Greetings SWSeers:

I cannot believe how time has flown as I approach the end of my term as President of SWS. It has been an honor for me to serve in this capacity over the past year, and I thank you for your confidence in me and for your support and willingness to assist when called upon to do so. While there is still much to be done, we would not have been able to accomplish as much as we did without your support, encouragement, and active engagement.

The COVID-19 pandemic and protests on racial injustice determined our main priorities as an organization during my tenure as President. As an intersectional feminist professional organization, we made every effort to ensure that all our members felt represented and their voices and concerns heard in all the planned meetings and programs and to determine how to best support the needs of our membership. We hosted several virtual targeted meetings in collaboration with several committees to provide resources and services on mentoring, teaching and curricula development, faculty concerns, student concerns, job market and career development, self-care/coping, global networking, racial injustice, and writing and research concerns. Some of these virtual programs fulfilled short-term needs, while others have since evolved into ongoing programs, such as social media and career development workshops. Also, small meeting groups focused on writing, self-care/coping, and parenting support are now regular features in the SWS calendar. Working in collaboration with Council and specific committees, we prepared strong activist statements against racial injustice and white supremacy and we posted resources highlighting the scholarship of our African American/Black members. In this way, we have been able to connect with our members even though we cannot meet face-to-face.

Along the way, Nancy López (SWS Vice President) and I initiated a plan for a pre-meeting interactive High School Teachers’ Workshop as part of regular programming for our Winter Meetings. The concept is similar to our vision for the Silent Auction,
where we raise funds to donate to local organizations working on social justice issues related to women, gender, and sexuality. The aim of the High School Teachers’ workshop is to share our knowledge and resources on a particular topic with high school teachers in the localities we hold our Winter Meeting and to learn from them about their lived experiences and concerns as educators in our communities. A pilot workshop was held on “Teaching about Intersectionality in the High School Classroom” during the virtual 2020 Summer Meeting and it was well received by those who attended. Our second workshop on “Teaching about Transnational Feminism in the High School Classroom” will be hosted just prior to the 2021 Winter Meeting. Our sincere thanks to SWS members who volunteer as co-facilitators for these workshops.

We continued to build on previous initiatives launched by Past Presidents Adia Harvey Wingfield and Tiffany Taylor on such matters as working in closer alliance with partner organizations to collaborate where possible on public statements affecting the combined interests of our members. We also revised and strengthened our policies and staffing to reflect current needs and concerns of our members in the areas of sexual harassment, academic justice, discrimination, mentoring, and social media.

One of my goals as SWS President was to strengthen our transnational collaborations and program initiatives. To this end, the two meetings I hosted reflected a global/transnational theme, and we were able to recruit some new global members. The COVID-19 pandemic also provided an opportunity to work on transnational/global issues in collaboration with the International Committee, partner organizations such as RC32 of the International Sociological Association, and our global partners and university associates. Through this collaboration, we prepared a collection of transnational curricula on teaching about COVID-19 and we are currently producing a co-edited autoethnographic book focusing on COVID-19. Thanks to the work of the International Committee, our visibility and engagement as a professional NGO in the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has increased significantly. The production of SWS UN Statements and representation at UN meetings involving accredited NGOs, have heightened our role as activists and advocates on feminist and social justice issues at the UN.

We are in the midst of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, co-chaired by President-Elect Mignon Moore and myself. Two of the plenary sessions on Past Presidents and Gender & Society Editors were very well received. SAGE Publications has since produced a podcast on the G&S Editors’ plenary session for distribution. I am very excited about the program our President-Elect Mignon Moore has put together with her program committee for the virtual Winter Meeting. The theme is “50 Years of SWS: Embracing the Past, Analyzing the Present, Anticipating the Future.” I look forward to the presentations and dialogues and future outcomes that will result from this meeting.

There is still much to be done, and I know that we are in very good hands with Mignon as our President. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Barret Katuna who helped to make the journey so much smoother than it could have been during this challenging but rewarding year. Thanks also to Natasha Santana for all you do to assist us. A special thanks to Marjukka Ollilainen, SWS Network News Editor. You have done an excellent job as Network News Editor and we appreciate your professionalism, your collegiality, and your patience with all our late submissions over the years. We wish you success in all your future endeavors. I also thank all the members who willingly volunteer in various capacities, many times behind the scenes, to move SWS one step forward, when called upon to do so. You are much appreciated, and you’ve helped to make SWS what it has become today.

A final Thank You to all my friends (old and new) and colleagues for their undivided support during my tenure as President. Wishing you all a happy, peaceful, and productive New Year and stay safe and well.

Josephine
Hello Everyone,

The 2021 Winter Program Committee is so excited to prepare an engaging, interactive and fun SWS meeting! 2020 has been such a trying year; we hope that 2021 will bring us clarity and change and relief. We want to get that started with our Winter Meeting, January 28-31, 2021. Our theme is “50 Years of SWS: Embracing the Past, Analyzing the Present, Anticipating the Future.” We will celebrate this milestone and ask hard questions about what we need to do to continue our success and help us all feel a sense of community. This year the conference will be held virtually, which means you can participate while in the comfort of your own home or office!

We have three excellent plenaries planned, with amazing feminist leaders anchoring the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night sessions. These include SWS Past Presidents Adia Harvey Wingfield, Barbara Risman, Pamela Roby as well as others commemorating 50 years of SWS on Friday; Paula England, Andy Marra, Mary Romero and other Deans, CEOs and Presidents discussing women and gender in the leadership of major organizations on Saturday; and on Sunday evening, Drea Boyles, Sara Crawley, Vrushali Patil and others will offer their perspectives on the path SWS should take for the next 50 years, with a keen eye towards race, gender and class statuses that can divide or unite our community. Take a peek HERE for details on all of our outstanding plenary panels and speakers.

We are also happy to host a fun new event, “A Drink with a Genius!” in honor of Tressie McMillan Cottom’s 2020 MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Award. We will chat it up with Tressie while a mixologist from the Causing a Stir organization helps us create a special cocktail (sans alcohol recipe also offered) that we will use to toast a valued member of our SWS community. Click HERE to learn more about this Thursday evening activity.

This year we are introducing a new component to our Winter Meeting: Book Salons! These will showcase books on gender published in 2019 or 2020. Authors of books with related themes will come together in a relaxed and engaged setting to interact with a set of questions posed by a moderator. The goal is to expose conference participants to new scholarship by our members. We will also have our 2021 Feminist Lecture Award and Talk, our Global Feminist Partner Session, a 50th Anniversary Panel sponsored by the 50th Anniversary Committee, Roundtables, Open Sessions, and curated Workshops. Click HERE for details on these events as well as a robust offering of pre-conference mentoring activities and professional development workshops.

All this to say, Register HERE! Tell a friend! Sponsor a student’s or a colleague’s membership! If you’ve missed the past few Winter Meetings, make plans to attend this one. If you have been a loyal participant, we can’t wait to see you in January. We will even offer some goodies for attendees to help us bring on 50 together. As your President-Elect, I hope you will come away from our 2021 Winter Meeting feeling more connected to our feminist community.

Very best wishes,
Mignon

Message from President-Elect Mignon Moore
Greetings from the SWS Executive Office!

As I reflect on 2020, I am grateful for all the opportunities that I have had to engage with so many of you, our members, both in person in San Diego and throughout the remainder of the year via virtual meetings, phone calls, and emails. I am grateful to you all for your support as we navigated challenges of learning to operate differently when COVID-19 caused us to shift the way we interact, and when we responded to the urgent need to stand up to systemic racism in a meaningful way, as it is part of our intersectional feminist mission to do so. I am grateful to SWS President, Josephine Beoku-Betts, who has been such a stellar partner to work with during these new encounters for SWS.

I am excited about what 2021, our 50th Anniversary year, has in store for us. We have demonstrated that in these challenging times, we can still come together and support one another via our phenomenal committee support, writing groups, and self-care check ins. I look forward to continuing and expanding this engagement further in the new year.

We will kick off 2021 with our Winter Meeting (January 28-31, 2021), “50 Years of SWS: Embracing the Past, Analyzing the Present, Anticipating the Future,” organized by President-Elect, Mignon R. Moore. Mignon has put together some amazing plenaries that will help us to celebrate and honor our origins and prepare for a future where SWS continues to strive toward its intersectional feminist mission of inclusivity. The Program Committee, chaired by Sara L. Crawley and with leadership from Paulina García-Del Moral, Ashley Green, Rebecca Hanson, Erica Hill-Yates, Tristen Kade, Zakiya Luna, and Ana Rael is busy now reviewing submissions with the goal of sharing a preliminary program by the end of 2020. We will be hosting our meeting via ePly, a virtual venue that is supported by MemberClicks, and I am really looking forward to seeing how we can come together as a feminist community through ePly. Please encourage your colleagues and students to join SWS and participate in our 2021 Winter Meeting. The more, the merrier! We also have an opportunity this year, thanks to the generosity of members who have decided to gift memberships, for individuals to request sponsored memberships. We also are offering registration for the 2021 Winter Meeting at no additional cost for our members. I am pleased that SWS leadership is supportive of this undertaking to make our feminist community so accessible at a time when collaboration and support are so deeply necessary.

If you would like to request a complimentary SWS Membership for 2021, here is the form to do so.

If you would like to sponsor a student or colleague’s SWS Membership for 2021, here is the form to do so.

I want to thank all the outgoing committee chairs and Council members for their tireless efforts throughout the entirety of their terms, especially this past year. I specifically want to thank Tiffany Taylor for her stellar leadership as SWS President-Elect, President, and Past President. Tiffany, SWS is a more inclusive place because of your dedication to tackling some incredibly important issues, and I have learned so much from you. Thank you to the other departing members of Council, including Nancy López and Jax Gonzalez who have given so much time to SWS throughout these past few years in the midst of all of their other responsibilities. And, a special thank you to Veronica Montes for staying on Council for an additional year as Past Treasurer. SWS is a strong organization because of our tireless leaders. I look forward to welcoming some
new leaders soon who have volunteered to serve SWS during a time of significant growth and change for the organization, as we enter our 50th Anniversary year when we will not be meeting in-person because of the risks associated with COVID-19.

It has been an absolute joy to work with Marjukka Ollilainen over these past 4 years that she has served as Network News Editor. Marjukka, thank you for your creativity and vision that have left such an important mark on SWS communications. We established such an efficient way of operating together that I know that Natasha and I have really grown to appreciate. I hope you will all join me in thanking Marjukka for her incredible service to SWS. Marjukka, you have really helped us to chronicle an amazing four years.

On a final note, if you have not yet renewed your SWS membership for 2021, please do so today! Natasha and I will be working on a listserv update that will require a brief maintenance period during the first week of January. Please renew today and avoid missing out on any email exchanges on the listserv.

I wish you all a restful end to 2020 and I look forward to seeing you in 2021!

I am here for you!!! Please do not hesitate to call, email, or text me.
Email: swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com
Phone: (860) 989-5651

Sincerely,
Barret

---

**Thanks from the Nominations Committee!**

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, I would like to thank everyone who 1) nominated someone for office, 2) all those who considered running for office, and 3) all those who did run for office. We realize this is a difficult year and these decisions were not taken lightly. We hope those who were nominated consider running for office in the very near future. SWS would certainly benefit from your leadership. Lastly, as chair, I want to thank Shobha Hamal Gurung, Maria Cecilia Hwang, Ophra Leyser-Whalen, and Manashi Ray for their hard work on the Nominations Committee this year.

In solidarity,
Tiffany Taylor
Past President and Nominations Committee Chair

---

**Healthy Relationship Series in South Queens, New York: Social Action Initiative Report By Tannuja Rozario**

This year, I received the SWS Social Actions Initiative Award to address gender-based violence in my community, South Queens, New York, through a healthy relationship series hosted by South Queens Women’s March—a gender justice organization. During my dissertation data collection, which focuses on the reproductive health experiences of Indo-Caribbean women and gender non-conforming folks, I realized that unhealthy relationships became a barrier to access reproductive health services. I wanted to provide the tools, resources, and information to eradicate this barrier. The Social Actions Initiative Award made this possible by providing the funding for this undertaking. As a result, my healthy relationships workshops became the first resource to be offered in my community that focuses on maintaining and sustaining...
healthy relationships, consent, communication, and sexual empowerment.

I hosted four healthy relationship workshops through South Queens Women’s March, addressing the qualities of a healthy relationship vs. a toxic relationship, how to connect healthily during COVID-19 (including establishing healthy boundaries), how to foster self-love and combat bullying, and how to have healthy intimate/sexual relationships (in collaboration with Babeland Toys).

During the month of October, the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I launched a campaign with South Queens Women’s March for survivors to have a platform to share their stories, poetry, and resources. Many survivors shared their powerful stories in the community—bringing awareness to the prevalence of gender-based violence in South Queens and empowering community members. To tackle domestic violence this month, we also hosted a bystander intervention training in partnership with Hollaback! where participants learned about how to prevent street harassment through five methods: distract, delegate, document, delay, and direct. Lastly, during the month of October, I organized a healthy relationship workshop where seventy community members learned how they can build and maintain healthy relationships to meet their emotional and physical needs.

The SWS Social Actions Initiative Award made all of these workshops possible for me. I was able to provide the tools and resources my community needs to tackle gender-based violence as well as provide a platform to bring awareness about gender-based violence in my community. Our communities cannot thrive if such violence continues. Ultimately, we cannot attain reproductive justice if we cannot create sustainable and safe communities for our families and children. My hope is to mobilize women in this community to end gender-based violence and co-create a world where we are all truly equitable and free.

Tannuja Rozario and South Queens Women’s March members at a rally to end gender-based violence.

Tannuja Rozario speaking out against gender-based violence.
Members’ Publications


In The Science and Art of Interviewing, Kathleen Gerson and Sarah Damaske offer clear, theoretically informed and empirically rich strategies for conducting interview studies. Presenting both a rationale and guide to the science-and art-of in-depth interviewing to take readers through all the steps in the research process, Gerson and Damaske show readers how to develop a research design for interviewing, decide on and find an appropriate sample, construct a questionnaire, conduct probing interviews, and analyze the data they collect.

Features
- Addresses the predictable but rarely discussed challenges that confront interviewers as they develop a question, design and carry out the research, and present their findings
- Includes a set of exercises to help readers put this advice into practice, model questionnaires, interview transcriptions, coding sheets, and other research tools
- Fills gap in the literature by explaining how depth interviewing provides theoretical and empirical insights than other methods cannot
- Challenges the view that interviewing is not a useful method for answering the central questions of the day


In recent decades, the issue of gender-based violence has become heavily politicized in India. Yet, Indian law enforcement personnel continue to be biased against women and overburdened. In Capable Women, Incapable States, Poulami Roychowdhury asks how women claim rights within these conditions. Through long term ethnography, she provides an in-depth lens on rights negotiations in the world's largest democracy, detailing their social and political effects. Roychowdhury finds that women interact with the law not by following legal procedure or abiding by the rules, but by deploying collective threats and doing the work of the state themselves. And they behave this way because law enforcement personnel do not protect women from harm but do allow women to take the law into their own hands. These negotiations do not enhance legal enforcement. Instead, they create a space where capable women can extract concessions outside the law, all while shouldering a new burden of labor and risk. A unique theory of gender inequality and governance, Capable Women, Incapable States forces us to rethink the effects of rights activism across large parts of the world where political mobilization confronts negligent criminal justice systems.

Series: Life Course Research and Social Policies

This open access book assembles landmark studies on divorce and separation in European countries, and how this affects the life of parents and children. It focuses on four major areas of post-separation lives, namely (1) economic conditions, (2) parent-child relationships, (3) parent and child well-being, and (4) health. Through studies from several European countries, the book showcases how legal regulations and social policies influence parental and child wellbeing after divorce and separation. It also illustrates how social policies are interwoven with the normative fabric of a country. For example, it is shown that father-child contact after separation is more intense in those countries which have adopted policies that encourage shared parenting. Correspondingly, countries that have adopted these regulations are at the forefront of more egalitarian gender role attitudes. Apart from a strong emphasis on the legal and social policy context, the studies in this volume adopt a longitudinal perspective and situate post-separation behaviour and well-being in the life course. The longitudinal perspective opens up new avenues for research to understand how behaviour and conditions prior or at divorce and separation affect later behaviour and well-being. As such this book is of special appeal to scholars of family research as well as to anyone interested in the role of divorce and separation in Europe in the 21st century.

---

Call for Papers: Volume 39, Research in the Sociology of Health Care
Health and Health Care Inequities, Infectious Diseases and Social Factors

Papers dealing with macro-level system issues and micro-level issues involving health and health care inequities, infectious diseases and social factors are sought. This includes examination of health and health care issues of patients or of providers of care both in the United States and in other countries. Papers that focus on linkages to policy, population concerns and either patients or providers of care as ways to meet health care needs of people both in the U.S. and in other countries are solicited. The social factors could include race and ethnicity, SES, and gender along with other social factors. Papers could provide linkages to infectious diseases including COVID-19 but can also deal with chronic health disease issues and an array of concerns linked to inequities in access to care. Both quantitative and qualitative papers are appropriate for this volume. This volume will be published by Emerald Press.

The volume will contain 10 to 14 papers, generally between 20 and 35 pages in length. Send completed manuscripts or close to completed papers for review by February 15, 2021. For an initial indication of interest in outlines or abstracts, please contact the same address no later than January 4, 2021. Earlier inquiries are welcome and will be responded to when sent (in the fall, for example). Send an email to: Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld, Professor Emerita, Sociology Program, Arizona State University (phone 480 991-3920; Jennie.Kronenfeld@asu.edu). Initial inquiries by email are encouraged and can occur immediately.
Announcements and Events

Call for study participants: Please share with your networks!

Are you a woman who was married under the age of 18?
If you are a woman, between 16-45 years old, and were married in the U.S. before you turned 18, we want to hear from you! Confidential interviews will last 1-2 hours and will take place by phone or Zoom. Minors are underrepresented in research on marriage. This is a chance for you to help change that! To participate or if you have questions, contact: Jamie O’Quinn, Principal Investigator, The University of Texas at Austin, (512) 489-6646, joquinn@utexas.edu


Call for Application: The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship

History and Overview

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an advanced sociology Ph.D. student who began their study in a community college or technical school. A student advanced to candidacy (ABD status) in an accredited Ph.D. program in sociology is eligible to apply if they studied at a U.S. two-year college either part-time or full-time for the equivalent of at least one full academic year that was not part of a high-school dual-enrollment or enrichment program. Students who attended the international equivalent of U.S. two-year college are also welcome to apply.

The Scholarship carries a stipend of $18,000 from Sociologists for Women in Society to support the pursuit of a Ph.D., a certificate from SWS, a $500 travel grant to attend SWS 2022 Winter Meeting, a $500 travel grant to attend the SWS 2021 Summer Meeting, and a one-year complimentary SWS membership (including a subscription to Gender & Society).

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 71st Annual Meeting, to be held August 6-8, 2021, at the Swissôtel Chicago in Chicago, IL. The program theme selected by President Corey Dolgon is Revolutionary Sociology: Truth, Healing, Reparations and Restructuring. We are excited to be adding up to 60 virtual sessions in addition to our in-person sessions. Papers or extended abstracts for presentations must be submitted to in-person sessions or virtual sessions via our online submission process no later than 11:59p.m. (Eastern Time) on January 15, 2021. For more information contact sssp@utk.edu or visit https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/839/2021_Annual_Meeting/.
Recognizing Beth B. Hess’s significant contribution to the American Sociological Association (ASA), ASA joins SWS and SSSP in honoring the awardee. ASA provides one year of membership, and also a $500 travel award and waived registration for the ASA Annual Meeting.

What We'll Be Looking For

To honor Beth Hess's career, the subcommittee will be looking for:

- Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other institution serving less privileged students.
- Research and/or activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology being especially positive.
- Service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring.
- High quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

All else equal, candidates who are already in the writing stage and apparently close to completion will be preferred. While repeat applications are not prohibited, the odds of success are improved by waiting to apply until the applicant is obviously no more than 12 months from defending the dissertation, making the award available to the recipient in the last full year of the PhD program.

The Application

Applications for the award should be submitted via the SWS MemberClicks system at https://sws.memberclicks.net in one file.

Any questions should be directed to Sarah Bruch, Beth Hess Award Subcommittee Chair at: (skbruch@udel.edu).

Applications must contain the following items in the following order:

1. A cover sheet with:
   - Name and full contact information, including phone and email
   - Current academic affiliation, with years attended and expected degree date
   - Community college or technical school attended, with years and number of credits completed
   - Name and contact information for graduate faculty reference
   - If included, name of honored faculty member

2. A letter of application (no more than 2 pages) describing:
   - The student's decision to study sociology
   - Commitment to teaching
   - Career goals
   - Research agenda
   - Service and activism
   - Dissertation project, including clear indicators of progress to date and future timeline (this summary statement should be approximately 1 page)

   A description of challenges overcome by the candidate, how these experiences have shaped their service, teaching, and research related to social justice, inequality, or social problems, and their continuing commitment to helping
others to overcome challenges specific to them. In recent years these challenges have included family drug use, social class, immigration status, racial minoritiza-
tion, nonconforming sexuality, etc.
- Financial need and an overview of how the stipend funds would be used (a budg-
et is not required)

3. Full curriculum vitae, including all schools, degrees awarded, dates/years of study, and full or part-time status in each.
4. (Optional) A one-page letter describing a community/technical college faculty member who contributed in a significant way to the decision to study sociology or pursue higher education.

Applicants should also arrange for the following to be submitted via the MemberClicks sys-
tem. The items below must clearly specify the applicant’s name.

1. A letter confirming advancement to candidacy (ABD status) in a sociology Ph.D. program and aid award, if any. ABD status is required.
2. A letter of recommendation from a sociologist.
3. Transcript (official or unofficial) from the community or technical college attended.

To be considered, all application materials must be RECEIVED by April 1, 2021 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time.

For further information contact Barret Katuna, SWS Executive Officer (swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com) or Sarah Bruch, Chair of the Beth Hess Award Subcommittee (skbruch@udel.edu).

Call for Subcommittee Chair from the International Committee: Feminist Partnership Program (GFPP)

The GFPP represents our SWS commitment to activism and advocacy for global gender justice through feminist social scientific research and organizational inclusiveness. Much appreciation to Yun Ling Li as GFPP chair from 2015-2020!

SWS has collaborations and friendships with feminist scholarly and activist centers across the world. Our global partners share their work with us through Network News and visits to our annual Winter Meetings. Our partnerships include centers in China, India, Korea, Nepal, Italy, Hungary, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico. Applications for new partnerships from the following regions are always welcome: Asia, Africa, Central/Eastern Europe, Latin American/Caribbean, and the Middle East with SWS members serving as partner liaisons.

GFPP chair expectations:
- Two-year commitment
- Located anywhere globally
- Willingness to fulfill responsibilities and duties as follows:

1) Coordinate logistics for the nominations of new global partners and facilitate communication with SWS liaisons and global partners.
To celebrate and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of SWS, the 2020 Summer Meeting organizers invited SWS Past Presidents and Officers from five decades to share their recollections of the organization and issues they dealt with in their role. Network News will be publishing these essays throughout the 50th Anniversary celebration year. This issue features recollections from SWS Presidents, Mary Frank Fox (1995) and Myra Marx Ferree (2000-2001).

Mary Frank Fox, SWS President in 1995

The time was memorable: 1995 marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of SWS and the “Women’s Strike for Equality,” the nationwide demonstration for women’s rights. The confluence of these is not accidental. The emergence of SWS and the second wave of the women’s movement have common roots: shared grievance, feminist consciousness and identity, and collective action of women. Women picketed, marched, and spoke at teach-ins on August 26, 1970 in the “Strike for Equality.” At nearly the same time, 75 women gathered as a caucus in Washington, D.C. during the 1970 meetings of the American Sociological Association. They decided that we needed a permanent organization, and scheduled a meeting to follow at Yale University: Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) began.

During my Presidency in 1995, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of SWS with a record-breaking attendance at the SWS banquet at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Gathered together were our SWS founding mothers, past presidents, program organizers, long time members, first time members, and minority scholar, mentoring, feminist lectureship, and activist awardees. The event marked SWS history and helped chart the future.

In the mid-1990s, activism effused with the initiatives of the SWS Political Activism and Policy committee on welfare, reproductive rights, childcare, healthcare, education and training, jobs, pay, and benefits, and affirmative action. SWS outreach continued with new initiatives for mentoring. A proposal arrived for SWS co-sponsorship against sexual harassment. Forms went out to those who pledged gift memberships in SWS. Gender & Society, our SWS journal, flourished. The journal went from four to six issues published annually and continued to establish gender as key to the analysis and understanding of interactions, organizations, and societies.

Both opportunities and challenges occurred in continuing outreach to students and new members, broad social and political policy, and strength for women across academic and applied settings. The time was right for organizational action – and it always is! A lesson here is that it is never too early, and never too late. It is always the time for the feminist dedication, social justice, and broadening participation that are core to SWS.
Myra Marx Ferree, SWS President from 2000-2001

When I was elected, SWS was still a small, struggling, dues-dependent organization. We had just finalized the first contract with SAGE that would return G&S royalties to us. Some were still not sure if this was a good thing, but it was time to imagine what new possibilities could be opening. We usually had fewer – sometimes much fewer – than 90 in attendance at our Midyear (now Winter) Meeting. We were committed to making a difference and dug deep in our own pockets when Arlene Kaplan Daniels literally passed the hat for donations to the Minority Fellowship Program, and we used our own dues to create an equalizing cost-share program for low-income midyear meeting attendees. Not even the presidents themselves had ever gotten support for the meetings beyond this regular cost-share. The big issue on our plates was what kind of transformation would having royalties from SAGE make in our organization? What could we do, and how could we do it responsibly so that the income wasn’t allocated by individual whim or to just reward ourselves for being us? For the first time, we had actual money to put where our mouths were, to be sociologists for women in society.

Our Midyear Meeting in Arizona in 2001 was the first to cross the 100 attendee threshold and was focused on the vision for our future and our assessment of the needs for change in the academy and in the wider society. We discussed the differences between staff-led organizations like ASA and membership-led organizations like co-ops, and voted that we wanted to be more like the latter. Carla Howery and I did a discussion draft for our first bylaws, aiming to create a structure that would share responsibilities as a feminist organization – that is, to function in ways that would be participatory, non hierarchical, democratic, transparent, and accountable – and turn our collective commitment to social change into achieving pragmatic but transformative goals. Many worried about the SAGE contract, not only wanting to make sure that the money that would be coming in would be used responsibly, but wanting to assure that G&S would not become the “tail that wagged the dog” and dilute support for our wider commitments.

At least in my own recollections, that meeting was a turning point. No Winter Meeting after that ever went below 100 attendees. As an organization, we began funding scholarships for dissertations (rather than just relying on small bequests), including our substantial commitment to funding the Minority Fellowship Program. We appointed the first-ever task forces to tackle organizational issues and report back to the membership at large. We also committed funding for the Winter Meeting organizer, and for the Feminist Lecture, the Mentoring Award and the Feminist Activist Award. We enhanced the cost-share and, with it, the proportion of students among attendees. SWS did not change overnight, but at the turn of the millennium, the process of organizational transformation initiated by the financial success of G&S had begun.

Congratulations to SWS Feminist Activism Awardee Brittany Pearl Battle

Dr. Brittany Pearl Battle is the SWS 2021 Feminist Activism Award Winner. She is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at Wake Forest University and a passionate scholar-activist. Her research interests include social and family policy, courts, social justice, carceral logics, and culture and cognition. She teaches courses on social justice in the social sciences, criminology, and courts and criminal procedure, and is currently designing a course on abolition and reimagining justice. Brittany’s scholarship has been funded by the Ford Foundation, American Sociological Association, and Sociologists for Women in Society, and she recently won the American Society of Criminology’s Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice Praxis.
Brittany is working on a book manuscript (under contract with NYU Press), “They’re Stealing My Opportunity to Be a Father: The Child Support System and State Intervention in the Family,” which examines the experiences of parents involved in the child support system using courtroom observations and interviews. The project illuminates the ways that the child support system functions as a neoliberal construct at the intersection of the welfare and criminal justice systems.

Brittany is also a founding Board of Directors member of the Ocean City Juneteenth Organization, which honors Black elders and ancestors in her hometown, and began a donation drive to the local Coalition Against Rape and Abuse in the name of a Black woman community member murdered in an act of domestic violence. She has been recognized with a New Jersey Legislature Senate and General Assembly Citation for her work with the Ocean City Juneteenth Organization, as well as the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Award from the City of Ocean City, New Jersey. Brittany regularly appears in local news media and engages in public scholarship on podcasts and community panels, and through her blog on her experiences as a Black woman on the tenure track.

Brittany’s work stands out for its timeliness, intensity, and the clear results and impact they have had in a short time on the lives of colleagues, students, and members of her community. In the wake of George Floyd’s murder, she founded the Triad Abolition Project, mobilizing the organization for Occupy Winston Salem. Brittany worked with other organizers to put forth a set of demands to local government; they held educational events, community dinners, vigils, marches, and other actions that resulted in policy change at the county level. The county committed to notifying the public when an inmate dies in police custody and banned the use of “hogtie” restraints, among other changes. Brittany’s activism is also visible in her mentoring, particularly of first-generation, Black, and POC students. Noting her dedication and intersectional feminist work on issues of racial justice in her community and the demonstration of her exceptional commitment to intersectional feminist activism within her community, SWS is awarding Brittany Pearl Battle the SWS 2021 Feminist Activism Award.

Brittany’s nomination was submitted by Amanda M. Gengler, Andrea Gómez Cervantes, Victoria Reyes, Antonia Randolph, Bruce Jackson,
Zawadi Rucks Ahidiana, and LaTonya J. Trotter. In her nomination package, it stated: “In the classroom, Dr. Battle also utilizes her scholar-activist framework to teach sociology and empower her students to work towards social change. In only her second year at Wake Forest, Dr. Battle has already created and taught four different classes, all utilizing a Black feminist framework to understand sociology. This is perhaps most visible in her Social Justice class, where she teaches students to question knowledge and power production in the pursuit of ‘justice.’ Nonetheless, her most transformational acts of scholar-activism reveal themselves in the Teach-ins she organized during the Occupy Winston Salem work described earlier. Whether it was gathering on the sidewalk pavement in front of the local detention center, or sitting in a circle at a park, Dr. Battle broke the walls of the ivory tower bringing academia into the streets. With weekly, sometimes daily teach-ins, Dr. Battle brought together scholars, community organizations, and community members to talk about structural and local issues on topics ranging from abolition to housing; the criminalization of Black youth, to immigration detention, and much more.”

The SWS Feminist Activism Award, established in 1995, is presented annually to an SWS member who has notably and consistently used sociology to improve conditions for women in society. The award honors outstanding feminist advocacy efforts that embody the goal of service to women and that have identifiably improved women’s lives. This year’s Feminist Activism Award Subcommittee included Karine Lepillez (Subcommittee Chair), Amy Blackstone, LaToya Council, Ophra Leyser-Whalen, and Cierra Sorin.

We hope you will join us in congratulating Brittany at the 2021 Winter SWS Awards Reception to be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

---

2021 SWS Feminist Mentoring Award Goes to Heather Laube

Dr. Heather Laube is an associate professor of sociology and core faculty in the Women’s and Gender Studies program at the University of Michigan-Flint. She served as the UM-Flint Thompson Center for Learning and Teaching Faculty Fellow for Mentoring and continues to work with a team of people on her campus to build and strengthen mentoring programs for faculty and staff. In 2015, she taught and researched at Karl-Franzens University in Graz, Austria, as a Fulbright scholar. Heather has long been interested in how feminist academics find ways to remain true to their feminist ideals while also attending to the reality and goals of their
professional lives. Her work explores how scholars’ feminist and sociological identities intersect with their institutional locations to offer opportunities to transform the academy. She has explored how innovative faculty mentoring programs might contribute to institutional change in higher education. Heather has served in a number of leadership roles in SWS. The organization and its members have been central to her development as a feminist sociologist, teacher, scholar, and colleague.

The nominators for Heather Laube were Jennifer Alvey, Sharon Bird, Tristan Bridges, Krista Brumley, Kris De Welde, Sasha Drummond-Lewis, Angie Hattery, and Sarah Sobieraj. In the collectively penned nomination letter, the writers enthusiastically describe how Professor Laube “takes feminist mentoring to an entirely other level.” Her work with individuals as well as organizations, such as SWS and the University of Michigan-Flint, to transform mentoring highlights Laube’s personal and scholarly commitments to this work. Speaking as her colleague at UM-Flint, Jennifer Alvey states the following: “Her sustained and highly successful work revitalizing and re-envisioning the Faculty Mentor Program is a direct result of her research driven approach to identifying and solving problems, as well as to her ability to think creatively and foster the implementation of evidenced based best practices tailored to our unique circumstances. Heather’s mentoring in the department constitutes what I can only call a sea change.” The nominators also highlight Laube’s transformational work in re-envisioning the SWS Professional Needs Mentoring Program through adopting cutting edge best practices such as Mutual Mentoring models. Nominators also consider Laube a “holistic mentor” that “upends traditional expectations of mentoring as a senior-to-junior activity and instead approaches mentoring as a way of being, a way of caring, of advancing others regardless of their career stage.” Laube is also described as a “scout” for new feminist leaders on her campus and across SWS who need just a little bit of encouragement. However, the nominators make clear that “Professor Laube doesn’t just scout people. She also mentors by preparing organizations for the leadership they sometimes don’t know they need. While she is simultaneously mentoring a novice to take on their first leadership position, she is also preparing the organization for a leader who may be unconventional, someone who may not look like previous leaders, or who may work at an institution that is not typically at the table.” Sarah Sobieraj clearly conveys one of the many reasons why Heather Laube has been selected as the winner of the 2021 Feminist Mentoring Award: “Over decades of SWS Summer and Winter Meetings, Heather has made a point of finding those who are at the literal margins—of the conversation, of the table, of the dancefloor—and working to welcome them in.”

The SWS Feminist Mentoring Award was established in 1990 to honor an SWS Member who is an outstanding feminist mentor. While the word “mentoring” is commonly used to describe a faculty-student relationship, this award has shown the breadth of ways that feminists do mentoring. In establishing the award, SWS recognized that feminist mentoring is an important and concrete way to encourage feminist scholarship. This year’s Feminist Mentoring Award Subcommittee included Corinne Castro (Subcommittee Chair,) Manisha Desai, Rebecca P, Rhacel Parreñas, Bandana Purkayastha, and Ashley Kim.

We hope you will join us in congratulating Heather at the 2021 Winter SWS Awards Reception on Saturday, January 30, 2021.
Mary Romero Wins the 2021 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award

The 2021 SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Award goes to Dr. Mary Romero. Mary Romero is Professor Emerita, Justice and Social Inquiry in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. She served as the 110th President of the American Sociological Association. She is the 2017 recipient of the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, 2015 Latina/o Sociology Section Founders Award, 2012 Julian Samora Distinguished Career Award, the Section on Race and Ethnic Minorities 2009 Founder’s Award, and the 2004 Study of Social Problems Lee Founders Award. She is the author of *Introducing Intersectionality* (Polity Press, 2018), *The Maid’s Daughter: Inside and Outside the American Dream* (NYU, 2011), *Maid in the U.S.A.* (NYU, 1992), co-editor of eight books, and numerous social science journals and law review articles.

As noted in her nomination materials submitted by Bandana Purkayastha, Josephine Beoku-Betts, Melanie Heath, Georgiann Davis, Shobha Hamal Gurung, Vrushali Patil, and Ranita Ray: “Dr. Romero’s work in *Maid in America* and *The Maid’s Daughter* remains pertinent to the immigration landscape in the U.S. today. The earlier book, not surprisingly, has remained in print for over 20 years. These books tap into a key theme—the need for decent work conditions. As the number of female workers have grown in the U.S., often, women and men in upper-level white collar jobs have used the labor of poor immigrant women to manage “family responsibilities.” This story needs to be told repeatedly if we are truly striving for equity, and Professor Romero has done so with great sensitivity. Importantly, Professor Romero has produced her analysis from her location in the state of Arizona where anti-immigration politicians have created a state of fear and hate for immigrants and people of color.”

The nominators also noted: “Professor Romero’s work with faculty and graduate students of color at Arizona State University is legendary. However, we have seen her quiet activism within SWS as she supported so many junior and senior faculty by lending an ear when they needed it, including them in programs she was involved in, and travelling to their universities to give lectures to show the strength of sociologists on campuses that had very few feminist scholars.”

Thank you to the SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Subcommittee that was comprised of Kimberly Kelly (Chair), Katie Acosta, and Morgan Matthews. The SWS Distinguished Feminist Lectureship was founded in 1985 as a way of recognizing members whose scholarship employs a feminist perspective, and of making this feminist scholar available to
campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. A key goal of the program is to provide a feminist voice on campuses where such a perspective is unusual and/or unwelcome. Please note that the Lectureship originally carried the name of Cheryl Allyn Miller, but now there is a separate Cheryl Allyn Miller Award.

We hope you will join us in congratulating Mary at the 2021 Winter SWS Awards Reception on Saturday, January 30, 2021.