I cannot believe the time has come for me to write my final president’s corner; these two years have gone by very quickly. Serving as SWS-S president has been a dream come true. I joined SSS, SWS-S, and SWS while in graduate school, around 2007. These organizations have been critical to my development as a sociologist. But there is something special and unique about SWS-S. First of all, we are one the largest regional chapters of SWS. Our membership has included some of the finest sociologists; well recognized feminists from various schools, for both teaching and research in the south. This membership has also created space for cross-generational mentoring and networking; it is here where I feel at home and find familiar faces. Therefore, when I was elected as president two years ago, I was honored. I came in with the goal of increasing and diversifying our membership. I also charged myself to work closely with SWS nationals in hopes to expand and build upon our existing relationship.

I am proud to say that we have strengthened our relationship with nationals and have increased membership. Working with nationals has been a wonderful experience, Barret Katuna (EO) and Tiffany Taylor (SWS president 2018-2019) have been nothing but supportive and invested in seeing SWS-S stand strong on its own while also supporting the national organization and the local communities of
where we meet. In fact, last year Barret Katuna joined us at SSS and will be joining us again this year in Jacksonville. Some of what we have worked on this past year with nationals includes the signing of an MOU or memo of understanding, which explains the national-regional relationship. We moved our finances to nationals as well as our website and listserve. We think this will help with recruitment, institutional memory, and officer transition. Lastly, Bri Turgeon (current V.P.) and I worked with Barret to clean up our by-laws and align them with the best practices of SWS nationals.

When it comes to increasing and diversifying our membership it is important to think about the ways we make ourselves visible and accessible at SSS and SWS. I want to take a moment and draw upon some of the highlights from last year’s meeting in Atlanta that helped draw in new people. Per usual, we had a strong presence on the program with some new sessions, including one on networking and another one on activism. We sold buttons at our registration table in order to raise money for S.O.N.G, the local non-profit that we supported, and to increase our visibility at the meeting. We had our usual coffee for cause and an off-site happy hour, all organized by the gifted vision chair, Mandi Barringer. These different events brought us together, but we want to do even better this year!

Before SSS was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planning for the SSS meeting in Jacksonville, Bri Turgeon and I spent time talking about what we could do to make our presence at SSS even stronger. Using some ideas from the SWS national meeting this past January, we decided to provide our various academic and teaching sessions and we moved up our business meeting to Friday. This would have allowed us to organize earlier in the meeting and exchange information and ideas. We also added in a self-care session, where we would have made bird houses that can be sold at the silent auction. Finally, we removed coffee for a cause because SSS serves coffee throughout the entire meeting. Therefore, we are focusing all our energies on the off-site happy hour and the silent auction; all proceeds will go to J.A.S.M.Y.N. Lastly, at the registration table, we will offer SWS national ribbons and provide meal sign-up sheets. The goal being to make sure that members and interested SSS meeting participants have a plethora of opportunities to spend time together.

As I wrap up the term, I am so very thankful for the wonderful humans that are SWS-S. I can’t wait to see you all in April. Press on and keep SWS-S going strong.

In solidarity,
Marni A. Brown, SWS-S President 2018-2020
Hi Everyone!

I hope everyone is well, physically, mentally, and emotionally, in these difficult times. While isolating is hard, I’m trying to enjoy the beautiful spring that is blooming outside and cherishing this time with my family. I hope you are also finding something to occupy your time and get you through.

Since this is my first newsletter, let me introduce myself… I’m Baker Rogers the incoming SWS-S President for 2020 through 2022. Thanks for your votes and confidence! I am currently an Assistant Professor (Associate and Tenured in the Fall!) of Sociology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. My wife, Sarah (who is also a sociologist), and I have a new baby, Sutton (a rising sociologist once she starts talking!). Sarah is momma and I’m maddy. Sutton has three fur siblings, Scout (a 10-year-old Red Nose Pitbull), Lightning (a 10-year-old Chocolate Lab), and Frannie (a 9-year-old Terrier mix).

A little more relevant to my role, my teaching and research focuses on inequality, specifically examining the intersections of gender, sexuality, and religion in the U.S. South. My book, Conditionally Accepted: Christians’ Perspectives on Sexuality and Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, was released with Rutgers University Press in December 2019, and my book, Trans Men in the South: Becoming Men, was released in January 2020 with Lexington Books. I have also published in Gender & Society; Qualitative Sociology; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Sociological Inquiry; Sexualities; International Journal of Transgenderism; Review of Religious Research; and Feminist Teacher.

I am excited to be stepping into this role as SWS-S President following Marni Brown because she, along with her awesome team and our incredible E.O., Barrett Katuna, have done an amazing job strengthening this organization. Now all I have to do is not mess it up! Just kidding, I have a few more plans than that, which I will discuss below. Now that SWS-S has created an even stronger relationship with SWS Nationals, we can focus our attention more on networking and social change, rather than the day-to-day concerns of running an organization.

Being tied closely to SWS nationals means that our website is now housed on the national website. Check it out here https://socwomen.org/sws-south/! Now you can find information about our organization and even read past copies of our newsletter. Additionally, you can now sign-up for SWS-S and pay your dues on the SWS nationals website. Join here https://socwomen.org/sws-south/#join. We hope that everyone is able to join both organizations, but there is also the option to only join SWS-S on the website if you can’t afford to join both. Also, if you can, please consider lifetime membership, donations, and department memberships to SWS-S and SWS nationals. These all help us continue the great work we are doing. Let me know if you have questions about any of these.

All of these exciting changes mean that SWS-S is ahead of the curve when it comes to local chapters! My hope is that myself and the new and returning officers for 2020 can continue to serve as a model for other local chapters to align themselves with nationals. This will strengthen the national organization as well as all of our local chapters. Speaking of officers, congratulations to our new SWS-S Executive Board Officers: Treasurer - Cheri Chambers Vision Chair - Girsea Martinez Membership Chair - Kimberly Kelly
I look forward to working with all of you, as well as our returning officers! The next elections will be held in Fall 2020 with the following positions up for election: Vice President, Secretary, and Chair of Awards Committee. Please consider running and nominating yourself or someone you know for any one of these positions.

In addition to continuing to align our local chapter with nationals and not messing up the amazing work of Marni and her team, I have a few ideas (also inspired by Marni) for SWS-S as we move forward into 2020 and beyond. First, I hope that we can continue to get input from our members about what y’all would like to see SWS-S do at both SWS and SSS meetings. As a local chapter, our goal is to help schedule programming that is inclusive and diverse, and what is needed by our local membership. This means we need your feedback. What types of programming would you like? More advice about the job market? More sessions about navigating and surviving academia? More networking and social events? More self-care? I agree with Marni that a big piece of SWS and SWS-S should be creating community and feminist spaces, but we need to know what community and feminist spaces look like to you!

I would also like us to grow our presence at the SWS nationals meetings. Our SWS-S meeting at nationals this year was very small. I know many people are unable to attend the national meeting due to time and financial constraints, but my hope is that those of us who do attend will commit at least a little time to our local chapter at the meetings. If we want to serve as a model for other local chapters, I think we need to have a stronger and more cohesive presence at the national meetings. To me, this means a larger SWS-S business meeting, sponsoring or co-sponsoring sessions to get our name and work on the program, and networking and sharing information about the importance of local chapters with others at the national meetings.

Although a stronger presence at SWS nationals is a goal I have, SWS-S’s main yearly meeting is at the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) meeting. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus this meeting has been cancelled. I know many of you worked diligently on putting together awesome SWS-S panels, workshops, and events, and we thank you for all of that work. Since SSS was unable to reschedule this years event, I hope that many of you will be able to attend in 2021 in New Orleans and we can carry over many of our plans for this year to that meeting. SSS being cancelled also means that our yearly business meeting will not be able to take place. Marni, Barrett, and myself are scheduling a time to video chat soon and will send out updates once we all have times to wrap our heads around what’s going on. I hate that I will not be able to see everyone this year and to meet those of you I do not know, but this is a small sacrifice in the face of this growing pandemic. As a feminist organization we know we are strongest when we stand together, unfortunately right now that means physically staying away from other people, but we are still here and will continue our work.

Please email me (barogers@georgiasouthern.edu), or any of the officers, if you have questions, concerns, or ideas about moving forward.

Stay home and stay well!

Baker A. Rogers, SWS-S President Elect 2020-2022
Membership Update

Hello SWS-South friends. Some of you may have noticed, but most of you probably did not, that the way to sign up for SWS-South membership has changed! You can now sign up through the SWS nationals website: at https://socwomen.org/sws-south/. Once at the page scroll almost all the way to the bottom and click the join button. The Membership renewal begins each year on November 1. So, for 2021 membership, it will start on November 1, 2020 and then those memberships will expire on December 31, 2021. Student Membership is $5, New Membership is $15, Renewal Membership is $20. If you want to become a lifetime member or sign your Department up for membership email pharvey5@gsu.edu directly. If you want to gift someone a membership you can also email pharvey5@gsu.edu or natasha.santana@uconn.edu directly.

For more information about what SWS-South is please visit the website or email any of our leadership. We will also be raising money for our local organization by asking for donations for stickers, so please stop by the table and grab some once the annual SSS meeting is rescheduled.

Finally, please join me in welcoming Kimberly Kelly in taking over this position at Southerns this April

Thanks

Penny Harvey - Membership Chair 2018-2020

SWS Responds to COVID-19 Crisis - SWS Zoom Conversations

SWS Nationals has been putting together a great list of Zoom (an online video and chat app.) conversations and resources for SWS and SWS-S members. Please take a look at these helpful resources that may be of interest to you:

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 at 12:00 PM EASTERN
SELF-CARE FOCUS – COVID-19 CRISIS
Topic: Self-Care Focus – COVID-19 Crisis
Time: Mar 24, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Come and share information about how you are focusing on self-care during the COVID-19 crisis. Looking for attendees who would like to learn about self-care tips and who would like to share self-care tips.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/247915715?pwd=azI4bzIxTDdad2dIekRkQnFPemVRdz09
Meeting ID: 247 915 715
Password: 072754
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,247915715# US (New York)
+13126266799,,247915715# US (Chicago)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 at 3:00 PM EASTERN
STUDENT CONCERNS – COVID-19 CRISIS
Topic: Student Concerns - COVID-19 Crisis
Time: Mar 24, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
This conversation will focus on issues that our SWS Student Members are presently facing at this time. We are asking for students as well as those who feel they are prepared to offer some guidance to students to join this call.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/962095420?pwd=eGxKMHFGcExFTnE0YVJTTlh3MjdIZz09
Meeting ID: 962 095 420
Password: 902806
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,962095420# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,962095420# US (New York)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 at 12:00 PM EASTERN
RETIRED MEMBERS – COVID-19 CRISIS
Topic: Retired Member Concerns - COVID-19 Crisis
Time: Mar 25, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Retired members and those who feel they can provide support to retired members at this time are welcome to join.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/855666174?pwd=K1Ijc1VwUzBMVVZOSE1JejZwZm5kdz09
Meeting ID: 855 666 174
Password: 502491
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,855666174# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,855666174# US (New York)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 AT 3:00 PM EASTERN
FACULTY ISSUES – COVID-19 CRISIS
Topic: Faculty Concerns - COVID-19 Crisis
Time: Mar 25, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
We invite those of you to come who are seeking advice on these matters and for those of you to come who feel prepared to offer some guidance in these areas to join this call.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/991327995?pwd=QUhZb2hIJUIY1Y3E0SGkzMUM3SHN2QT09
Meeting ID: 991 327 995
THURSDAY, MARCH 26 AT 3:00 PM EASTERN
JOB MARKET CONCERNS – COVID-19 CRISIS
Topic: Job Market Concerns - COVID-19 Crisis
Time: Mar 26, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
We are asking for those who are presently on the job market as well as those who feel they are prepared to offer
some guidance to job seekers to join this call.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/289439658?pwd=VWg5VTRUcG1NQkI2THAraXZYWm5aQT09
Meeting ID: 289 439 658
Password: 844487
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,289439658# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,289439658# US (New York)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 AT 3:00 PM EASTERN
APPLIED SOCIOLOGISTS AND DEALING WITH INTERUPTIONS IN DATA COLLECTION
Topic: Applied Sociologists and Dealing with Interruptions in Data Collection - COVID-19
Time: Mar 27, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
We invite those of you to come who are seeking advice on these matters and for those of you to come who feel
prepared to offer some guidance in these areas to join this call.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/772895413?pwd=aWRUbHdRSXpQdktQYWJmdXdLSUNpZz09
Meeting ID: 772 895 413
Password: 626158
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,772895413# US (New York)
+13126266799,,772895413# US (Chicago)

Bored at Home? Resources to Stay Entertained

During this difficult time, we thought we would pull together a list of ideas and digital ways to stay entertained to keep us mentally and emotionally healthy and happy. Here are a list of helpful ideas. If you know of other ideas that are not included on this list, please feel free red to share them over on the SWS-S list serv!


5. Adult Yoga: Adienne's is one of the most highly rated yoga channels on Youtube. Has specific yoga routines for specific needs, 30-day challenges, and meditation: https://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene

   1. Or: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX32D3gKXENrhOXdZjWWtMA

6. Kids Yoga and Meditation- this is the channel I use with my kids- includes yoga, meditation,& mindfulness: https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga

7. Adult Meditation:

   1. 5-minute: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inpok4MKVLM

   2. 10-minute Meditation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5tkqaKiryE

   3. 20-Minute: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EaMJOo1jks

   Please feel free to share your ideas and resources at the SWS-S list serve!

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2020 SWS Winter Meeting in San Diego, California Member Reflection

Feminist Futures in the Global South: Research, Activism and Creativity

1st Arriving in San Diego seemed like a dream. The airport was relatively small, but had beautiful artwork displayed throughout each terminal. Traveling with a 6 month old baby isn’t the easiest thing in the world, but
the airport accommodations, including huge bathroom stalls that fit your luggage, made it easier. It was also refreshing to see all-gender bathrooms as soon as you step off the plane. After getting our luggage, we headed out to the rideshare platform, where the San Diego airport has a pre-check for Lyft and a car waiting to take you as soon as you are ready—so convenient! We arrived at night, so I couldn’t tell how beautiful San Diego was until the next morning. I did however, notice how beautiful the resort was as soon as we pulled in. There were so many trees and lovely flowers, that I would come to learn were Tropical Birds of Paradise (pictured below). SWS has always had nice accommodations in each city, but, y’all, this year was THE BEST! Paradise Point Resort is unlike the conference hotels we usually stay in. There were five pools, ponds with waterfalls, dining on the water, bonfire pits, and so many dogs. Because it was an sprawling resort, golf carts were always on-call to take you anywhere on the grounds. This was an especially nice amenity considering I had my work bag, baby, stroller, and diaper bag anytime I left the bungalow (yes, we stayed in a bungalow with a view of the bay) to go to a meeting or session. This is the first year I have used childcare at SWS. Having this service is so important, especially for single parents or dual academic couples, like me and Baker. Without childcare, Baker and I would not have been able to attend all the wonderful sessions we did. Being part of a group of scholars who value us enough to prepare spaces like this is a rare and welcome reprieve in academia.

Baker and I arrived on Wednesday night, so we had all day Thursday to play around before we went to the opening reception at 6pm. We decided to take a Lyft down to Old Town, an historic part of the city. We ate an early breakfast (our 6-month old baby, Sutton, pretty much stayed on Eastern time for this trip) at Old Town Mexican Café. I can’t oversell this place. There is a group of women, “the tortilla ladies,” who make thousands of hand-pressed flour and corn tortillas every day. After our amazing and large breakfast, we walked a couple of blocks to the San Diego Trolley station where we hopped on a light rail trolley to San Ysidro—the last stop before the U.S./Mexico border. From there, with Sutton strapped to Baker’s chest, we went through customs, got stamps in our passports, and walked across the border into Tijuana, Mexico. While there, we had a drink and bought a lot of souvenirs. After a couple of hours, we decided to head back to the resort and check out one of the pools. Leaving Mexico, there were border patrol agents who made us pull out our passports to see if we were from the U.S., and said, “we just need to make sure you aren’t refugees trying to get into the country.” We went through the formal process of passport checks and questions about our trip about 20 minutes later as we went through metal detectors.

Back at the resort, we went to the pool with Sutton. She loved it! The pools were supposed to be heated to 82 degrees, but it definitely felt chillier than that. After some time splashing around, we got ready for the welcome reception. The reception is always one of my favorite parts of the annual conference. It’s such a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Considering we had been up all day, traveled to Mexico and back, and swam, the three of us called it a night right after the reception. But, there was a seemingly epic gathering at one of the many hot tubs at the resort after the reception was over. Sorry I missed that one!
The following day, Friday, was filled with roundtable sessions and meetings, including the lunch business meeting. I sat with some people this year who were attending SWS for the first time, including some we recruited for SWS-South! I love talking to new attendees! They are so in awe of the feminist space SWS provides and are always comment on how everyone is so welcoming and helpful. That is definitely how I felt my first year (2016) and still feel today. There was a lot discussed in the business meeting, including our outstanding year regarding investments and revenue. Our Feminist Futures fund is at over $3 million and we’ve reached 1,000 members!! Some of our goals this year are to cultivate an appreciation culture (which I think we’re already doing pretty well), increase sponsorships, and focus on membership retention. Barrett, SWS executive officer, announced the partnership between SWS and SWS-South, while also introducing the incoming SWS-South president, Baker Rogers. As part of our effort to increase income, SWS has t-shirts available for a suggested $20-$30 donation, based on income. I think these will be available at our SSS meeting in Jacksonville! Finally, outgoing president, Tiffany Taylor, handed over the gavel (though this was done metaphorically because Tiffany left the gavel at home) to our new president, Josephine Beoku-Betts. SWS-South had a brief meeting Friday night, followed by dinner at a local restaurant on the beach (see Bri Turgeon’s email for more details).

Saturday also was filled with meetings and sessions, followed by the main event—dinner, awards presentations, the auction, and dancing. Proceeds from the Silent Auction went towards funding two local organizations: Detainee Allies, a San Diego based organization working on family separation and refugee detention and License to Freedom, a grassroots organization working to stop domestic violence in refugee and immigrant communities in San Diego County. This is the first year I missed the post-dinner dance party (Sutton was so ready for bed), but I heard it was amazing. This was a great SWS Winter Meeting! I hope you all can join us next year in Jacksonville, FL—at least you’ll have the lay of the land since SSS will also be there in April this year. Thank you so much for letting me fill in as the Graduate Student Liaison for the 2020 national meeting! Finally, I want to say that we missed you, Marni, and hope you’re feeling better!

By Sarah Rogers
SWW-S Member

SWS-S Gender Award Winners

The winner of the 2020 Early Career Gender Scholar Award is Baker Rogers, an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Rogers received their Ph.D. from Mississippi State University in 2015. Dr. Rogers has already make substantial contributions to the literature on sexuality and LGBTQ civil rights; gender performance and inequality; feminist and engaged pedagogy, and public sociology.

Dr. Rogers has two forthcoming books 1) Conditionally Accepted:
Christians’ Perspectives on Homosexuality & Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights which will be published through Rutgers University Press and 2) Trans Men in the South: Becoming Men published by Lexington Books. Their scholarship has also appeared in Qualitative Sociology, Gender & Society, Feminist Teacher, Sexualities, and Review of Religious Research. Dr. Rogers has been successful in securing nearly $25,000 in funds to support their research including the 2018 GSU Scholarly Pursuit Award for Research and the 2019 GSU College of Behavioral and Social Science Excellence in Research Award.

In addition to this impressive record of peer-reviewed scholarship, Dr. Rogers engages in a considerable amount of public sociology, including features on academic blogs and podcasts, media contributions, and invited speaking engagements.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Rogers, and look for a special session to honor their research at the SSS/SWS-South meetings next year!

And, speaking of special sessions… our current awardee of the 2019 Graduate Student Paper Award, Victoria Kurdyla, will have a special session in their honor in Jacksonville! This session will focus on queer criminology and Victoria will be joined by Carrie Buist (Grand Valley State University), Jennifer Vanderminden (University of North Carolina-Wilmington), and Lindsay Kahle (West Virginia State University). The SWS-South co-sponsored session will be at 1:00 pm in City Terrace 10 on Friday, April 3.

Thank you,
Andrea Hunt
Awards Committee Chair

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Member Announcement

Dr. Ariana Prohaska has a new publication! Entitled “Still Struggling: Intersectionality, Vulnerability, and Long-Term Recovery After the Tuscaloosa, Alabama USA Tornado.” It went online on February 11, 2020 at Critical Policy Studies: https://doi.org/10.1080/19460171.2020.1724549!

Dr. Prohaska also got married in August of 2019!

Congratulations on both occasions!
2019-2020 SWS-S Officers

President: Marni Brown; Georgia Gwinnett College
Vice President: Brianna Turgen; Jacksonville State University
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