinion, and Political Behavior in the Algorithmic Age*, Jieli Li (Ohio University)

*Artificial Education: Rules Without Consequences, Success Without Learning, Universities Without Ethics*, Howard (Ted) Welsler (Ohio University), Will Hoffman (Ohio University), and Teresa Mae Warren (Ohio University)

*How Do Faculty Members Navigate Decisions Around Punitive Versus Educational Responses to Academic Integrity Violations in the Context of AI Tools like ChatGPT?* Michael Peguu (Ball State University)

*Student Perspectives: Use of Generative AI to Support Learning*, Jo Anna Kelly (Walsh University) and Melisa Barden (Walsh University)

### **Sociology in Action: Student Perspectives on Applied Sociology and Career Pathways (Brighton IV)**

Presider: Hillary Lazar (University of Pittsburgh)

Panelists: Gevvie Johnson (University of Pittsburgh), Lexi Petronio (University of Pittsburgh), Ava Reisman (University of Pittsburgh), and Serena Sharma (University of Pittsburgh)

### **LGBTQ Studies II (Edenburg)**

Presider: Sara Collas (Ball State University)

*Anti-Transgenderism in the U.S.*, Jasper King (Oberlin College)

*The Intersection of Ethnic and Queer Identity Formation in Trans and Nonbinary Asian Americans*, Torren Tsay (University of Chicago)

*Transgender Experiences with Religiosity*, Ash Cantor (Stark State College)

*His Body: A Transgender Experience at a Gay Men's Bathhouse*, Maxwell Wilkinson (Ball State University)

**1:15 PM-2:30 PM**

**Sociology at Work: Building Careers with a Sociological Lens** (*Brighton I*)

Presider: Bridget Smith-Botos (Henry Ford College)

Panelists: Marlana Landeros (University of Michigan), Amber Neher (The Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce), and Temple Smith (Penguin Random House)

**Teaching with AI** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast)

*Your Newest Graduate Assistant: AI!*, Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis)

*Better Aligning AI Policies and Learning Objectives with Industry Expectations*, Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University) and Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

*Using AI to Teach Undergraduate Statistics*, Chad Menning (Ball State University)

**Applied and Active Learning** (*Brighton III*)

Presider: Jamie Osowski-Lopez (Indiana University Kokomo)

*Are There Any Histories That Are Off Limits? Performing History and Autobiography in Progress with Incarcerated Students, Returning Citizens, Police Officers and More*, Norman Conti (Duquesne University), Joshua T. Ellsworth (Duquesne University), and Deanna Fracul (Duquesne University)

*Teaching Cybercrime Using a Project-Based Approach*, Chris Huggins (University of Kentucky)

*Connecting Sociology Coursework to Careers: An Assignment You Can Use in Any Sociology Course*, Stephanie Medley-Rath (Indiana University Kokomo)

*The Division of Household Labor: A Theory-Driven Data Exercise*, Jamie Osowski-Lopez (Indiana University Kokomo), Cassie Mead (Indiana University Bloomington), Jaclyn Tabor (Lincoln Land Community College), and Rebecca K. Grady (Washington State Employment Security Department)

*Mapping Undergraduate Student Experiences in Community-Engaged Learning*, Rebecca Ulinski (Duquesne University)

## **Identity and Belonging in Higher Education** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Peggy Carris (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*"I'm Different People, Around Different People": Authenticity in Identity Negotiation Among Emerging Adult College Students*, Sharon Colvin (Kalamazoo College), Gagan (Mia) Khera (Curry College), Mel Yeung (Teachers College, Columbia University), Jack Boshoven (Kalamazoo College), Anne Catherine Johnson (Kalamazoo College), and Inmaculada Melón Dominguez (University of Extremadura)

*Duality of Being an International Student: A Personal and Sociological Journey*, Alexander Lartey (Ball State University)

*Engaging men in Gender Studies: Understanding the Experiences and Challenges of Male Students Studying Women and Gender Studies at the University of Dhaka*, Riya Subata Zannat (Florida Atlantic University) and Abdul Halim (University of Dhaka)

*Intersectional Identities and Institutional Contexts: Analyzing First-Generation Students' Sense of Belonging Through an Intersectional Lens*, Peggy Carris (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*The Cultural Mistrust and Epistemological Miseducation of White Folk and the "Whitening" of HBCUs*, Chad Sloss (Wittenberg University)

## **Sustainability and the Environment** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Aaron Padgett (University of Kentucky)

*Cultural Values and Soft Power: Thailand's T-Wave, Tourism Economy, and the Challenges of Sustainable Development*, Sizhuo Wang (Ohio University)

*Identity Tripwire: How Oil Industry Social Media Communication Leads to Affective Polarization and Complacent Climate Attitudes*, Will Hoffman (Ohio University)

*Impounded: A Political Ecology of American Lakes in U.S. Empire*, Aaron Padgett (University of Kentucky)

*Motivations to Act and Attribution of Blame in Environmental Problems*, Ayla Hutmacher (University of Texas at Arlington), Red Jones (University of Texas at Arlington), Amber Ottun (University of Texas at Arlington), and Kelly Bergstrand (University of Texas at Arlington)

*Workplaces as Sites of Climate Adaptation: Public Mobilization Around OSHA's Workplace Heat Standards*, Todd Lu (University of Cincinnati), Jacob Conley (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill), and Spencer Jarrett (University of Cincinnati)

**Sociology of Sex and Romance** (*Stoops Ferry*)  
Presider: Kelsey Mosley (Ball State University)

*The Impact of Age on the Perception of Sexual Culture: A Study Analyzing Survey Results From an Intergenerational Population*, Elecia Curtis (Wayne State University)

*Porn and Power: An Exploration of Sexual Identity, Literacy, and Internalized Scripts Among College Women*, Natalie Sipress (Oberlin College)

*The Price of Affection: Love, Visibility, and the Commodification of Online Intimacy*, Maria Chibucos (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*The Role of Partisanship in Forming Romantic College Relationships*, Abbie Hamill (Ohio Northern University)

**Social Movements** (*Woodlawn*)  
Presider: Kristin Newvine (Pennsylvania State University)

*Social Justice Warrior or Keyboard Worrier? A Literature Review on Perceived Agency in Social Movements Through Social Media*, Eris Robinson (Wayne State University)

*Abolitionist Activist Perceptions of Petty Crime and Alternative Justice Solutions*, Ethan Rosen (Oberlin College)

*Role of the Reaper: Death as a Primary Force for Reality Construction and Movement Mobilization*, Whitney Brooks (University of Wyoming)

*Liberation for All: Motivations Behind Low-Level Political Violence in Solidarity Movements*, Yavna Sakthi (University of Pittsburgh)

**2:45 PM-4:00 PM**

**Author-Meets-Critics: *Embedded and Embodied: How State Neglect of Lead Poisoning Contributes to Women's Green Victimization and Perpetuates Intersectional Inequalities*** (*Brighton I*)

Author: Matthew McLeskey (State University of New York at Oswego)

Moderator: Roger Guy (State University of New York at Oswego)

Critics: Elizabeth Ziff (University of Indianapolis), Michelle Jacobs (Wayne State University), and Tim Dacey (State University of New York at Oswego)

**Teaching Sociology with Applied Sociology: How to Integrate an Applied Project into Teaching** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Janice Proctor (Ohio University)

*Building Students' Public Sociology Skills*, Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis)

*Trust in My Field: A Multi-Phase Model for Teaching Applied Social Through Cross-Disciplinary Engagement*, Patrick Seffrin (Marywood University)

*Utilizing Social Contracts in Online Courses to Design and Facilitate Outstanding Applied Sociology Group Projects*, Janice Proctor (Ohio University)

**Mediated Inequalities: Power, Identity and Representation in Digital and Traditional Media Spaces** (*Brighton III*)

Presider: Joshua Woods (Ohio University)

*"I Thought We Were Just Having Innocent Fun but We Were Just Pleasing Pedophiles..." A Thematic Analysis of Digital Grooming Victim's Experiences*, Olivia Villeneuve (West Virginia University)

*Exploring the Effect of Social Media Influencers on Everyday Behaviors*, Mary Frederick (West Virginia University)

*Opioids in the News: Media Crime Framing of Oxycodone and Fentanyl in Vermont and West Virginia Newspapers*, Tucker Seifert (West Virginia University)

*Race, Gender and the Popularity of Netflix Films: A Bourdieusian Analysis of Attention Capital in the age of Streaming Movies*, Joshua Woods (West Virginia University)

**Teaching Introduction to Sociology: The Content and Role of Introductory Sociology Courses** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Stephanie Medley-Rath (Indiana University Kokomo)

Panelists: Jay Howard (Butler University), Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast), and Colby King (University of South Carolina Upstate)

**The Unequal University** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Margarita Rayzberg (Valparaiso University)

*Degrees of Uncertainty: Loan and Degree Insurance in Higher Education*, Margarita Rayzberg (Valparaiso University)

*Intersecting Inequalities: How Gender, Race, and Class Shape Academic Performance in Higher Education*, Du Qinhuo (The George Washington University)

*Separate and not Equal: Adjunct Faculty Structural Empowerment and Experiences in a Midwestern Community College*, Shauna Sowga (Columbus State Community College)

*The Veteran Student: Stressors and Well-Being*, Dave Rohall (Ohio University)

*University Honors Programs and Structural Inequalities*, Leslie Picca (University of Dayton)

### **Health, Well-Being, and Social Support in Practice** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Robert Carrothers (Ohio Northern University)

*Changing the Special Education Narrative: Supporting Students with Invisible Disabilities Against Labeling, Stigma, Bullying, and Mental Health Outcomes*, Katie DiGiovanni (University of Kentucky)

*From Systems to Sit-Downs: Pedagogy for Health Equity, Shame Awareness, and Client-Centered Care*, Brittany Sichtung (University of Indianapolis)

*Objective and Subjective Social Status and Physical and Mental Health Among People with Serious Mental Illness*, Shiah Kleinman (Northeast Ohio Medical University; Kent State University), Richard Adams (Kent State University), Cathy Tang (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Christian Ong (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Stacey Barrenger (Northeast Ohio Medical University), and Natalie Bonfine (Northeast Ohio Medical University)

*Sociology of Anger Management*, Robert Carrothers (Ohio Northern University)

*Why am I Afraid of the Dark? Challenging the Social Self*, Abbi Davis (Ball State University)

### **Sociology of Race and Class** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

*Anomie and the American Dream: How College-Aged Students' Perceive the American Dream*, Belen Pacheco-Salazar (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*Governing Through Exclusion: The Dehumanization and Criminalization of Latino Immigrants and Their Children Under U.S. Immigration Law*, Catalina Rodriguez (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*The Instinct to Question*, Clara Morrison (University of Pittsburgh)

**4:15 PM-5:15 PM**

**NCSA Section Meetings** (*Reflections*)

Teaching Section; Student Section; and Applied, Clinical and Other Public Sociology Section

**Sociological Focus Board Meeting** (*Reflections*)

**5:30 PM-6:15 PM**

**2026 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentations** (*Reflections*)

Hosted by Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University) and Melinda Messineo (Ball State University)

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

Presented by Jay Howard (Butler University)

**Aida Tomeh – Lissa Yogan Distinguished Service Award**

Presented by Jay Howard (Butler University)

**John F. Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award**

Presented by Gregory Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast)

**Scholarly Achievement Award for a Book**

Presented by Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks (Slippery Rock University)

**Scholarship Achievement Award for an Article**

Presented by Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks (Slippery Rock University)

**Applied, Clinical, and Public Sociology Award**

Presented by Daniela Jauk-Ajamie (University of Akron), Bridget Smith-Botos (Henry Ford College), and Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis)

**Seidler Paper Competition for Graduate Students**

Presented by Fang Gong (Ball State University)

Finalists (in alphabetical order):

*Student Age, Inclusion of LGB Topics, and Specifying Appropriateness on Support for Sex Education in the United States: Results from a National Survey Experiment*, Tania Ravaei (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Hidden Costs of Institutional Incongruence: Evaluative Labor Among Chinese Queer People Assessing Marriage*, Guangquan Shen (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Reproductive Weathering in an Era of Rising Maternal Age: Implications for Low Birthweight and Macrosomia Across Race/Ethnicity*, John Whesu (Case Western Reserve University)

**Presidents Paper Competition for Undergraduate Students**

Presented by Fang Gong (Ball State University)

Finalists (in alphabetical order):

*Badasses Behind the Bar: How Female Attorneys Experience and Resist Traditional Gender Norms*, Hannah Cox (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*Shaping Identity Through Language: How Elementary Schools Assimilate or Acculturate Bilingual Students Through Language Programs*, Aracely Gonzalez (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*Crucifixes, American Flags, and MAGA: How College-Aged Women Define and Perceive Political Identity Through Fashion*, Angelina Stupak (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

**6:30 PM-8:00 PM**

**RUTH AND JOHN USEEM PLENARY ADDRESS**

*(Reflections)*

*Rigor or Ruin: Sociology's Reckoning Has Arrived*

Lawrence Eppard (Shippensburg University)

Introduction by Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

### **7:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Registration and Packet Pickup (*Reflections Foyer*)

### **8:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Coffee and Danish (*Reflections Foyer*)

### **8:00 AM-8:30 AM**

**Student Section Breakfast** (*Reflections*)

Open to all students!

### **8:30 AM-9:45 AM**

**Networking Space** (*Brighton III*)

Take a break to build professional community in a relaxed setting. A casual environment for peer discussions, recharging, and connecting with colleagues away from the main sessions.

### **“How are you Going to Make Money with That?” Finding a Career in Sociology in Challenging Times** (*Brighton I*)

Presider: Kristin C. Newvine (Pennsylvania State University),

Facilitators: Kristin C. Newvine (Pennsylvania State University), Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University), Annie McGhee (University of Cincinnati), and Megan St. George (Wayne State University)

### **Strategies for Sociology Courses that Engage Students Inside and Outside the Classroom** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Kristin Park (Westminster College)

Panelists: Colby King (University of South Carolina Upstate), Jodi Yelinek (Michigan State University), Jeremy Baker (The Ohio State University), Richelle Dykstra-Crookshanks (Slippery Rock University), and Melissa Swauger (Slippery Rock University)

### **Resistance and Repression** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Jennifer Hora (Valparaiso University)

*Give Peace a Chance, or Let Them Eat War? Comparing Social Movement Framing in Anti-War Songs from the Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan Wars*, Liz Klainot-Hess (Capital University)

*Legislating Action: Protest, Policy, and Law*, Marshall Allen (Indiana University Bloomington)

*The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation: An Experiment in Modern Public Torture*, Oqab Jabali (An-Najah National University), Saqer Jabali (An-Najah National University), and Dwight Haase (University of Toledo).

*Voices on Main Street: A Qualitative Study of Motivations, Methods, and Meanings of Protest*, Jennifer Hora (Valparaiso University) and Danielle Loucks (Valparaiso University)

### **Substance Use Disorders, Health Insurance, and Public Policy** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Caitlin Trombley, Marshall University

*From "Addicts" to "People with Substance Use Disorders?" A Longitudinal Analysis of Newspaper Language in West Virginia*, Caitlin Trombley (Marshall University), Alyssa Rayburn (Marshall University), and Candace Smith (Marshall University)

*From Denial to Attrition: Insurance, Governance, and State Corporate Crime*, Sandra Trappen (Pennsylvania State University)

*Global Perspectives on Substance Use Disorder Education: A Sociological Analysis of Culture, Structure, and Pedagogy*, Hannah Haynie (Kent State University), Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Susan Roxburgh (Kent State University), and Cindy Mao (Northeast Ohio Medical University)

*Uninsured in Pennsylvania: Walking the Plank to the Precipice of the Death Spiral*, Hilario Molina II (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

### **Family, Gender, and Intimacy Across Cultures** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Timothy Madigan (Commonwealth University, Mansfield)

*Changing Times, Changing Attitudes: An Examination of the Evolving Gender Attitudes of Young Chinese Adults*, Timothy Madigan (Commonwealth University, Mansfield) and Sampson Blair (SUNY Buffalo)

*Determinants of Contraceptive Utilization Among Rohingya Refugee Couples in Bangladesh*, Muhammad Ridwan Mostafa (Wayne State University)

*Queer People as Institutional Strangers to Marriage in China*, Guangquan Shen (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Threads of Resilience: Ukrainian Women's Narratives of Family, Culture, and Survival*, Karina Powell (Eastern Kentucky University)

### **Social Roles and Social Stigmas (Edenburg)**

Presider: Kelsey Mosley (Ball State University)

*Inked up and in Scrubs: Perceptions of Body Modifications in the Healthcare Field*, Cameran Thompson (University of Pittsburgh)

*Behind Burlesque: Understanding the Stigma and its Impact*, Savannah Heemer (Ball State University)

*Reentry Specialists' Perceptions of HIV Stigma*, Zach Allen (Capital University)

*Supporting Incarcerated Mothers in Akron: Programs and the Meaning of "Good Motherhood,"* Brynn Lewis (University of Akron)

### **10:00 AM-11:15 AM**

#### **Saving the Social Sciences (Brighton I)**

Presider: Lawrence Eppard (Shippensburg University)

Panelists: Musa al-Gharbi (Stony Brook University), Jukka Savolainen (Wayne State University), Colleen Eren (William Paterson University), Jacob Mackey (Occidental College), and Lawrence Eppard (Shippensburg University)

#### **Sociology for the People: Sharing Your Voice through Op-eds (Brighton II)**

Facilitators: Colleen Wynn (University of Indianapolis) and Amanda Miller (University of Indianapolis)

#### **Using Media and Art to Enhance Learning (Brighton III)**

Presider: Adam Sizemore (University of Southern Indiana)

*Challenging AI with Music, Assemblages, A Field Trip to the DOMA Art Museum, Graffiti Walls, Zines, and Scrounger's Photo-Ethnography of Trash*, Sara Collas (Ball State University) and Asher Grove (Ball State University)

*"This Is the Happiest I've Been All Semester in a Class": Making Dioramas in Sociology of Death and Dying*, Codie Stone (Pennsylvania Western University)

*ArcGIS StoryMaps: A Multi-Media Learning Tool*, Gail McGuire (Indiana University South Bend)

**Parental Decision-Making** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Laci Fiala (Hiram College)

*Analyzing Concern Among Parents Regarding Youth Sport-Related Injury*, Payton Bennett (Ball State University)

*Intersectional Homeschool Solidarities: Rejecting Public Schooling for Affirming Learning Communities*, Lisa Porter (James Madison University)  
*Student Age, Inclusion of LGB Topics, and Specifying Appropriateness on Support for Sex Education in the United States: Results From a National Survey Experiment*, Tania Ravaei (Indiana University Bloomington)

*The New Work-at-Home Mom (WAHM): A Focus Group Study*, Laci Fiala (Hiram College)

**Policing and Punishment** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Norman Conti (Duquesne University)

*Because of the Color of My Skin: Addressing Structural Racism with Police Recruits and Returning Citizens*, Norman Conti (Duquesne University)

*Capital Punishment and Repression*, Annulla Linders (University of Cincinnati)

*Contemporary News Platforms and Public Confidence in Police*, Jared Rosenberger (Ashland University)

*Evaluating the Mental and Physical Implications of Solitary Confinement on Formerly Incarcerated Individuals*, Riley von Borstel (The George Washington University)

**Issues in Identity** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Kristin Newvine (Pennsylvania State University)

*Uncle Estrella: Theories and Narratives Regarding Appalachian Identity*, Estrella Lemus (University of Akron)

*Crucifixes, American Flags, and MAGA: How College-Aged Women Define and Perceive Political Identity Through Fashion*, Angelina Stupak (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*Racial/Ethnic Identity and Students' Sense of Belonging at John Carroll University,*  
Sophia Mera (John Carroll University)

*Shaping Identity Through Language: How Elementary Schools Assimilate or Aculturate  
Bilingual Students Through Language Programs,* Aracely Gonzalez (Saint Mary's  
College, Notre Dame)

**Sociology of Gender and Work** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Hope Harvey (University of Kentucky)

*Gender on Campus,* Reilly Sexton (Indiana University South Bend)

*Badasses Behind the Bar: How Female Attorneys Experience and Resist Traditional  
Gender Norms,* Hannah Cox (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN)

*Legal Violence and the Stratification of Migrant Farmworker Vulnerability in the U.S.,*  
Chau Vu (Kenyon College)

*How Does the Increase in Remote Work Impact Coworker Relationships?* Emma  
Gearhart (Wittenberg University)

**11:30 AM-12:45 PM**

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

(*Brighton I*)

*Saints of Sociology*

Barbara Jones Denison (Shippensburg University)

Introduction by Kevin Christiano (University of Notre Dame)

**1:00 PM-5:00 PM**

Coffee and Cookies (*Reflections Foyer*)

**1:15 PM-2:30 PM**

**From CV to Hire Me: Part 1** (*Brighton I*)

Facilitator: Temple Smith (Penguin Random House)

**Teaching Sociology in Politically Challenging Times** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Greg Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast)

*Teaching and Academic Freedom,* Elizabeth Klainot-Hess (Capital University)

*Adaptive Pedagogy: Teaching Race in a Shifting Political Landscape*, Monita Mungo (University of Toledo)

*“Like Watching a Train Wreck”*: Helping Students Navigate Social Issues When They Can’t Look Away, Kristin C. Newvine (Pennsylvania State University)

*Making Sociological Topics Meaningful Rather Than Controversial in the Classroom*, Leslie Wang (Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame)

**Gasping for Air: Non-Tenure Faculty Share Challenges and Pedagogical Examples to Battle Alienation and Burnout** (*Brighton III*)

Presider: Sara Collas (Ball State University)

Panelists: Sara Collas (Ball State University), Carole Ahossin (Ball State University), Kimberly Hennessee (Ball State University), and Michelle Poole (Ball State University)

**Digital Media, Technology, and Online Harms** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Ashley Hutson (Butler University)

*A Critical Sociological Analysis of Childhood Exploitation in the Digital Age*, Olivia Villeneuve (West Virginia University)

*Anti-Immigrant Cyberhate in the United States and Finland*, Matthew Costello (Clemson University) and Salvatore Restifo (University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley)

*Digital Misogyny and Affective Resonance: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Identity Formation in an Online Incel Community*, Winter Johnson (West Virginia University)

*Sextortion on Online Platforms: A Digital Ethnographic Study on Nigerian Social Media Platforms*, Azeez Kareem-Ojo (West Virginia University)

*Where is the [On]line? Personal Boundaries, Privacy, and Autonomy in Focus Group Discussions of Cyberstalking*, Ashley Hutson (Butler University), Coco Dailey (Butler University), Julie Krueger (University of North Carolina, Wilmington), Cameron Riopelle (Miami University), and Gregory Shufeldt (University of Indianapolis)

**Reproductive Life, Intimate Partnerships, and Families** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Steve Lippmann (Miami University)

*More Kids, More Exhaustion? Investigating the Impact of Additional Biological Children on Maternal Fatigue*, Alexander Lartey (Ball State University)

*Navigating Military Life: The Impact of Singlehood on Workplace Experiences and Well-Being*, Samantha DeCapua (The George Washington University)

*Something Old, Something New: Class and Continuity in the Public Representation of Marriage*, Steve Lippmann (Miami University) and Ronald Bulanda (Miami University)

**Sociology of Health** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Fang Gong (Ball State University)

*Social Psychological Risk Factors of Psychosis*, Mason Wade (Indiana University Bloomington)

*Stress, Education, and Personal Control: A Longitudinal Analysis Using the Stress Process Model*, Noah Crawford (Wayne State University)

*A Deeper Look into Inner Peace*, Lauren Holler (University of Akron)

*Understanding Social Stressors and Their Impact on Adults with Disabilities*, Jaylyn Novel (Wayne State University)

**Political Sociology** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

*Comparing National Populisms: Sweden and Hungary*, James Purcell (Oberlin College)

*Constructions and Discussions about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on Reddit*, Hailey Palomo (Butler University)

*Interpreting Patriotism in a Polarized America*, Ava Marie Hoover (John Carroll University)

*Carbon, Energy, and Regimes: The Role of Democracies and Autocracies on Climate Change and Environmental Injustice*, Hannah Szymanski (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame)

*Infrastructures of Pain, Disorientation, and Dispersal: How the Unhoused Navigate Hostile Architecture in Washington, DC*, Ganesh Bhojwani (Denison University)

**2:45 PM-4:00 PM**

**From CV to Hire Me: Part 2** (*Brighton I*)

Facilitator: Temple Smith (Penguin Random House)

**Rigor through Relevance: A Distributed Pedagogical Model for High-Impact Public Sociology** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Jessica Leveto (Kent State University at Ashtabula)

Panelists: Jessica Leveto (Kent State University at Ashtabula) and Tiffany Jones (Kent State University at Ashtabula)

**Autopsy or Revival? Imagining Sociology's Future** (*Brighton III*)

Presider: Cory Colyer (West Virginia University)

Panelists: Cory Colyer (West Virginia University), Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University), and Melinda Messineo (Ball State University)

**Transnational Migration and Social Inequality** (*Brighton IV*)

Presider: Jesmin Akter (Kent State University)

*From Redlining to Digital Gatekeeping: Immigration, Housing Policy, and the Persistence of Racialized Inequality*, Jesmin Akter (Kent State University)

*Mapping the Jaula de Oro: Remittances, Space, and Identity Performance in Metro D.C.'s Central American Communities*, Mateo (Matt) Hernandez (The George Washington University)

*Swimming Upstream: Structural Inequalities and Mental Well-Being of Immigrants*, Yadigar Alus (Wayne State University)

*The Other Side of Hope: Tales from the Clandestine Nepalese Female Migrants*, Nirmal Acharya (Wayne State University) and Devi Gurung (Tribhuvan University)

**Sexuality, Identity, and Community** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Ben Kampler (Kalamazoo College)

*Bareback Panic, Moral Sustainers, and Sexual Exceptionalism*, Ben Kampler (Kalamazoo College)

*Sexuality and Women's Contraceptive Use*, Adrienne Bostelman (Bowling Green State University)

*The Death of Dinah: A Lesbian Party Scene Ends After Three Decades*, Sara Collas (Ball State University)

### **Issues in Higher Education** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Chadwick Menning (Ball State University)

*Have We Learned Anything? An Examination of Party Safety Signals in a Post #MeToo Society*, Autumn Voegerl (Ball State University)

*An Exploration of First-Generation Educational and Career Pathways*, Emily Scott (Oberlin College)

*Identity and Carework: How College Students Find Their Identities Impacted by Carework*, Mara Mersfelder (Capital University)

*Challenges and Prospect of Operating Campus Shuttle Service in Lagos State University*, Balikis Gbadamosi (Kent State University)

### **Sociology of Crime and Deviance** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Rachel Kraus (Ball State University)

*Police Officer's View of Crime and its Origins: Exploring Social Bonding and Deterrence*, Delaney Schmidt (Capital University)

*Investigating the Link Between Peer Pressure and Teenage Drug Use*, Leah Houk (John Carroll University)

*Beyond the Rec Room: Identity Development Among Facilitators of Prison Arts Outreach Programs*, Ana Howard (Oberlin College)

### **4:15 PM-5:30 PM**

### **Leaning into Student Experiences and Active Learning to Improve Student Engagement** (*Brighton I*)

Facilitator: Katherine Pittman (Washtenaw Community College)

### **Adapting Teaching to Different Contexts** (*Brighton II*)

Presider: Brittany Sighting (University of Indianapolis)

*Pedagogy in Practice: Best Practices in Utilizing Graduate Students*, Brittany Sighting (University of Indianapolis) and Leslie Samperio (University of Indianapolis)

*Sociology as a Bridge Between First Generation Students and International Students*, Chantal Krcmar (Southern New Hampshire University), Catherine Nakanwagi (Southern New Hampshire University), and Beau Nason (Southern New Hampshire University)

*Sneaking DEI into the STEM Back Door: Integrating Sociology into Forensic Programs*, Genevieve Ritchie-Ewing (Central State University)

*Teaching Sociology and Making Connections: Brave Classrooms in Polarized Contexts*, Lia Chervenak Wiley (The University of Akron)

### **Constructing Identity (Brighton III)**

Presider: Mary Gallagher (Kent State University)

*“Looking” Afro-Latino/Afro-Peruvian: The Role of Phenotype in Afro-Peruvian Identity Formation*, Rene Ayala (Bowling Green State University)

*“My Parents Wouldn’t Make Me Do That:” White Racial Identity and Non-White Media*, Annie McGhee (University of Cincinnati)

*“This is My ID”: Co-Constructing an ID Responsive to the Intersectional Lived Context of Undocumented, Unhoused, Transgender, and/or Previously Incarcerated Communities*, Francisco Villegas (Kalamazoo College)

*How Common is Identity Verification? A Systematic Review*, Mary Gallagher (Kent State University)

### **Research and Community (Brighton IV)**

Presider: Joshua Ellsworth (Duquesne University)

*Empowering Communities Through Data: A Practical Example of Community-Engaged Research*, Brennan Miller (University of Kansas), Shanelle Dupree (Racial Equity Collaborative), Abby Fry (Racial Equity Collaborative), Kortney Carr (University of Kansas), Erin Weston (University of Kansas), and Geovannie Gone (Racial Equity Collaborative)

*Importance of Community Sociology and CBPR: The Case of an Urban Historic District Building a Homesteading Network*, Felix Fernando (University of Dayton)

*Payment for Research Participation in the Context of Extreme Physical and Economic Vulnerabilities Associated with Homelessness*, Joshua Ellsworth (Duquesne University)

*Theories of Improvement Practice for Program Participant Recruitment and Lessons Learned by a Federally Funded Community-Engaged Local Evaluation Team*, Cathleen Appelt (Duquesne University) and Rebecca Ulinski (Duquesne University)

*Reimagining Gentrification Pittsburgh Style: A Transition of Form Rather Than Social Class Ascendancy*, Annette Mackay (SUNY Oneonta)

**Trust, Truth, Education and Politics** (*Edenburg*)

Presider: Jessica Barnett (Wright State University)

*DEI in Ohio Public Higher Education: A Statewide 2024 Snapshot*, Jessica Barnett (Wright State University), Christa Agiro (Wright State University), Andrew Froehle (Wright State University), and Olivia Patrick (Wright State University)

*Educational Effects on Political Views and Christian Nationalism*, Ian Faerman (West Virginia University) and Brandie Pugh (West Virginia University)

*Examining the 'Post-Truth' Society: Sociological Theory in the Age of Conspiracy Theories*, Apurva Apurva (SUNY Oneonta)

*Trust in Science and Scientists: A Latent Class Analysis*, Shiah Kleinman (Northeast Ohio Medical University; Kent State University)

*The Unprecedented Crisis in Higher Education: Structure, Agency, and Militant Apathy in the Edu-Factory*, Mariam Soliman (Cleveland State University)

**Sociology of the Family** (*Stoops Ferry*)

Presider: Ellen Whitehead (Ball State University)

*Class and Familial Kinship: How Socioeconomic Identity Influences Turmoil Between Parents and Their Children*, Emily Roberts (Susquehanna University)

*Family Socialization and the Inherited Construction of Body Image*, Autum Spears (University of Cincinnati)

*Gendered Socialization, Gender Role and Marriage Perception among East Asian Society*, Wangzhe Jin (Oberlin College)

*Examining Social Satisfaction in Adults Without Children*, Sarah Hastings (John Carroll University)

**Societal Perceptions** (*Woodlawn*)

Presider: Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University)

*Docile Habitus: The Digital Panopticon and Its Phenomenological Effects Within the Pittsburgh International Airport*, Jacob Fisher (University of Pittsburgh)

*When Sociology Stopped Imagining the Future: Comparing Past and Present Views of the Future*, David Boatwright (Shippensburg University)

*Anomie, Apocalypse, and Moving Forward*, Lee Aldous (Columbus State Community College)

*The Importance of Cultural Asset Mapping*, Rowen Lloyd (Shawnee State University)

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

**7:00 AM—8:00 AM**

Program Planning Committee Meeting (*Fountainview*)

**8:00 AM—11:00 AM**

New Council Meeting with Breakfast (*Fountainview*)

# SOCIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

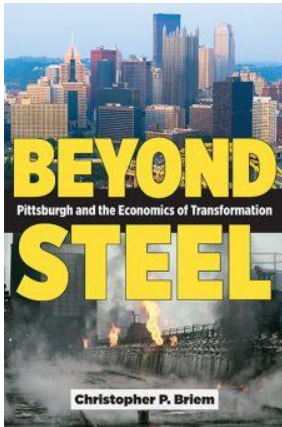
## MEET AND GREET WITH LOCAL AUTHOR, CHRIS BRIEM



Tupelo Honey Restaurant 8pm

Please see the registration desk to sign up.

### [Beyond Steel: Pittsburgh and the Economics of Transformation](#)



“*Beyond Steel* collects Briem’s encyclopedic knowledge of the city during and after its steelmaking heyday. Briem tells stories about the boundary between resilience and obstinacy, particularly as manifested in the ultimately unsuccessful pursuit of economic development through smokestack chasing. “Long before the 1980s arrived,” he writes, “future prospects for Greater Pittsburgh had decoupled from the prospects of the American steel industry, a reality that to this day remains difficult to accept for a region so long identified with the seemingly monolithic industry.” At once optimistic and cautious, *Beyond Steel* should help inform debates about how

communities across the Rust Belt navigate issues of dynamism, heritage, and deindustrialization.”

# SCAVENGER HUNT

## Join the NCSA 2026 Scavenger Hunt!

Ready to turn your conference experience into an interactive challenge? Whether you are a first-time attendee or a seasoned veteran, our scavenger hunt is designed to help you dive deeper into the sessions, logistics, and networking opportunities at this year's meeting.

### How to Play

Participating is simple: pick up your scavenger hunt sheet at the registration desk and then check off as many items as you can from the categories below!

### Categories & Challenges

- **People & Networking:** Expand your circle by finding a first-time attendee, a council member, or a colleague from a different state. Challenge yourself to exchange contact info with three new people or schedule a follow-up meeting with a potential collaborator.
- **Topics & Ideas:** From undergraduate research and AI presentations to the Useem Plenary and the Schnabel Award Address, explore the diverse scholarship our discipline offers.
- **Conference Logistics:** Make sure you're oriented! Find the registration desk, visit the AKD table for some swag, locate the snack station, and ensure you've found the gender-neutral bathrooms.
- **Active Engagement:** Step outside your comfort zone by asking a question during a Q&A, introducing a student to a new contact, or sharing your insights on social media using #NCSA2026.

### Prizes and Recognition

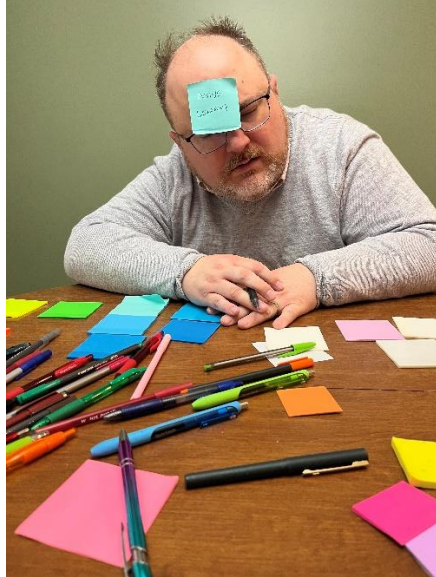
Ready to turn in your progress? Visit the registration desk to learn more about this year's prize categories and submission deadlines. Let the hunt begin!

# YOUR AMAZING NCSA CONFERENCE TEAM

Gail McGuire, NCSA Vice President and Program Chair

An amazing conference is only possible with a dedicated team of people working diligently behind the scenes. I have been fortunate to work with such a team this year. Melinda Messineo, Operations Manager, is NCSA's Wonder Woman! Her knowledge of previous conferences and her ability to anticipate, and quickly solve, problems, was invaluable. Despite juggling numerous responsibilities, she was always positive and encouraging. I am grateful to Greg Kordsmeier, Teaching Section Chair, for his knowledge of program planning, flexibility, and organization. Everyone needs someone as steady as Greg on their team! Ashley Huston, Vice President-Elect, is the Queen of Detail! She caught errors before they became problems and was always looking for ways to improve the conference. Our Association is fortunate to have hired Erin Baker-Giese as Conference Coordinator. Erin made sure that room accommodations, food, conference space, and audio-visual were all in place so that participants would have a positive conference experience. Without Mellissa Holtzman, we would not have had so many undergraduate students present at the conference this year. Thanks to her efforts, undergraduates from across the region get to experience the thrill of presenting at an academic conference. And thank you to Anjel Stough-Hunter, Treasurer, for her meticulous oversight on our finances this year! Her work directly safeguards the financial health and long-term sustainability of our association. Finally, Barbara Denison, President, was willing to try new things; while also reminding us of how different approaches to conference planning had gone in the past. Barbara is everything our Association could ask for in a President: direct, organized, collaborative and responsive.





# THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

Special thanks to *Sociological Focus* for its generous and ongoing support of our annual meetings.



We are also grateful for the continued support of Alpha Kappa Delta and Ball State University. We welcome and thank our new sponsors, Butler University, Wayne State University and Shippensburg University.



BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
WE FLY



SHIPPENSBURG  
UNIVERSITY

**BUTLER** UNIVERSITY



**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY**

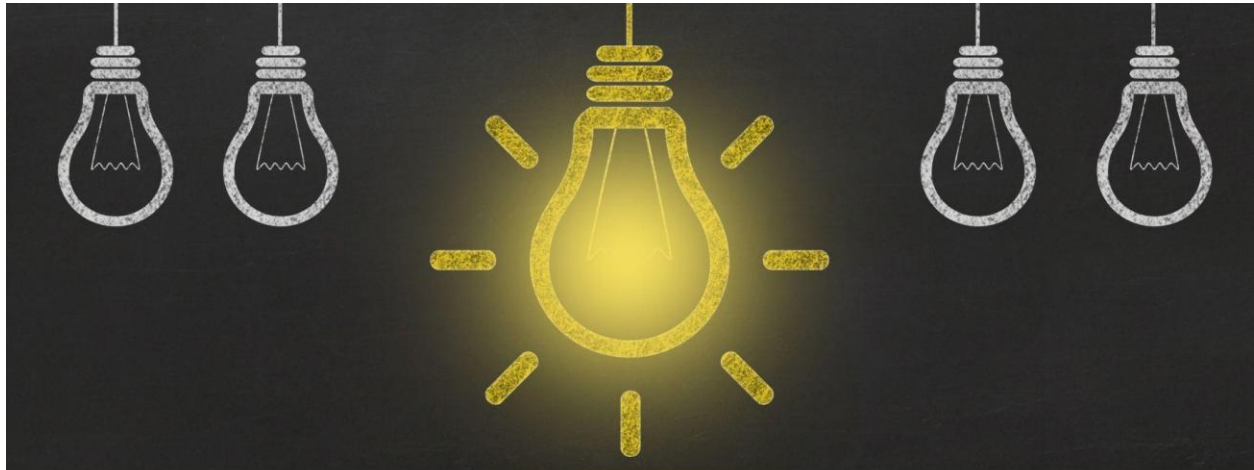
## **2025 – 2026 NCSA COUNCIL**

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Jodi Yelinek (Michigan State University), Member-at-Large  
Melinda Messineo (Ball State University), Operations Manager

## **2025 – 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Ahoo Tabatabai (Columbia College), *Sociological Focus* Editor  
Leslie Wang (Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame), Nominations  
Gregory Kordsmeier (Indiana University Southeast), Schnabel Teaching Award  
Mellisa Holtzman (Ball State University), Undergraduate Student Sessions  
Jay Howard (Butler University), Aida Tomeh – Lissa Yogan Distinguished Service Award  
Temple Smith (Penguin Random House), Institute Equity & Inclusion Chair, Butler A. Jones Scholarship  
Jay Howard (Butler 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  
Caitlin Trombley (Marshall University), Profession, Freedom & Responsibility  
Bridget Smith-Botos (Henry Ford College), Applied, Clinical, & Other Public Sociology Committee  
Annulla Linders (University of Cincinnati), Publication Policy  
Erin Baker-Giese (Henry Ford College), Conference Coordinator

## SAVE THE DATE!



# From Personal Trouble to Public Issue: Thinking Sociologically About Sociology's Role and Reach

April 2 -3, 2027 | Indianapolis | Crown Plaza

The decline in number of students earning bachelor's degrees in sociology is a pressing concern for U.S. sociology. Majors and degrees are the metrics that matter for administrators and legislatures. Focusing on other important metrics – like minors, credit hours, graduation rates, contributions to general education or other programs, or even post-graduate outcomes — might paint a more positive picture.

However, declining majors is what matters, which leaves individual departments vulnerable to closure, faculty at risk of job-loss, and students without the choice to study sociology. As departmental closures spread, U.S. sociology is at greater risk of decline because of the smaller pool of students for graduate schools to draw from and fewer faculty who can provide service to the profession.

Internal critics without data or even anecdotal evidence contend that sociology as a discipline has become too activist-oriented, too focused on inequality, quantitatively and scientifically weak, among other criticisms. Many more of us engage in armchair theorizing to explain declining numbers – students are choosing more career-oriented majors, for instance. And some of this anecdotal evidence may be true for one's campus, but this isn't solely a private trouble for individual departments to solve on their own. Declining numbers is a public issue for U.S. sociology – and the broader public.

The explanations for the apparent declining interest in sociology largely lack a sociological imagination connecting (external and internal) historical factors to the declining numbers of sociology degree-earners. Sociologists need to re-engage their sociological imagination to push back against unhelpful asociological claims to find a path forward.

The public lacks understanding of what we do in our discipline and sociology struggles with discoverability as a major. The public is not thinking about sociology much at all. Instead, sociology's discoverability problem stems from structural factors. For example, we lack an AP sociology course and—for better or for worse—pop sociology that is identifiable as sociology in the broader culture. Without exposure to sociology in high school or popular culture, how would students ever consider sociology as a major? I challenge members of NCSA to consider sociology's discoverability problem and the structural forces contributing to this problem so that sociology and sociologists can thrive.

Stephanie (Indiana University Kokomo)  
NCSA President, 2026-2027

## **2027 Ruth and John Useem Plenary Address: Blake R. Silver**

*Sociology's Solutions for Higher Education: Exploring the Discipline's Insights for Fostering Student Success*

Blake R. Silver is Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University, where he also serves as Director of Educational Pathways & Faculty Development in the Honors College and Director of the Education & Health Research Hub in the Center for Social Science Research.

Dr. Silver completed a PhD in sociology at the University of Virginia, where he was a Jefferson Fellow. His research focuses on culture, social stratification, and higher education, addressing questions about students' pathways to, through, and beyond college. His current projects examine honors college students' educational pathways, the senior-year transitions of second-generation immigrant students, and student decisions about navigating college resources and opportunities.

His books, *The Cost of Inclusion: How Student Conformity Leads to Inequality on College Campuses* and *Degrees of Risk: Navigating Insecurity and Inequality in Public Higher Education* (both published with the University of Chicago Press) address the contours of inequality in student experiences on contemporary college and university campuses.

Dr. Silver's research has been supported by groups including the American Sociological Association, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, ACPA-College Student Educators International, the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, and the NASPA Foundation.