President’s Corner

Another semester has wrapped up and life is starting to return to pre-pandemic “normal” in many ways (which can be both good and bad). Looking back over this past semester, Spring 2021, we have accomplished quite a bit as an organization. Our sessions and panels at the Virtual Southern Sociological Society Meetings went well, despite some technological issues. We have successfully transitioned our leadership team. Check out our team here: https://socwomen.org/sws-south/ Additionally, our leadership team has completed a four-part workshop and a book discussion on moving the organization towards anti-racism.

In Fall 2022, we have plans to have a general meeting for the organization so we can all get together virtually. We also plan to present on our anti-racism work at the Mid-South Sociological Association Meetings (October 20-23 in Charlotte, NC).

The Fall semester also means planning. Planning for the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Winter Meeting (time and date TBA) and the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) Annual Meeting (April 6-9 in...
Birmingham, AL). Luckily, we have a new SSS Program Chair, Elycia Daniel, to assist us with this endeavor! I cannot wait to see some of you in person in 2022!

Overall, our goal as an organization is to continue our anti-racist work and become an organization that is welcoming and supportive of all sociologists. We hope to be an organization that is trusted and turned to in the academy, not another time suck that doesn’t offer benefits to our members. To do this, we need more anti-racist training, specifically focused on self-awareness and well-being, as well as more diversity in leadership.

With that being said, if you’d like to get more involved in SWS-S, we hope to see you at our general meeting in the Fall, as well as our meetings at SWS and SSS in the Spring. Elections will be held in October 2021, which is a great way to get involved. This year, we will be looking for President, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Vision Committee Chair, and Student Delegate to SWS.

We are also currently looking for two appointed positions, Archivist/Historian and Social Media Representative, if you are interested in either of these, please email me!

Overall, it was a successful year for SWS-S, despite a global pandemic, and we have a lot of fun things on the horizon for the 2021-2022 academic year. We hope you join us! Here the link to join if you aren’t already a member: https://sws.memberclicks.net

Take care and be well!
Baker A. Rogers, SWS-S President 2020-2022
barogers@georgiasouthern.edu

Scholar Spotlight: Girsea Martínez Rosas

This spring's Scholar Spotlight is SWS-South's very own Vision Committee Chair, Girsea Martínez Rosas! They are currently a Doctoral Fellow completing their dissertation “Race and Ethnicity, & Embodied Experiences among Undocumented Immigrants” at the University of South Florida.

Growing up in a predominately black and brown community outside of Dallas, Girsea said they were less conscious of their race. That shifted when they began attending Texas A&M, where they "first felt their skin," and it was in this context that they took their first sociology class. The information they were learning in class was worrying as a Mexican woman and daughter of undocumented immigrants. In many ways, the information did not reflect experiences of themselves or their community. The under-representation of people in their community prompted Girsea to write about their own experiences and later the experiences of others. Delving further into these narratives enabled them to add to the incomplete picture they were shown early on in undergrad classes.

Eventually, this led Girsea to pursue a master's in sociology at Texas Tech. While there, Girsea was inspired by their thesis mentor Dr. Jennifer L. Dunn, who was working on a project focusing on battered women. While outside of their area, this research was eye-opening as it looked at and discussed people’s emotions when
interacting with the system, not merely the impact of the system. DuBois’ description in the Souls of Black Folks of the removing the veil from over the eyes became salient to their own life when their undocumented father was deported — changing their life forever. Their research into race and emotions scholarship has helped them make sense of these experiences and has been influential to how they approach and view their research.

Girsea's dissertation research focuses on the experiences of race, emotions, and immigration among undocumented young people in the south. It is clear when talking to Girsea that the experiences of that population vary, often based on how others around them view the respondent's race. This racialized response was apparent in-school experiences and interactions with institutions. Girsea notes that while some of the respondents had features and language skills that enable them to pass, others did not, which impacted their treatment by others in society.

Girsea faced a challenge in their research: the impact of the political environment and subsequent policy changes over the past four-and-a-half years as the previous presidential administration in the United States enacted policies that justifiably increased fear among undocumented populations. Many respondents expressed to Girsea a fear that the study and interviews were a ruse to get people without documentation to show up to an interview only to be arrested by Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) officers. Policy and legal changes challenged Girsea's ability not only to recruit for their project but also in the establishment of trust and rapport with their respondents. However, Girsea's perseverance and skill helped them identify, connect, and build rapport with their respondents. Their work will contribute substantially to the discussion of the intersectional nature of race and emotions. Further, the timely nature of their work, in my opinion, is well placed to help rebuild the connections with these communities that have been the target of racially motivated policy initiatives.

Their research has also resulted in Girsea feeling more comfortable embracing and learning more about their own identity as an indigenous woman from the Hñähñu Otomi of central Mexico. Currently, Girsea is in the final stages of writing their dissertation, and they expect to go on the job market shortly. Along with many members of our SWS-South community, I look forward to seeing more work from them in the coming years.

Amelia Davies Robinson, SWS-S Newsletter Editor
adaviesr@kent.edu

Member Announcement

Please join us in congratulating SWS-ers Patricia Drentea, Heith Copes, and Jessica Valles for their publication “Hope, Dignity, and Oral Health for Women in Recovery” in Contexts this past year.


Treasurer’s Report

Greetings from your treasurer! It is my honor to serve SWS-South in this position.

This year our membership dues income was $1,790. Our expenses were $554.96 which includes the Graduate Student Paper award and plaque, copies of Kendi’s book, and bank fees. We have $4,138.87 in our account. This is more than we typically have at this time of year and due primarily to the SSS meeting being cancelled in 2020 and virtual this year, and therefore not incurring the usual expenses.
You can join or renew your membership by going to either the SWS website (https://socwomen.org/) or the SWS-South webpage (https://socwomen.org/sws-south/). You are not required to join both organizations but for those who do or want to belong to both, it simplifies membership renewal. New and returning faculty member dues are $20. Student (graduate and undergraduate) member dues are $5. Self-identified lower income general member dues are $5. Lifetime memberships are $500.

If you have any questions or fund-raising suggestions, please contact me at cheri.chambers@saintleo.edu.

Cheri Chambers, SWS-S Treasurer  
cheri.chambers@saintleo.edu

**Membership Update**

Despite a global pandemic, the 2020-2021 academic year has been good to SWS-South. The isolation of the pandemic made it even more important to connect with other feminist scholars, and the plethora of workshops and support groups offered by SWS-South members was just the thing.

To get the word out, we contacted scholars in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia whose online profiles indicated an interest in gender as a research and/or teaching focus. We also looked for graduate and undergraduate coordinators, asking them to share our invitation with interested students. After sending invitations to roughly 200 people, inviting them to join SWS-South or renew their membership, we saw our numbers grow from 80 to 110 between January 31 and June 1, 2021.

As a friendly reminder, SWS-S membership renewals coincide with those of the national SWS organization, with both renewing on November 1 of each calendar year.

SWS-S membership costs are as follows; $5 for undergraduate and graduate students, $15 for new faculty members, and $20 for returning faculty. You can join or renew here: https://sws.memberclicks.net/

If you are interested in a lifetime or departmental membership, or in gifting membership to a colleague or student, please get in touch with me as the membership chair.

We appreciate your support in expanding our fierce and fabulous feminist network. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Cheers,

Kimberly Kelly, SWS-S Membership Chair  
kkelly@soc.msstate.edu

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**Member Announcement**

Join us in congratulating Ariane Prohaska, a SWS-South board member and Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Chair at the University of Alabama for her recent publication titled ‘Nothing Should Jiggle While You’re Moving’: Preparing the Fat Body for an America ‘plus-size’ pageant. Citation below

SWS-South Anti-Racism Workshop

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the SWS-South leadership team began meeting virtually once a month for an anti-racist workshop facilitated by Dr. Teddy McGlynn-Wright with In The Works (https://intheworksllc.squarespace.com). Dr. McGlynn-Wright “is a Belonging-Based Facilitator, politicized healer and award-winning professor, formerly of the UW School of Social Work” (https://intheworksllc.squarespace.com/about). The aim of working with a facilitator was to help us improve SWS-South and to serve as a model of antiracism for SWS Nationals and other sociological organizations. New to the role of Vice President for SWS-South, I was invited to attend these antiracist workshops beginning in the Spring of 2021, which is what I am writing to you about today.

During the spring of 2021 the leadership team met February 10th, March 10th, April 14th, and May 12th for at least two hours each session through Zoom. While each session was unique in the topics we covered and discussed, there was also a general rhythm to the sessions. Typically, we would all get settled into the Zoom room, and Dr. McGlynn-Wright would ask us how we were all doing. While this question might seem simple enough it was very powerful to be asked to think about how we were doing during a global pandemic and during days and nights of political and social unrest. They established what was called “P.I.E.S,” each letter representing an area in our lives in which we could discuss how we were doing—P stood for physically, I for intellectually, E for emotionally, and S for spiritually and/or socially. I found this exercise to be very powerful and moving. In fact, I have since used this exercise in other support groups I am a part of, and it has received positive feedback. Everyone is given time to think and speak about how they are doing, or there was always the welcomed option to pass if you felt you were not ready to share.

After we all reflected on how we were doing, McGlynn-Wright would often present us with a question, scenario, or ask us to reflect on either an article or video they previously shared. These exercises were very impactful, and the leadership team often engaged in meaningful and thoughtful dialogue. As a result of these conversations, the leadership team brainstormed many new ideas we would like to bring to the regional organization at various conferences and throughout our mission as an organization. Some ideas included presenting the workshop experience at up-coming conferences as examples of how local chapters and/or departments could bring such a workshop to their campuses, as well as, creating a Historian position on the leadership team—someone who will research the histories of SWS-South and maintain current and future records so it’s members can better understand the histories of our organization. If you are interested in that position, please contact Baker Rogers, the President of SWS-South. There were other great ideas discussed, of which we hope to share at our fall SWS-South general meeting. Please stay tuned for more details on this meeting and the ideas we are excited to share.

Thank you and take care,
Ashley Vancil-Leap, SWS-S Vice-President
avleap@soc.msstate.edu

Member Announcement

Please join us in congratulating SWS-ers Gina Marie Longo, Tara Stamm, and Ka’Lyn Coghill of Virginia Commonwealth University, along with a dedicated team of like-minded folx, are proud to announce the launch of the Digital Sociology Lab. The Digital Sociology Lab is a research lab that provides skill-based training to students and faculty through workshops and hands-on research experience. As a feminist collaborative space, we draw on the expertise and leadership across disciplines, students, faculty, and area organizers to build our organizational structure and research agenda. Please visit us at www.digitalsociologylab.com

Congratulations!
**SWS-S Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender:**

On behalf of the SWS-South Awards Committee, it is my pleasure to announce that Nik Lampe (University of South Carolina) is the winner of this year’s Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender for their paper titled “Accountability Structures in Transgender Healthcare Experience.” This paper was from Nik’s thesis research at the University of Central Florida and used in-depth interviews with 20 transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) young adults (aged 18-24) in Florida to examine how TGNC people navigate accountability structures to meet the gendered expectations in the U.S. healthcare system. As the winner, Nik received a plaque, a check for $300, and will be matched with a mentor as they prepare the paper for publication. Nik will also have a session in their honor at next year’s Southern Sociological Society annual meeting.

As their nomination letter explained, Nik’s research “identifies two different sets of expectations shaping participants’ healthcare experiences: (1) enforcing a cisnormative standard of care through medical notions of binary gender; and (2) upholding the medical model of transgender identity. The back matter of the paper outlines the process and consequences of “cisnormative accountability”, and the implications of these phenomena for sociological studies of transgender experiences in healthcare.”

Nik’s current research focuses on interviewing trans, non-binary, and intersex older adults (65 years and over) about their health, aging, and health care experiences.

Please join me in congratulating this year’s winner and we look forward to learning more about Nik’s current research.

I would like to thank Baker Rogers, Rachel Allison, and Ashley Vancil- Leap for their contributions to this committee. For general information about these SWS-S awards please visit https://socwomen.org/sws-south/.

Best,
Andrea Hunt, SWS-S Awards Chair
ahunt3@una.edu

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**Coming Soon:**

**SWS-South T-shirts!**

SWS-South is excited to introduce a custom designed t-shirt to our members. The shirt is designed by one of our members and will be available starting in September of 2021. The t-shirts are in unisex adult sizing XS – 6XL. The shirts are Port and Co. PC 450 in the color in Team Navy and are 100% cotton. Also, in an effort to support small woman ran businesses, the shirts are printed by Dragonfly in Kent.

There is a suggested donation of $18.00 per shirt (shipping included). We are currently offering the option to pre-order to ensure that member’s preferred sizes are available. Using your Member Clicks username and password (what you use to register for SWS-South), you can pre-order here: https://sws.memberclicks.net/sws-south-t-shirt. Shirts
Member Announcement

After 15 years of being Director of Graduate Studies at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Patricia Drentea, PhD will go back to full-time teaching. She will continue to publish & teach. She is also co-leading a Girl Scout Troop, who will now start working on their Gold Awards* in high school.

*The Girl Scout Gold Award is equivalent to the Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts.

Coffee Hour Fundraiser - 2021 SSS Meeting

This year SWS-S fundraised to support Feed the Second Line, the Black Collective, and Free99Fridge. We hosted a virtual coffee hour and provided members an opportunity to support the organizations financially through our virtual booth. Did not get a chance to visit our virtual booth? Below we have provided information and links for members who wish to contribute.

Feed the Second Line provides food-love and employment to cultural figures in the New Orleans community. They pair older, more vulnerable musicians/artists with their younger counterparts to assist them with shopping for their groceries and household needs. They provide much needed groceries for free to NOLA culture-bearers and in doing so create jobs for the younger generation. [https://www.feedthesecondline.org/](https://www.feedthesecondline.org/)

The Black Collective is an organization that promotes a shared agenda to elevate political consciousness and amplify the economic power of Black communities. They do so through The Collective Mutual Aid Fund, which offers food & supply stipends to families and individuals in need in South Florida. If you have questions or wish to contribute, please contact [https://www.theblkcollective.org/mutualaid](https://www.theblkcollective.org/mutualaid)

Free99Fridge is an Atlanta-based grassroots organization committed to fighting for food justice & addressing the needs of our neighbors through mutual aid. We provide high quality produce and non-perishable food at no cost to anyone who wants or needs it via our community fridge network. Our community fridges are stocked and maintained by volunteers, growers, and local businesses who see value in supporting their community. This is a community-run, community-backed effort. Our crew of volunteers make this project what it is. We are a solution-oriented collective aiming to build up community and end food disparities in Atlanta one fridge at a time. [https://free99fridge.com](https://free99fridge.com)

Thank you to all of our members for their support of these organizations.

Best,
Girsea Martinez Rosas, SWS-S
Vision Committee Chair
girsea@usf.edu
Member Announcement
Join us in congratulating our incoming SWS-S VP Ashley Vancil-Leap for earning promotion to Clinical Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University.

Upcoming Meetings:

SWS Summer Virtual Meeting 2021
"Retaining and Building a Feminist Community"
July 8 and July 9, 2021

Theme and Call for Papers:
Our programming builds on the experiences and planning during the Winter 2021 meeting by focusing on ways to retain a sense of community in SWS during a time of virtual learning that will help build a sense of connectedness across gender, racial and other identity statuses; subfields in our discipline; and methodological approaches to the study of gender in all of its forms.

Questions:
Please direct questions about submissions and participation to Barret Katuna, Executive Officer, at swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com
For more information click the link below:
https://socwomen.org/announcing-the-call-for-papers-opening-of-the-sws-2021-winter-meeting-submission-participation-system/
More information will be announced about the 2021 Winter Meeting on the 2021 Winter Meeting Website: https://socwomen.org/meetings/winter-meetings-2021-2025/

Mid-South Sociological Association Meeting
“Reconstructing Reality through Research, Teaching, and Activism”
October 20th -23rd in Charlotte, NC

SSS 2022 Annual Meeting
“Invisibility”
April 6th-9th in Birmingham, AL

Theme: The theme for the 2022 meeting is “Invisibility.” The people and actions that have been rendered invisible have long been the subject of sociological inquiry, and our Birmingham meetings will provide us an opportunity to spend time engaged in exploring the hegemonic processes and motivations for the creation of invisibility. Hopefully, we are now emerging from a period of active federal data suppression. We are also at a moment where some of what has been produced as invisible—especially police-caused violence—is being made visible. Clearly, some of the light that makes what has been rendered invisible suddenly visible is the work of sociologists, especially sociologists as activists. The theme of invisibility lends itself to a variety of interesting topics such as invisible labor, efforts to suppress data on gun violence, and accounts of Appalachia that assume heterogenous Whiteness, just to name a few. The theme also allows us to better explore concepts that are intrinsically intertwined with invisibility such as environmental injustices occurring in “forgotten” communities, the treatment of immigrants as homo sacer, and the production of ignorance. SSS welcomes a broad interpretation of our themes and look forward to fruitful face-to-face conversations in Birmingham.

Member Announcement
Join us in congratulating our incoming SWS-S VP Ashley Vancil-Leap for earning promotion to Clinical Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University.
**SWS-S & SWS Resources & Supports**

**SWS National Feminist Support Group**

We have renamed the SWS Self-Care Group that met this past spring and throughout the summer months to the SWS Feminist Support Group. This is an informal conversation. This group will meet every Thursday from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm EDT.

Zoom Registration Link:  
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqfu-pqD0rGdRMuXqrQpLFwvOvwPbzKd8

Please join us!

Penny Harvey, SWS Taskforce for Low-Income and First Generation Members

pharvey@ciis.edu

**SWS Writing Groups**

Overview of Times, Zooms, and Start Dates (EST=Eastern Standard Time/PT=Pacific Time)

**Mondays:**

1-Schedule begins: June 28th, 9am-12pm EST / 6am-9am PT
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88586729610?pwd=ZGUxSXlXQi6Ryi4RkIrbrzNVNm2RQT0

2-Schedule begins: May 31st, 1pm-3pm EST / 10am-12pm PT
https://ciis.zoom.us/j/92026573864

**Tuesday:**

1-Schedule begins: Ongoing from spring, 9am-12pm EST/6am-9am PT
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82957531526?pwd=Q1RrT3pEQWtkaVMxWnhKTW1BYW43UT09

2-Schedule begins: Ongoing from spring, 6-7:30pm EST/3-4:30pm PT
https://stanford.zoom.us/j/516211994?pwd=dTR6NTBPSHM5NWtkV0NEZlpyZnBPZz09  
Password: 123456

**Wednesday:**

Schedule Begins: June 7th, 10:30am-12:30pm EST / 7:30am-9:30am PT  
https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/7719543341?pwd=amEvN1JNWV1cnQxQmxCMElFmZz09  
Passcode: 797

**Thursday:**

Schedule Begins: June 7th 10:30am-12:30pm EST / 7:30am-9:30am PT  
https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/7719543341?pwd=amEvN1JNWV1cnQxQmxCMElFmZz09  
Passcode: 797

**Friday:**

1-Schedule Begins: June 7th 10:30am-12:30pm Eastern / 7:30am-9:30am Pacific  
https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/7719543341?pwd=amEvN1JNWV1cnQxQmxCMElFmZz09  
Passcode: 797

2-*Co-Hosted by S4TJ Schedule begins: May 31st, 1pm-3pm EST / 10am-12pm PT  
https://ciis.zoom.us/j/91610509334

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**Member Announcement**

Congratulations to SWS-S-er Susan C. Pearce of East Carolina University on their three recently published journal articles and chapter in the edited volume *Cultural Change in East-Central European and Eurasian Spaces: Post-1989 Revisions and Re-imaginings*.


2020-2021 SWS-South Executive Board

President: Baker Rogers, Georgia Southern University
Vice-President: Brianna Turgeon, Jacksonville State University
Secretary: Lyla Byers, Virginia Tech
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