

## **Congratulations to the 2019 Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship Award Winner: Chriss Sneed!**



**Photo of Chriss Sneed**

Chriss Sneed is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Connecticut. In the dissertation tentatively named “Queer Passages and the Assemblages of Blackness,” Chriss examines how Black identity is constructed, negotiated, and utilized by Black/Afro-descendant activists in the United States and Brazil. This multi-sited, qualitative research focuses on activists who are also gender and sexual minorities – those identifying as women or LGBTQ – involved in transnational, racial justice organizing across the Western Hemisphere and the two aforementioned nations specifically. Because of the funds available to Chriss via the 2019 Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship, Chriss will do full time research and writing in the United States this upcoming academic year. The 2019 Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship will financially enable Chriss to focus their full attention on writing and defending their dissertation.

Chriss spent the 2018-2019 academic year working on their dissertation and other manuscripts-in-progress as a Research Associate in Residence at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center located in South Hadley, MA. During the Spring 2019 semester, Chriss also worked at Wesleyan University as Visiting Instructor of African American Studies. In the past, Chriss served as Student Representative of Sociologists for Women in Society, Visiting Scholar & Adjunct at St. John’s University, and as an intern for the Trans Justice Funding Project. Outside of these activities, Chriss is the founder and co-organizer of the interdisciplinary conference “Borderlands: A Critical Graduate Symposium” held each year at the University of Connecticut. Altogether, Chriss’ research, teaching, and service are intimately tied to the theorization and praxis of identity, self-making, and social justice.

Some of their recent publications include “Everyday Conversations with Dr. Rod Bush: The Radical Potentials of Mentorship, Intimacy, and Practice” and “Ga(y)tekeeping Identity, Citizenship, & Claims to Justice” in the edited volumes *Rod Bush: Lessons from a Radical Black Scholar on Liberation, Love, and Justice* (Okcir Press) and *Queer Activism After Marriage Equality: The After Marriage Series- Volume 2* (Routledge), respectively; and, another piece coauthored with David Embrick called “Sociology as a Discipline and an Obligation” (*Contexts*). Two forthcoming works – a co-authored piece on Black activist-research in the Americas and “Apocalypse, Afro-Futures, & Theories of ‘the Living’ Beyond Human Rights: Octavia E. Butler’s *ParableSeries*” – are slated to be published later this year.

We hope you will join us in congratulating the 2019 Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship award winner, Chriss Sneed, and that you will make plans to join us for the 2019 SWS Awards Reception to be held on Sunday, August 11, 2019 starting at 6:30 pm at the Hilton Midtown, New York, NY. Summer Meeting registration is now open and you can register by clicking [HERE](#).

Special thanks to the Co-Chairs of the Sister to Sister Committee: Andrea (Drea) S. Boyles and Sasha R. Drummond-Lewis and the Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship Award Subcommittee Members: Adelle Montebianco and Anjana Narayan.

