Editor’s Desk

Dear SWS Membership,

I hope this issue of Network News finds you basking in the summer. This issue includes news about our members during the spring and early summer seasons. I want to especially highlight the report in this issue from the International Committee, which shares information about and reflections on their involvement in the 67th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations (UN CSW67). Having never been to these events myself, I found that their stories transported me to the spaces they share about, educated me on how this complex event works, and provided insight into the important feminist work being done in these globally engaged spaces. Thank you to the contributors for sharing your reflections and so much information about CSW with all of us.

In this issue, you can also read more about our spring awards winners - congratulations! This issue’s Timely Topics column highlights interviews with SWS members: Baker Rogers, founder of Queer Haven Books, and Georgiann Davis, 2022 Feminist Activist Awardee, who will give a talk at the upcoming 2023 Summer Meeting in Philadelphia. Thank you to Keji Ruka, SWS intern, for conducting the interviews to make these pieces possible!

Collectively, all of this news reminds me of the scope of the feminist work our organization and membership engage with - it is so impressive and gives me much hope for a bright feminist future.

One of the strengths of SWS is the many resources it offers to members. For example, if you are looking for summer connection and community please be sure to check out the Virtual Feminist Engagement opportunities made possible by our generous members.

Don’t miss the important messages from our leadership about the upcoming meeting in Philadelphia and news about the early plans being made for the 2024 Winter Meeting.

Thank you to Natasha and Barret in the Executive Office for your support in making each of these issues shine!

Please send news of your publications, accomplishments, feminist impact work, committee reports, inquiries for a Timely Topics column, etc. for the 2023 Summer Issue to swsnewsletter@socwomen.org by August 15, 2023.

In Solidarity,
Melissa D. Day
NN Editor (2021-2025)
Co-Presidents’ Column

Dear SWS’ers,

We are very excited to welcome you to our Summer Meeting in Philadelphia! This year, we are trying something new—offering our Summer Meeting in two parts. The first part of the Meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott from August 18-20 and the second part will be a virtual Students’ Symposium October 12-14. We also decided to try a new format for this summer’s conference. We are offering a series of workshops, many of which are focused on the theme, “Stages in the Life Cycle of a Sociologist: From Milestones in the Life of a Graduate Student Through Preparing for Retirement.” Our SWS committees responded with great enthusiasm to the invitation for workshops. In addition to sessions addressing the theme, we are very pleased to feature additional workshops on a broad range of issues including: Language Justice Struggles,” “Office Hours: Teaching in a Time of Terror,” and “Developing a Space for Queer and Trans SWS Members,” among many others. Workshops will be held on August 19 and 20. We also want to highlight a co-sponsored workshop with the ASA that will be offered on August 21, “Community Engagement and Social Justice Activism,” by retired sociologists. We strongly encourage you to participate in as many of these dynamic and inspiring workshops as your schedule permits!

Our conference begins on August 18 with several committee meetings followed by our Business Meeting from 4:00-5:30 pm and Student Caucus Meeting from 5:45-6:45 pm. We are especially delighted to feature presentations this summer from two of our distinguished SWS awardees. Sharon Harley, our 2023 Honorary Feminist Sociologist will give a lecture, "Have More Brains on the Fingers of My Hand than...". Nannie Helen Burroughs’s Courageous Crusade for Feminist Equality and Social Justice," over a light lunch on August 19 from 12:30-1:45 pm. Following our recent meeting with members of The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) we are hoping that colleagues from these organizations will join us for Sharon's lunchtime talk. Our 2022 Feminist Activist Awardee, Georgiann Davis, will also give a lecture, “Visions of a Feminist Agenda,” during our Awards Reception on August 20. We look forward to recognizing our outstanding student awardees, the Feminist Mentorship Awardee, as well as those receiving Social Action Initiative awards at this event. Our warmest congratulations to you all!

During your stay in Philadelphia, we encourage you to take advantage of the many historical sites and cultural attractions the city has to offer! It is a very multicultural city with an increasing number of immigrant communities, particularly from Global South Regions. While in Center City Philadelphia, you may want to visit Chinatown, Reading Terminal Market, the African American Museum, the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History and further south, the Italian Market, which along with the surrounding area, has become an important site of Latinx businesses and organizations. We also wish to highlight programming at Taller Puertorriqueño, a cultural organization which aims to build bridges to the Greater Philadelphia region. A ride to West Philadelphia will put you in the heart of University City, home to Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania. Once there, you will enter an historic African American neighborhood and traveling along the Baltimore Avenue corridor will bring you to the heart of many African enterprises, restaurants and community groups. The Philadelphia restaurant scene is thriving these days with vibrant and diverse offerings and many opportunities for outdoor eating and people-watching!

The second part of our Summer Meeting is our Students’ Symposium, which we are looking forward to in mid-October. We are very grateful for the many efforts of Alexis Grant-Panting and Pedrom Nasiri, our student representatives, who are planning this virtual symposium. Please look out for further information about this program in the coming weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our deepest thanks to our Executive Officer, Barret Katuna, and to our Administrative Officer, Natasha Santana. It is such a pleasure and a privilege to work with colleagues who continue to demonstrate such excellence and commitment to our organization! Their incredible hard work and continued support have really made planning our conferences such enjoyable and rewarding experiences! We also would like to express our sincerest thanks to the SWS Committees, who are offering such an exciting group of workshops!

We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia! Safe travels!

With our best wishes,

Mary Osirim & Melanie Heath
SWS Co-Presidents

PHOTO: Mary J. Osirim
PHOTO: Melanie Heath
Happy summer! I look forward to attending the summer meeting that Mary and Melanie are planning and am excited to share ideas as we begin to plan for Winter 2024.

The 2024 Winter meeting theme is: “Queering SWS: Seeking Radical Inclusion in a Complex World.” In recent years, “queering” has come to imply a focus on gender and sexualities as topics, though queer theory offers a much broader focus on anti-essentialism and anti-normativity. Including heteronormativity, cisnormativity, racialization, and imperialism/colonialisms, queer work critiques all forms of power, especially boundary-making around identity categories (e.g., Butler’s question: what is a woman?). I see queering as a broader path to considering radical inclusion — seeking a model that avoids centering common forms of privilege in meaning-making. Yet, lived experience often draws on categorical identities (race, class, gender, sexuality, religiosity, generation) in important ways which we must not demean. We will ask: How does categorical identity politics help us understand our lived experiences and how does it raise problematic boundaries? In this meeting, together we will be seeking—inquiring, critiquing, developing—what radical inclusion can look like.

My goal is to celebrate our successes while charting our trajectory for greater inclusion. For example, this June I had the surreal experience of attending Pride Month at the White House(!) with my family. It was an experience that I could not even envision 10 years ago. All the while, our gains in recognition have produced political backlash as the plethora of anti-trans, anti-affirmative action, anti-union, and anti-reproductive justice laws/judicial decisions threaten civil rights and equity work accumulated over decades. This is the backdrop of our work together.

For the 2024 Winter Meeting, I am excited to return to Santa Ana Pueblo to the Tamaya Resort from January 25-28, 2024. I am happy to announce that Piper Sledge has accepted my invitation to be our Winter Meeting Program Committee Chair. Thank you, Piper! We are being intentional in forming a program committee that is diverse, inclusive, and representative of the radical inclusion we want to see. In addition to celebrating our successes, we recognize there are also longstanding concerns that we need to address as an organization. To that end, we are planning some listening sessions, (respectfully and thoughtfully) borrowing from indigenous models, that we hope will bring in many voices. More on this soon.

A quick view of my recent intellectual work will give you some flavor of what’s shaping my thinking for conference organizing. My most high-profile work has been on gender theory and interactionism, re-reading ethnmethodology, and especially Dorothy Smith. In part, I want to reflect on and honor past feminist work; I want to envision how this work can address far more than (white) gender theory as we look to the future of theory. In my other role as incoming Editor of Sociological Theory as part of a team along with (SWS’er) Vrushali Patil, Zine Magubane, and Omar Lizardo, I am acutely aware of expanding what is seen as theory.

My lesser-known decade-long project engages post-Soviet scholars to bring feminist and queer theory to the post-Soviet region. Much of that work has taken place in Ukraine but the work involves scholars from Belarus, Russia, Albania, Moldova, and Kazakhstan, among others. As you might imagine, the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, has left a huge impression on the project, displacing most of my Ukrainian colleagues while some still live under bombing today. Belarussian and Russian colleagues experience severe repression or are unable to return home to see their families for fear of imprisonment—all very difficult positions from which to examine sexual and gender politics.

My most recent publication with Ukrainian colleagues examines the narratives about LGBTQ people in major text-based, journalism outlets in Ukraine. We found little discussion of LGBTQ topics in Ukrainian-owned media. Instead, Russian or U.S.-owned outlets comprise nearly all the discussion, largely on events taking place outside of Ukraine. Hence, narratives available in Ukraine are not by or about Ukrainians, but rather operate as formula stories circulating globally and demonstrate the continuing position of Ukraine as a fulcrum of the post-socialist “cold war.” In another article with a Belarussian colleague, we draw on Maria Lugones’ work to consider what it means to require queer academic work in English, including the impact of spelling in the Latin/Roman alphabet, rather than in Cyrillic characters.

In short, sexual, gender, and race politics matter in geopolitics—even relative to full-scale war. Examples from Ukraine in particular offer valuable complexity in scholarly analysis of imperialism and transnational politics. We are beginning to plan some interesting events at our Winter meeting about these very topics. Be sure to put that 2024 Winter Meeting on your calendar. This is going to be epic!
From the Executive Officer

Greetings from the SWS Executive Office!

Natasha and I are looking forward to seeing so many of you in August at our meeting in Philadelphia. There’s still time to register and we will have on-site registration available so that you can ensure a spot at the Awards Reception that Mary and Melanie have highlighted above. We have some exceptional programming thanks to the vision of our Co-Presidents, Mary Osirim and Melanie Heath, to ask our committees to propose workshops on a wide variety of topics. Please be sure to stop by the SWS space in the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Franklin Hall, Rooms 1, 2, and 3 to meet up with SWS members. Please also feel free to bring your friends and colleagues to this space if they’d like to learn about SWS and would like to meet with me or another SWS leader. As a reminder, if you are not planning to attend any ASA programming in Philadelphia, then you do not need to register for the 2023 ASA Meeting.

This spring/summer, I have been working on building community at some area colleges and universities including Connecticut College and the University of Hartford to learn more about ways that we can provide support and opportunities for undergraduate students who may be interested in our professional development opportunities. I have also been working closely with the SWS-East Chapter to build its membership through some future programming. Please stay tuned for more details. If you have ideas for ways that SWS can partner with your institutions for programming - either in person or virtual, please let me know. I welcome your ideas.

I am also excited about the synergy with the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) and The Association of Black Sociologists (ABS). On July 12, Elroi Windsor, Executive Officer of SSSP, Loren Henderson, Executive Officer of ABS, and I hosted a successful virtual social hour for our members to network and learn about our supportive, synergistic community. Please stay tuned for more SWS programming with SSSP and ABS.

I am always happy to meet with you or one of your students or colleagues if you’d like to learn more about how you can get involved in SWS. There are so many opportunities for involvement throughout the year and I am happy to work with you.

See you in Philadelphia!

Barret Katuna
SWS Executive Officer
Barret’s email: swseo.barrettkatuna@outlook.com

PHOTO: Barret Katuna, SWS Executive Officer

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORTS

AWARDS

Chair: Maria Cecilia Hwang

FALL AWARDS & DEADLINES

Awards with the October 1, 2023 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time deadline are:

- Feminist Mentoring Award
- Feminist Activism Award
- Feminist Lecturer Award
- Undergraduate Social Action Award
- Cheryl Allyn Miller Award
- Social Actions Initiative Awards
- Applied Sociology Award - NEW!

For more information on each award, visit our website: https://socwomen.org/awards/

SWS gives awards at the Awards Reception during the Summer Meeting, held each August, and at the Winter Meeting, held each January/February. Awards with an October 1 deadline are given at the Winter Meeting. Awards with an April 1 deadline are given at the Summer Meeting.
SWS Celebrates Dr. Ochy Curiel, SWS 2022 Honorary Feminist Sociologist

The Honorary Feminist Sociologist Distinction is presented annually to a feminist who is not a sociologist by training but has contributed significantly to the development of the field of feminist sociology. Established in 2021 under the leadership of then President-Elect Roberta Villalón, this initiative recognizes how the inherent interdisciplinary character of feminist theory and praxis has been fundamental to the development of feminist sociology. The work by feminists like bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, Gloria Anzaldúa, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, and Maria Lugones, to name just a few, has been of great influence on our field. The President-Elect selects the annual recipient of the Honorary Feminist Sociologist Distinction and invites the awardee to participate at an SWS Meeting to foster constructive interdisciplinary relationships among feminists who are devoted to advancing gender and sexual justice as well as dismantling intersecting systems of oppression.

The Inaugural SWS Honorary Feminist Sociologist Distinction was awarded to Dr. Ochy Curiel in 2022. Dr. Curiel is an Afro-Dominican feminist scholar-activist who has been at the forefront of decolonial movements against heteropatriarchy, racism, and capitalism. SWS is honored to have been able to establish this transnational and interdisciplinary connection with Dr. Ochy Curiel, one of the most important decolonial feminists of our times. During her first years as a feminist, Dr. Curiel defined herself as a feminista negra lesbiana autónoma (autonomous black lesbian feminist). She has been very critical of the role that feminism emanating from the Global North as well as within Latin America has had in reproducing racial and colonial structures within the movement by silencing the voices of feministas negras. An anthropologist and singer-songwriter, she teaches at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia where she leads the program on Gender Studies and the Universidad Javeriana, and is part of the Batucada Feminista de Bogotá. Dr. Curiel is one of the founders of the Grupo Latinoamericano de Estudio, Formación y Acción Feminista (GLEYFAS, a Latin-American group of study, formation, and feminist action) born out of the necessity to articulate feminist theory with praxis and center Latin American and Caribbean feminism against hegemonic feminist narratives.

She has numerous publications in various languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, French and English, such as “Identidades Esencialistas o Construcción de Identidades Políticas: El Dilema de las Feministas Afrodescendientes” (Essentialist Identities or the Construction of Political Identities: The Dilemma of Afro Descendant Feminists) (2005); “Crítica Postcolonial et Pratiques Politiques du Fémininisme Antiraciste” (Postcolonial Critique and Political Practices of Anti-Racist Feminism) (2010); La Nación Heterosexual: Análisis del Discurso Jurídico y al Régimen Heterosexual Desde la Antropológica de la Dominación (The Heterosexual Nation: Analysis of the Juridical Discourse and the Heterosexual Regime from the Anthropology of Domination) (2013); Descolonización y Des patriarcalización de y Desde los Feminismos del Abya Yala (Decolonization and Depatriarchalization of and from the Abya Yala’s feminisms) (with Maria Galindo) (2015); “Crítica Pós-Colonial, a Partir das Práticas Politicas do Feminismo Antiracista” (Postcolonial Critique from the Political Practice of Antiracist Feminism) (2019); “The Contributions of Afro-Descendant Women to Feminist Theory and Practice: Deuniversalizing the Subject “Women” (with Ruth Piñón) (2022); and “Constructing Feminist Methodologies from Decolonial Feminism” (2022), to name just a few.

Dr. Curiel’s keynote at the 2022 Winter Meeting Awards Ceremony can be viewed on the SWS YouTube channel. Dr. Curiel also joined the 2023 SWS Winter Meeting in New Orleans. Her session, “Decolonial Feminisms: An Interview with Ochy Curiel, Inaugural SWS Honorary Feminist Sociologist Distinction Recipient,” was moderated by Roberta Villalón and can also be viewed on the SWS YouTube Channel.

SWS Celebrates Dr. Sharon Harley, SWS 2023 Honorary Feminist Sociologist

The 2023 SWS Honorary Feminist Sociologist Distinction Awardee is Dr. Sharon Harley. Sharon Harley is a Professor in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Maryland. Sharon researches and teaches black women's labor history and racial and gender politics.

Her work in this field began with the co-edited anthology with Roslyn Terborg Penn, The Afro-American Woman: Struggles and Images (1978), and another pioneering volume, Women in Africa and the African Diaspora (1987). Sharon was the principal investigator on two projects supported by the Ford Foundation that led to major anthologies on women and work, namely, Sister Circle: Black Women and Work (2002) and Women's Labor in the Global Economy: Speaking in Multiple Voices (2007). In 2019, she received a major grant from the Mellon Foundation for the project, “African/Black Diasporan Studies: Academic and Public Discourse.”
Sharon has held fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars as well as the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University's Hutchins Center, and the National Humanities Center at the Research Triangle, North Carolina. In 2010, she was awarded the Carter G. Woodson Medallion for Outstanding Scholarship.

Sharon has served as chair of the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service’s Mary McLeod Bethune Commission, and former chair of Letitia Woods Brown book/article prize committee. As an active public historian, Sharon has given lectures and served as a consultant with numerous museum projects and directed an award-winning teaching training institute in multiculturalism for the Prince George County Public School System. Sharon was selected by her students as one of the top-rated faculty in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland in 2019.

During the 2023 SWS Winter Meeting, Sharon participated on a Presidential Panel: Intersecting Identities and Communities in Migrations and Sexualities. We hope you’ll join us at the 2023 Summer Meeting in Philadelphia on Saturday, August 19 from 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm for Sharon’s talk: “Have More Brains on the Fingers of My Hand than...’: Nannie Helen Burroughs's Courageous Crusade for Feminist Equality and Social Justice.

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Spring 2023 Award Winners

SWS will honor our 2023 Summer Award recipients during our Awards Banquet on Sunday, August 20 from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

If you are interested in making a gift to support the our awards and scholarship, please contact Barret Katuna, Executive Officer, at swseo.barrettkatuna@outlook.com, or make a gift via this form: https://sws.memberclicks.net/donation-form.

Feminist Mentoring Award

The SWS Feminist Mentoring Award was established in 1990 to honor SWS Members who are outstanding feminist mentors. 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. Thank you to this years’ Feminist Mentoring Award Subcommittee: Saida Grundy (chair), Rebecca P., Heather Laube, and LaToya Council.

Dr. Jennifer Reich is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the University Honors and Leadership Program at the University of Colorado Denver. She earned her BA from the University of California Santa Barbara and her doctorate from the University of California Davis, and she completed a post-doctoral fellowship in health policy at the University of California San Francisco. Her research examines how individuals and families weigh information and strategize their interactions with the state and service providers in the context of public policy, particularly as they relate to healthcare and welfare. She is author of two award-winning books, Fixing Families: Parents, Power, and the Child Welfare System (2005) and Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines (2016), and is Editor of the books, Reproduction and Society (2015) and the State of Families (2021). Her work has been featured in media outlets including The New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, and Newsweek, and on the Netflix show, Bill Nye Saves the World. She teaches classes on healthcare, family, and reproductive politics.

Here are some highlights from Jennifer Reich’s nomination materials that were submitted by Emily Mann, with support from Tristan Bridges, Laura Carpenter, Patrick Grzanka, Jessica Harrison, Penny Harvey, Anthony Hatch, Joanna Kempner,
Laura Carpenter noted, "Jennifer Reich’s mentoring comes with no hidden agendas or strings attached; she does not mentor to self-aggrandize or advance her own career. She mentors others because she believes she can—and indeed she does—help others reach the places where they can positively affect the world through their teaching and research." Anna Muraco detailed in her nomination letter, "At conferences, "Jennifer" takes time to meet with students and faculty members who have solicited her advice on scholarship and job searches; she then connects them with other scholars who are part of her network.”

LaTonya Trotter noted: “Speaking as a Black scholar, I know that getting us into the pipeline is one thing; getting us through it is a different matter altogether. With both encouragement and practical support, Jennifer has helped get me through it. When I was an Assistant Professor, she was not only encouraging of my research agenda, she provided incisive feedback on my book manuscript. As I went up for tenure, Jennifer gave me practical advice to help me navigate the hidden curriculum of that process. And, when she heard that my institution did not give me tenure, she stepped forward, without my asking, to support the job search that resulted in my current, tenured position. Although we have never shared the same institution, Jennifer has shown up, again and again, to help me make a place for myself in the academy.”

You can read more about Jennifer HERE.

**Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship**

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Award was established in 2005 to support first generation college students who began their academic careers in a community college, have faced significant obstacles, are committed to teaching, and mentoring other less privileged students, and exemplify Beth’s commitment to professional service and social justice work through activism. Beth B. Hess was a President of SWS and one of our mentoring award winners; she was also the President of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) and Secretary Treasurer of the American Sociological Association (ASA). These organizations join SWS in supporting the Beth B. Hess Scholar each year. You can read more about this award HERE. Thank you to the 2023 subcommittee, Mairead Moloney (chair), Myra Marx Ferree, Nancy Naples, Gul Aldikacti Marshall, and Sarah Bruch.

**Torisha Khonach (winner)** is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her research highlights the importance of body and embodiment in sociological analysis, focusing on how bodies are expected to present and perform in various institutions. Her dissertation examines contemporary parents’ experiences with their bodies through in-depth interviews. Her participants encapsulate a range of experiences, including biological and adoptive parents, parents of all genders, and have purposefully recruited parents of diverse body sizes. Torisha argues that parents provide a unique view into how our bodies are shaped in a health-centric society through her theorization of liminal embodiment, where the identity of “parent” allows for a relaxation of body ideals for some parents and only for brief periods of time. Torisha’s goal is to emphasize how the body is an often overlooked but important axis of social control and inequality.

Torisha began her academic journey as a first-generation college student at College of the Redwoods, where she earned her A.A. in Behavioral and Social Sciences. Torisha, like many it seems, thought she was going to be a psychologist, but after taking (every) sociology course taught by Dr. Dana Maher, her trajectory in academia changed forever.

At College of Redwoods she organized and coordinated safe sex workshops and sexualized violence prevention dialogues with fellow students, she was awarded the Student Leadership Award. She took her passion for social justice with her as she transferred to Cal Poly Humboldt, where she would earn her B.A. and M.A. in Sociology. She became a peer health educator focusing on consent education, a bystander intervention trainer, and a student Title IX advocate. She was also active in local queer and feminist organizations, Humboldt Pride and Humboldt Roller Derby. Her campus and community work at Cal Poly Humboldt earned her the Sarah and James Turner award, which is awarded to exemplary public sociology students.

Torisha did not slow down after relocating to Las Vegas for graduate school at UNLV. She quickly began teaching courses and becoming involved on campus, earning various teaching and research awards and fellowships, including first place for the UNLV Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award and the UNLV Graduate Finishing Fellowship. Her teaching hinges on ensuring students feel “seen” in the classroom, where she carefully constructs her syllabus to have not only...
diverse content, but also diverse authors. She wants all students to feel like they belong in academia, that their voices and experiences matter. Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she once again began spending her time in the community, volunteering in the health clinic for the LGBTQ Center of Southern Nevada, where they offer STI testing, safe sex supplies, and supplies for safer drug use. You can read more about Torisha HERE.

**Tia M. Dickerson (honorable mention)** is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at Howard University. Tia has balanced many personal challenges while also working on behalf of her peers at Howard University and while providing service to the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

Tia’s dissertation research is on “mental health declines in Black people during the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest of 2020.” It draws on the theory of “vicarious racism” and “explores whether marital status provided a protective advantage for mental health declines in Black people during the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest of 2020.”

Tia has benefited from numerous opportunities to develop her research skills outside of the university as is evident in her Internship at the Marriage Strengthening and Research Dissemination Center and training at the Columbia Population Research Center. It is especially noteworthy that she was invited to review conference proposals on minority families for the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) and to contribute to the National Women’s Month Series for The Today Show. She has also presented her research at diverse conferences including the annual meetings of NCFR, the American Sociological Association, SSSP, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Law Enforcement and Public Health, and the Eastern Sociological Society. In addition to these significant accomplishments, she has also been invited to speak by the National Association of Counsel for Children, the National Institute of Health, Randolph-Macon College, and Alpha Kappa Delta, Beta Chapter of D.C. You can read more about Tia HERE.

**Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship Award**

The Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship was established at the 2007 Winter Meeting. The primary purposes of the scholarship are: (1) To offer support to women and non-binary scholars of color who are from underrepresented groups and are studying concerns that women of color face domestically and/or internationally, and (2) To increase the network and participation of students and professionals of color in SWS and beyond. The award is named after Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green to acknowledge the contributions of these two SWS members who played an integral role in making SWS more inclusive of women of color. You can read more about this award HERE. Special thanks to the Co-Chairs of the Sister to Sister Committee: LaToya Council and Pallavi Banerjee, the Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Dissertation Scholarship Award Subcommittee Members: Christobel Asiedu, Erika Busse Cárdena, Lisa Covington, and Mahala Stewart, and the liaison for applicants: Katherine Maldonado Fabelo.

**Michelle Gomez Parra (she/ella) (winner)** is a first-generation Latina student born and raised by an immigrant single mother in Los Angeles, California. She is also a doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department with a designated emphasis in Latin American and Latinx Studies at The University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Previous to attending UCSC, Michelle earned her B.A. at the University of California, Santa Barbara where she conducted research as a McNair Scholar examining the sexual experiences of college women of color. Michelle continued investigating the sexual experiences of racialized college women, with a particular emphasis on Latinas, while completing her M.A. in Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University.

Her dissertation, “Desiring a Better Life: Heteronormativity, Mobility, and Generational Negotiations among Latinas,” is a qualitative study that uses feminist theories of color like intersectionality and transnational feminist theory to examine how heteronormativity and undergoing a substantial mobility experience of migration or higher education shapes Latinas’ own gender and sexual subjectivities and generational negotiations of these social
Forces amongst mother-daughter dyads. Within the national context of the U.S. and at the regional level of Los Angeles, California, “Desiring a Better Life” addresses how intersecting structures of power produce discourses of heteronormativity, subsequently shaping Latinas’ mobility experiences, their gender and sexual lives, and the conversations they have about sex, girlhood, womanhood, dating, and pleasure. Overall, this project disrupts narratives that blame Latinx culture as the primary factor causing gender and sexual oppression within this community by illustrating that heteronormativity, poverty, access to (sexual) education, and sexual violence shape how Latinas negotiate their own gender and sexual subjectivities and generational teachings of these social forces. Michelle’s research can be found in Gender & Society and Sex Education.

Michelle actively contributes to making academia a more equitable institution through her mentoring efforts. She has formally mentored marginalized high school, community college, and UC Santa Cruz undergraduate students through six programs. Moreover, Michelle has supported the academic trajectories of graduate students through her organizing role for the UCSC Women of Color Graduate Group. As a coordinator, she has secured funding and created workshops that address the marginalization racialized women face within academia.

Michelle aspires to become a faculty member at a four-year university, teaching and conducting research on mobility (migration and higher education), gender, and sexualities, from an intersectional and feminist of color standpoint. Her deepest desire is to collaborate with feminist sociologists, community organizations, and community members to conduct applied research that advocates for the reproductive justice of girls and women of color in the Americas. In particular, she wishes to co-create a bi-lingual sex education curriculum that utilizes women of color feminisms theory, decolonial theory, and art-based methods to design accessible sex education resources for diverse groups of racialized girls and women. You can read more about Michelle HERE.

Aparajita Santra (honorable mention) is an Indian first-generation immigrant to the United States and a PhD candidate in the Department of Architecture at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Aparajita has dual graduate minors in Gender Relations in International Development and Gender and Women’s Studies. She did her undergraduate degree in Architecture and a master’s degree in Urban Design, both from India. Aparajita’s research interests are global-south urbanism, spatial justice, urban mobilities, and feminist sociology. Her lived experiences and background shape her understanding of the unevenness in the spatial design of cities as manifestations of structural inequalities, systemic oppression, and injustice. Her doctoral dissertation focused on studying the spatial negotiations of working-class women of lower castes in Kolkata, India using the lenses of intersectionality and spatial justice, stems from her own life experiences as a woman from a lower caste in India and being raised by a single mother.

Her research builds on urban sociology, feminist geography, sociology of gender and sexuality, postcolonial and transnational feminisms, and explores the placemaking practices enacted by the minoritized women from the urban margins of Kolkata. She centers these women as embodied knowledge producers who engage with and attempt to overcome a wide array of structural and systemic constraints in the spatial organization of the city. By doing so, the research aims to locate the various forms of situated knowledges that are produced, experienced, and applied by the women spatially, thus, enabling them forms of spatial agency and mobilities. You can read more about Aparajita HERE.

Venus Green (honorable mention) is a doctoral candidate at UMASS Amherst, a Black feminist intersectional sociologist and activist whose research is located at the intersections of racialized and gendered labor regimes, care work, collective organizing, antiblack violence, histories of racial slavery, identity formations, and the ongoing project of Black emancipation.

Her dissertation examines how Black and Afro-descendent domestic workers have been central to the most progressive elements of the labor movement in the U.S. and how the gendered anti-black violence of slavery’s afterlife shapes their work experiences and tireless struggles for survival. Through semi-structured interviews, Black feminist grounded ethnography, media analysis, and oral histories of Black women domestic workers’ political organizing practices and work experiences in Boston, New York City, and D.C., this research investigates how Black and African descendant domestic workers and domestic workers organizations infuse radical care work into community building efforts to mobilize support at the grassroots and federal levels for the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and other struggles for workers’ protections and dignity. This research seeks to understand how Black
women’s intersectional organizing around care work strengthens Black radicalism within the mainstream labor movement and re-envision critical paths toward Black emancipation. Her work has been published in multiple journals including *Sociological Spectrum* and *TRAILS*.

In connection with this research, she is currently an intern with the [Massachusetts Coalition of Domestic Workers](https://www.mcdw.org) and a volunteer with the [Matahari Women Workers’ Center](https://www.matahariorg.org), and was a research analyst at Social Action for Health in East London. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Melton World Studies Interdisciplinary Project, the Labor Action and Research Network, the Nichols Humanitarian Fund, the W.E.B. Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst, the Graduate School at UM, the Center for Global Work and Employment at Rutgers, and the Center for Employment Equity at UMass Amherst, to name a few. You can read more about Venus [HERE](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/).  

### 2023-2024 ASA Minority Fellowship Awardees Sponsored by SWS

**SWS Congratulates all of the 2023 – 2024 American Sociological Association (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellows**! The American Sociological Association’s (ASA) Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) was founded in 1974 and, since then, has supported more than 460 students of color in pursuit of a doctoral degree in sociology. **SWS has sponsored fellows** since 2011. Read about the MFP [HERE](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/). Thank you to our SWS liaisons to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program, Chaniqua Simpson and Andrea Gómez Cervantes. Thank you also to Brittany Battle, our outgoing SWS liaison to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program, who served in this role from 2019-2022.

**Clark Brinson, Graduate Institution: Emory University**

Clark Brinson is a PhD candidate in sociology at Emory University. Her research focuses on inequality, social psychology, and the needs and experiences of queer communities and communities of color. Brinson’s dissertation, “Planning Our Futures: A Qualitative Study of Family Formation Goals among Black Queer Women,” examines family formation desires among Black queer-identified women living in Atlanta. Using intersectionality theory as a guiding framework, the study explores how Black queer women navigate both disadvantage and privilege during the family planning process through differences in sexual orientation, class position, and gender expression. This project applies mixed methods, using interview data with 54 Black queer women and survey data from the National LGBTQ+ Women’s Community Survey, to examine challenges in family planning among Black queer southern women. Brinson’s work aims to advance science and support organizations advocating for LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive justice, and racial justice. She has received the [James Weldon Johnson Institute Dissertation Completion Grant](https://www.emory.edu/humanities/JamesWeldonJohnsonInstitute/) and has been involved with the Coalition of Graduate Sociologists and the Black Graduate Student Association at Emory University. In her free time, she enjoys trying new vegan recipes, hiking, and going to the beach. You can read more about Clark [HERE](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/).  

![PHOTO: Clark Brinson](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/)

**Faith Deckard, Graduate Institution: University of Texas at Austin**

Faith Deckard is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. Her areas of interest include crime, law, and deviance, population health, support networks, and debt and poverty. Her dissertation, “Bonded: How Commercial Bail Entangles Families through Money and Risk,” examines how “kin and friends” inadvertently become involved in carceral surveillance and the punishment systems through the processes of bail and bond. Deckard was a [Population Research Fellow (NICH Recipient)](https://www.utex.edu/lifehd/) at the University of Texas at Austin and currently serves as a graduate research assistant in the Life HD Lab where she has been able to combine her interests in biology and sociology to look at how racial inequality impacts health disparities. She also received the [National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship](https://www.utex.edu/lifehd/). Deckard continues to help support minority scholars by organizing workshops on promoting self-care and applying for external funding. When she has free time, she loves to on new adventures with friends. This has led to her picking up bouldering, short hikes, and attending comedy and improv shows. Read more about Faith [HERE](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/).  

![PHOTO: Faith Deckard](https://www.sws.org/asa-mfp/)
SWS Celebrates $20,000 Gift from the Late Esther Ngan-ling Chow to Support the SWS Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Marejyocye Green Dissertation Scholarship

Sociologists for Women in Society is pleased to announce that we received a generous donation of $20,000 from the late Dr. Esther Ngan-ling Chow. Esther’s contribution will go toward the Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Marejyocye Green Dissertation Scholarship that SWS awards on an annual basis to a woman or non-binary scholar of color who is from an underrepresented group and who is studying concerns that women of color face domestically and/or internationally or transnationally. The award aims to increase the network and participation of students and professionals of color in SWS and beyond. To read more about this award and our past awardees, please visit our website: https://socwomen.org/awards/chowgreenscholarship/

We are incredibly grateful for this support and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Esther Ngan-ling Chow for her generosity and commitment to our cause. With this donation, we will be able to further support the Esther Chow and Marejyocye Green Scholarship Fund. SWS thanks Esther’s husband, Norman Chang, for expressing to family, friends, and colleagues, how much SWS meant to Esther, and we have received numerous gifts from many who wish to honor and celebrate Esther.

If you are interested in making a gift to support the Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Marejyocye Green Dissertation Scholarship, please contact Barret Katuna, Executive Officer, at swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com, or make a gift via this form; https://sws.memberclicks.net/donation-form.

INTERNATIONAL

Chair: Fumilayo Showers
Co-Chairs of the UN Subcommittees: Solange Simões and Francesca Deigiuli

SWS at the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)
Reflections Compiled by Solange Simões and Fumi Showers

What is the UN CSW and how is SWS involved?

The 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) in New York City March 6-17, 2023 with the priority theme of “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” The annual conference brought representatives from all UN Member States, thousands of delegates from civil society, and NGOs to the UN Headquarters in New York. This year was the first time since the pandemic that CSW met in person. Registrants were also able to attend virtually and stream sessions on UN TV.

CSW is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each session includes a series of UN Official Meetings, about 100 side events organized by various countries, and more than 700 parallel events organized by incredibly diverse NGOs and grassroots organizations from all over the world covering a very wide range of issues and movements.

Since 1999, SWS has been a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with consultative status with the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Participation in the annual session of CSW is a major opportunity for SWS International Committee’s work at the UN. Every year, SWS a) submits a Written Statement on the session’s theme, b) sends 20 delegates to the event, and c) organizes panels as NGO parallel events. Delegates are also involved in other meetings and events.

SPECIAL THANKS - We would like to acknowledge and thank Mollie Pepper for all her efficient work registering the SWS delegation, Nicky Fox for organizing the two SWS panels, Rianka Roy for her special contribution to the Written Statement given her expertise on gender and technology, and last but not least Barret Katuna for all the strong support and always working closely with the SWS delegation.

What was SWS’s involvement in CSW67?

SWS Delegation: Our delegation included faculty, professionals and students: Solange Simões (Lead Delegate); Nicky Fox; Mollie Pepper; Andre Boyles, Natasia Boeri; Susan H. Lee; Jennifer Rogers-Brown; Rianka Roy; Diana Papademas; Kristy Kelly; Özlem Altok; Cecilia Idika-Kalu; Katie Kicz; Zhanar Tuleutayeva; Moniuowa Ogunleye; Autumn Martin; Meghna
Dutta; Monica Blaisdell; Neisha Terry Young. Our official delegation was also reinforced by Fumi Showers (SWS International Committee Chair), Barret Katuna (SWS Executive Officer) and SWSers hара bastas and Carmela Roybal.

**SWS’s Statement to CSW67:** You can read this session’s full Written Statement here: [SWS2023CSW](#).

**Panels Organized by SWS (Parallel Events):** For CSW67, Nicky Fox (SWS UN/ECOSOC delegate) organized two parallel events with the participation of faculty and graduate students' research on this year’s main theme.

Panel I: Global Lessons of Feminist Resistance and Coping During Turmoil
Moderator: Fumi Showers, Panelists:
- Özlem Altıok, "Digital learning, organizing and coping in the time of the pandemic: Lessons from Turkey."
- Cecilia IdikaKalu, "Information technology & gender equality as tools of political empowerment in Africa."
- Amanda DeLaby, Daria Quintero, Hollie Nyseth Nzitatira, Nicole Fox, "Political invisibility, mother-work and rural women: Rescuers in Rwanda."
- Maro Youssef, "Transitional feminist coalitions: How activists cooperate beyond differences in Tunisia."
- Andrea S. Boyles, "The Technology Dichotomy: Black women's push for advancement in the age of digital misogynoir."

Panel II: Feminist Confrontations with Patriarchy in STEM, Education & Community Networks
Moderator: Nicole Fox, Panelists:
- Assata Zerai, “Deploying the principles of feminist decoloniality as care (FEMDAC) to confront experiences with racial and intersectional microaggressions (RIMAs) among Black women faculty members in the U.S. and South Africa.”
- Yasemin Besen-Cassino, “Gender Inequality in STEM education: A longitudinal study of interdisciplinary internships.”
- Meghna Dutta, “The war on gender discrimination & Witch hunting in Assam, India.”

**SWS Delegates' Participation in Meetings and Other Side/Parallel Events:**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL:** Was attended by SWS delegates: Özlem Altıok, Monioluwa Ogunleye, Solange Simões, Rianka Roy and Jennifer Brown.

**MEETING WITH THE UNITED STATES MISSION AT THE UN:** The week before CSW67, the [U.S. Mission at the UN](#) held a hybrid meeting for a “Discussion on U.S. Commission on the Status of Women Priorities.” Three SWS delegates participated and asked questions: Solange Simões and Drea Boyles participated representing SWS, and SWS International Committee member Susan Lee represented the [U.S. Women’s Caucus at the UN](#).

In the last three years (beginning with the Biden administration) the U.S. Mission at the UN and U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield have invited representatives of U.S. NGOs with consultative status at the UN for questions and discussion of the U.S. priorities for CSW. We have strongly welcomed this initiative as we have been asking for more access to the U.S. delegation. Several countries have included NGO representatives in the negotiations of the [Agreed Conclusions](#), but in our case, only in these last three years we (U.S. civil society representatives) have been invited to discuss the U.S. priorities and, most importantly, to do that before the beginning of CSW.

After initial remarks by U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Ambassador Lisa Carty (U.S. representative at UN ECOSOC), NGO delegates were invited to ask questions. We were glad that the three of us – Drea, Susan, and Solange – had the opportunity to ask questions (see below). Most questions (including ours) raised the issue of the need for the inclusion of minority genders and LGBTQ+ in the language of the Agreed Conclusions. Demands for the inclusion of gender identity and sexuality in CSW Agreed Conclusions have been met with strong opposition by many countries (including the U.S. under the Trump Administration). In answering the questions, the U.S. delegation acknowledged this has been a “difficult conversation,” but stressed their current commitment to the use of “strong language,” and an emphasis on the “multiple and interconnected forms of discrimination.”

Here are the questions we asked:
- **Solange Simões:** Is the U.S. delegation recommending the use of more inclusive language in the Agreed Conclusions, language that includes other minority genders, besides women and girls? Moreover, when it comes to gender data
collection and dissemination by national statistics offices the Zero Draft points out the need for disaggregated data by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics, but does not include gender minorities and sexual orientation. During CSW63 in 2019, SWS was chosen to make an Oral Intervention in the Interactive expert panel on gender data collection and dissemination and we recommended that the national statistics offices collect data disaggregated by socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, disability, location (urban/rural), immigration and refugee status, among other key attributes related to inequality and gender identity and sexual orientation.

- **Susan Lee**: On gender-disaggregated data in the Agreed Conclusion, does the U.S. support the inclusion of marital status in order to track the situation of widows and other single heads of household? Marital status was included in CSW66 Agreed Conclusion but left out of the Zero Draft.

- **Drea Boyles**: My questions are of particular interests concerning tech or online intersectional oppression, and more directly, the online abuses against Black women/mysogynoir and women of color particularly. But my questions are also within the context of recent and increasing U.S.-state, legislative attempts to repress, ban, troll, criminalize Black and African American histories, education, and educators: There are many executive orders, statements, and the like, how these orders and efforts being felt on the ground for Black women and women of color in the U.S. and beyond in real time? Has this been considered in the drafting, dissemination, and actual implementation of them? As a follow up - How are tech giants and/or the various tech and online industries being held accountable for failing to provide real-time protections against online trolling, harassment, and dangers for women, and particularly Black women and women of color? They all seem to have mechanisms in place for a lack of better words, that are seemingly not felt or experienced as "actual protection" for Black women and women of color especially. In fact, it appears quite the opposite. Black women and women of color particularly appear to be targeted in some instances as online offenders and treated punitively rather than recognized and protected as victims.

**THE U.S. WOMEN’S CAUCUS AT THE UN**: In the last few years and under the vision and leadership provided by Susan Lee, CSW representatives, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC), SWS DGC representatives hara bastas, Jennifer Rogers-Brown, Vicky Demos, Heather Hurwitz, and Amira Karoud have been instrumental in starting up the [U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN](https://www.womenscaucusattheun.org). Membership in the U.S. Women's Caucus is open to U.S.-based NGOs and individuals who are committed to the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. The aim of the Caucus is for progressive U.S.-based NGOs to have a louder, smarter voice at the UN. The U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN held two events at CSW67: “The U.S. and Civil Society at the UNCSW: The Back Story” and “The Gender Digital Divide in the US: Problems, Promises and Progress.” Read Susan Lee's reflections below to learn more about these events.

**SUMMARY OF REFLECTIONS BY DELEGATES**

As in previous years, SWS delegates had very meaningful experiences at CSW and reflected that the conference had a tremendous impact on their professional growth. We include the full reflections of our members in the proceeding section. But first, here we provide a brief summary of the recurrent themes in their reflections on their experiences.

While the experiences were overwhelmingly positive and delegates appreciated the opportunity to increase their understanding of feminist politics, organizing, and pedagogies, some noted insightful critiques of the structure, programming, and perspectives offered at the UN. For instance, a couple of delegates noted that panels devoted to the conference theme of gender and technology centered discussions of the digital divide, but failed to address questions of digital surveillance or the role of technology in disaster management. One member reflected on the difficulties of engaging in productive dialogue between feminist groups and UN officials, especially the official U.S. delegation to the UN (related to this is the section above on the SWS Meeting with the U.S. Mission at the UN).

Many returning delegates expressed their happiness at being back in person at the UN after the hiatus due to COVID. First time attendees remarked on the sheer number of offerings of side events, parallel events held by governments and non-governmental organizations and feminist activist groups. While such a vast array of presentations was invigorating for new delegates, some did find the experience overwhelming at first. Some attendees benefited from the hybrid format of this year’s CSW, while others decided to concentrate on the in-person events to make the most of being present at the UN headquarters.

Delegates reflected on the many pleasurable aspects of their participation, including attending the International Women's Day Celebration at the General Assembly and other venues. The parallel events held by the U.S. Women's Caucus to the UN as well as the two panels organized by our own SWS and International Committee member, Nicky Fox, were also highlights. Some other notable experiences and takeaways from the delegates include: the sessions that shed light on gender-based violence due to conflicts and political upheaval in Ukraine, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Iran: the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; and gender-based violence against women and girls in many areas of the world. That some of these panels represented the first-hand experiences of women from Ukraine or Turkey in particular was particularly powerful.
In addition to these more general reflections, delegates attended sessions related to their specific research interests, which include: gender and technology; labor, labor movements and technology; transnational feminism; critical refugee studies; migration studies; indigenous women, climate change and the environment.

We hope you will find within the next pages, insights from individual members that might enrich your own scholarship or activism or motivate your own participation at a future CSW.

**DELEGATES' REFLECTIONS**

**Susan Lee:** I was thrilled to be back in New York for the first time since the start of the COVID pandemic. It felt like the "old days" with women gathered from around the world, all speaking up for women's rights. My favorite CSW sessions are often those with speakers from the world's hot spots where women's rights are under siege. At CSW67, one of those sessions featured women from Ukraine. The panel presenters included female members of the Ukrainian parliament, army, executive branch, and NGOs. "International Women's Day" (March 8th) is no longer about Dad washing the dishes," the member of Parliament said. "It is about women in politics." Twenty percent of the Ukrainian Parliament is female, and Ukrainian women are active in international politics. Just eight Ukrainian women got Russia kicked out of the Council of Europe, she said. Ukraine ratified the Istanbul Convention against domestic violence in November 2022, despite the pressures of war. Sixty thousand Ukrainian women serve in the Armed Forces and are respected as heroes of the war. Many civilian Ukrainian women hold families and communities together even while under missile barrages. At the same time, women face gender discrimination, and the female soldiers at the session talked about conflict-related sexual violence inflicted on women prisoners of war. A Ukrainian organization to fight conflict-related sexual violence began in 2019 as women were imprisoned in concentration camps in the Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. The organization is affiliated with [SEMA, a global network of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence](https://www.sema.org). They organize support groups for survivors, and the need in Ukraine became much greater after the February 24, 2022 invasion. One of the soldiers at the session had been a POW herself and said thousands of women have been newly imprisoned due to the invasion. Women captives are held in dark cells without sunlight, and some have been imprisoned for years. She asked the audience to do more to advocate for the release of women prisoners of war. A [recording of the session can be viewed HERE](https://www.sema.org).
I was very pleased to attend the CSW sessions presented by the U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN, an alliance that SWS was instrumental in organizing. An in-person session featured Dr. Susan O'Malley, a long-time feminist activist in UN circles. She gave the audience the "backstory" of women's activism at the UN CSW, including the difficulty of connecting with the U.S. Mission and ideas about more effective advocacy. Her comments are available HERE.

The U.S. Women's Caucus held a virtual session as well that included SWS's own Dr. Carmela Roybal. She gave a passionate talk on the exclusion of Native Americans from the U.S. mainstream and focused especially on the gender digital divide. Sixty eight percent of tribal areas in the U.S. have no broadband access, and in New Mexico, where Dr. Roybal heads a research institute, the figure is even higher at 80%. She also detailed the hyper-marginalization of Native women and girls in the U.S. As of 2017, there were 5,712 missing and murdered indigenous women reported in the U.S. Child mortality is much higher among Native populations, with a female child mortality rate of 55.6 per 100,000 under age 5 in New Mexico. Native Americans suffered disproportionately from COVID, with 3.5 times more COVID cases than white Americans. Cancer rates for Native American women are higher than whites as well. "Closing the divide saves lives," she emphasized. A full description of the U.S. Women's Caucus session is available on their website and a recording is HERE.

Jennifer Rogers-Brown: I have attended the annual UN CSW as a representative for SWS for about ten years. While the shift to a hybrid format felt like a sudden change, another issue has persisted slowly over time - the number of civil society organizations at the CSW continues to increase, but the opportunities for them to engage in meaningful advocacy and dialogue with state officials continues to decrease. This is especially true for U.S. organizations. Our ability to speak with representatives from the U.S. Mission or with the U.S. delegates depends on who is in office at the White House, and is rarely made easy. For example, it is often a struggle to find out the identity of the U.S. delegates. The process of becoming a delegate seems even more mysterious. I am proud to be part of the U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN (an organization that SWS has supported since its inception a few years ago), and its efforts to build a deliberative system for advocacy between progressive feminist organizations and the U.S. Mission to the UN. I am also grateful for the tireless work of our leaders in the International Committee who helped organize two fantastic panels, as well as providing thorough information about the CSW. It is not easy to navigate the events at the CSW and the parallel events at the NGO CSW. With 14,000 people attending the NGO CSW forum alone, it is a massive conference to navigate.

I have multiple highlights from CSW67. First, I truly enjoyed attending the International Women's Day event in the UN General Assembly. While I wish there were more statements of action and policy change, it was inspirational to be in a room with thousands of people from around the world who are invested in improving the lives of women, girls, and marginalized people. Second, I invited my Environmental Sociology class to attend the U.S. Women's Caucus panel event (on Zoom) where speakers talked about the gender divide in technology. The highlight for me was (SWSer) Dr. Carmela Roybal's presentation on indigenous people, education, technology, and intergenerational poverty. My students and I had a lively conversation about how much we learned about the intersectional issues facing tribal communities. Third, listening to the first-hand stories from Turkish women about the state-sanctioned violence they have experienced and survived. The organization Set Them Free organized a powerful panel called "Intersectional Violence Against Women in Turkey," where journalists, human rights defenders, and victims of violence spoke about their experiences. I will forever remember the personal story of Hozan Çanê, a German-Kurdish songwriter who was imprisoned for singing in Kurdish. Her story brought the room to tears. My final highlight was the U.S. Women's Caucus meeting that featured Susan O'Malley, former chair of the NGO CSW NY. It was wonderful to finally see my fellow Caucus members after years apart because of COVID. It was also a pleasure to listen to Susan O'Malley explain her long-time work organizing the NGO CSW. I learned that despite all of her connections and position, Susan also struggled to find in-roads to influencing the Agreed Conclusions. However, she did develop best practices and offered advice for us all – 1) write recommendations by October; 2) keep the list simple, and translate it if you can; 3) find allies outside U.S. and EU; 4) put in precedent language from old outcome documents.
resolutions and CEDAW; and 5) list best practices from other countries (show off what some countries have done, such as programs and laws).

Rianka Roy: As a civil society delegate, I represented SWS at CSW67. My first visit to the UN, and for such an important program, was indeed a thrilling experience. I was able to attend several main, side, and parallel events on gender and technology both virtually and in person. I also attended the International Women’s Day celebration at the General Assembly Hall on March 8.

The SWS Written Statement to the UN highlighted a fundamental paradox in the relationship between gender and technology. On the one hand, technology advances the rights of women and other gender minorities. On the other hand, without regulated use, technology becomes a weapon against women and other gender minorities—as seen in cases of cyberbullying, misinformation and various forms of propaganda. In all the main events, side events and parallel events of the CSW67 that I was able to attend, I heard echoes of these statements. Most participants in the events that I attended conceded that member states and lawmakers needed to work towards eliminating the gender digital divide. The impact of the gender digital divide remains stark in all spheres of society, including work and occupations, education and health. Additionally, the divide also reflects the hierarchy of the Global North and the South, with countries in the Global South not even having the infrastructure to support access to digital networks. The panels reflected that during COVID-19, the impact of this divide was strongly felt. But activists also mentioned that they trained women to use various digital tools during the lockdown so that they could remain connected to their communities.

Due to my research interest in labor, labor movements, technology and migration, I attended events that directly addressed these issues. I learnt from these events how during COVID-19, informal workers in Asian and African countries used various platforms like Zoom and WhatsApp to build communities and educate each other about employment opportunities, labor rights and the importance of vaccination. But labor activists also complained about the limited supply of electricity, and how most women in their networks did not own smartphones and other devices. The devices were either owned or controlled by the men in the families, or were used for their children’s online classes. I also learned how women drivers of app-based cabs in African and Asian countries saw digital technology both as an instrument of their exploitation and of collective action in the gig economy (‘Women Workers Organizing: Transforming the Gig Economy through Collective Action,’ March 7). However, the extent of access to technology was also determined by the category of work and employment. For example, participants in a panel on sex workers (‘Realizing Equitable Access for Sex Workers in the Digital Age,’ March 7) mentioned how digital platforms allowed them to maintain contact with and offer services to their clients even during the pandemic. However, it also made sex workers vulnerable to surveillance and criminalization by the state, and harassment by the mafia. Sex workers resorted to anonymity to protect themselves from these harmful conditions. Sex workers in Ukraine also bore the dual challenges of the pandemic and war. The panelists mentioned how older sex workers were unable to navigate the new digital tools, and were further marginalized in the industry.

It was evident from the discussion in the panels that while digital technology has expanded feminization of technology-based work, it has not significantly improved structural conditions for women, especially in the Global South. Rather, technology perpetuates and exacerbates preexisting structural barriers to women’s empowerment. Sometimes technologies are used in various welfare programs, but the governments do not ensure that beneficiaries have the digital literacy to access the resources. For example, in a panel on home-based workers’ use of technology (March 7), Shalini Sinha representing ‘Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing’ (WIEGO) in India noted, that in 2021, the Government of India started a digital platform called ‘eShram’ to develop a database of informal workers and to connect the workers to bank accounts, where they would receive money from the state. In that platform, ‘home-based workers’—most of whom are women—are not recognized as a category. As a result, a large number of women informal workers remain ineligible to access this service. Besides, enrollment in the platform requires complicated paperwork and various identity cards that many informal workers in India do not have. The instructions in the ‘eShram’ platform are also written in English, which most informal workers cannot follow.

Migrant women’s access to technology also remains fraught due to their position within various state-determined identity categories and political status in the host countries that determine their access to education and skill development (‘Leveraging Digital Inclusion and Technological Change to Enhance Equitable and Gender-responsive Service Delivery for All Migrants,’ March 9). Therefore, only access to technology or technology-based work cannot lead to the empowerment of women and other gender minorities. The panelists repeatedly recommended that governments and civil society activists should develop policies and legislations to eliminate the structural barriers of access, instead of only enhancing the sophistication of digital technology.
I also attended events addressing issues of technology in women's health and cultural practices. At a side-event panel on ‘Female Genital Mutilation’ in Africa (‘Harmful Practices: Catalyzing Innovation to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child Marriage,’ March 9), the panelists discussed how digital technology was being used to raise awareness among communities and how victims and observers had various reporting options through apps. However, the interest of some Global North countries like Canada, France, and Italy in ‘solving’ the ‘problem’ of FGM seemed quite colonialist to me. State representatives from these countries, along with representatives from Zambia, Egypt, and Burkina Faso, strongly recommended criminalization of FGM, without necessarily engaging with the cultural implications in a nuanced way.

Feminist scholars and activists have already critiqued the limitations of ‘carceral feminism’ where criminalization by the state becomes an administrative shortcut to address much deeper structural problems in women’s rights. The mechanism of criminalization merely glorifies the role of the same state which oppresses and marginalizes women and other gender minorities. I was also surprised by the way a question from an Iranian delegate about the role of the state in implementing women’s rights was considered irrelevant to the context, and was not answered.

Despite some limitations of the program and the UN structure in general, I think participation in CSW67 has enriched my perspectives on feminist research and pedagogies. Being able to hear from activists about their struggles has motivated me to learn more about their valuable work at the grassroots. Besides, witnessing the exchange of ideas between feminist scholars and activists at the international platform has deepened my knowledge about the strategies of transnational feminist communication and collaboration.

**Katie Kiacz:** First, I want to thank SWS for considering my application and allowing me to attend CSW67 as a delegate. The experience was eye-opening and exciting. I am still reflecting on it months later (and imagine I will be doing so for some time). Aside from the panels, I wanted to share my initial thoughts as a student/new delegate. It was a bit overwhelming at first - all of the offerings, and where to even start. It was easy to see several panels of interest at the same time or overlapping and experience a fear of missing out, and having to choose between them (FOMO was not something I expected!). The camaraderie of the SWS network, their openness and welcoming spirit, helped to not just minimize the overwhelming nature of the UN and participating in CSW67, but also to feel included and liked I belong there, rather than feeling like an impostor.

My area of interest and research is in transnational feminism, critical refugee studies, and women's migration. As a result, the panels I found to be of interest were those that spoke on those specific topics, including but not limited to: (1) Promoting Afghan Women’s and Girls’ Equal Social, Economic, and Political Rights, (2) Let Girls & Women in Afghanistan Have Access to Education, (3) Pushing Back the Push-Back: Nordic Solutions to Online Gender-Based Violence, (4) Responding to Regional and Global Challenges: Protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls, (5) Economic Gender Equality Now! Nordic Ways to Close the Pension Gap, (6) Digital Empowerment of Women in Conflict Settings: Why it Matters, (7) Feminist Foreign Policy-Masking as a Diverse Tool to Strengthen Multilateralism: Lessons Learned and Opportunities, and (8) Integrating women refugee NGOs as key partners and a force for change. I particularly enjoyed the Nordic panels, as well as the panels on Afghanistan and their current social and political updates. The Nordic panels certainly gave hope at what can be achieved and how to achieve it, while the panels on Afghanistan and Afghan women informed attendees of current events that are not being reported in the news and offered a call to action. Specifically Promoting Afghan Women’s and Girls’ Equal Social, Economic, and Political Rights call to action at the end was more direct support to Afghan women, to combat food insecurity and access to resources. I was surprised at the lack of calls to action or offerings of what we can do as individuals or community members by the majority of other panels outside of the Afghan panels. Many of the panels I attended seemed designed to inform and influence policy makers, rather than people on the ground level. Overall, my biggest takeaways and learning moments included lessons on networking as well as where to find reports and resources on feminist policies, policy-making, what countries are seeing success, and how to push back against resistance.

I did not participate in the hybrid event, as I wanted to focus on attending and being present, and did not want to spread myself too thin or become too overwhelmed while attending CSW67. As a result, I do not have a strong opinion on the hybrid format, though I do not doubt it was great for those who cannot afford or do not have access to travel. I plan to introduce my own students, next year for CSW68, to the online forum so that they may participate.

**Monica Blaisdell:** I attended several sessions at CSW67 that I found particularly interesting. For example, “Strengthening Rural Women’s Capacity in Natural Resources Management,” co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia and the World Water Assessment Programme; “Beyond the Talks: Rural Women’s Land Rights and Tenure Security,” sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); and “Empowering the Next
Generation of Climate Activists Through Tech,” co-sponsored by Tarumitra and the Nadam Foundation. I found these sessions interesting because they all highlighted the compounded impacts of gender and rurality in the environmental crisis, the importance of gender-disaggregated data when studying environmental impacts, and the role of women as “grounded” in the environmental movement in a way that is distinctly different from men.

[At] CSW67, I learned that feminist movement organizing is a powerful and labor-intensive process that often happens at grassroots levels but can gain momentum in webbed, overlapping ways at forums like the CSW. I learned that part of a successful feminist movement is creating the space to understand, amplify, and celebrate the work that is already happening around the world, and then forging networks of like-missioned organizations to continue the movement at home. I also learned that a large part of organizing is not about the event itself, but about the underlying assumptions and framings about what should be discussed, prioritized, and challenged at events like CSW.

As a first-time attendee, there were two aspects of CSW that surprised me the most. First, I was surprised by the sheer quantity and diversity of sessions being held. It was invigorating (and a bit overwhelming) to navigate the overall mechanics of an event of this nature (e.g., the building, hybrid modality) and the dynamics between Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited NGOs. I was surprised by the lack of Big Tech presence at a conference centered around “innovation and technological change.” Having attended UNESCO’s Transforming Education Pre-Summit in Paris last summer, I couldn’t help but compare its attendance by large Transnational Corporations (TNCs) in the education space to the lack of TNCs in the tech space at CSW. What surprised me the least about this event was how inspiring it was to be surrounded by incredible women from around the world united by the call to feminist movement.

The hybrid format was empowering because it enabled anyone who decided to register the opportunity to attend. I believe this positively impacted the composition of attendees (including the diversity of time zones that people could reside in to participate) and the nature of the dialogue in these sessions. For example, the virtual panel my team hosted ran from 7:00pm-9:00pm EST, which enabled presenters and attendees to join from around the world (including South/Southeast Asia and Australia). With that said, for someone attending CSW67 in person in addition to the online sessions, it made it more difficult to prioritize which sessions to attend (based on location and content).

I recommend that everyone who is able to attend the CSW does so at least once. It wasn’t until I was at UN Headquarters that I fully understood the scope of the work happening at events like the CSW.

Observing side events happening alongside general sessions and other UN meetings unrelated to the CSW illuminated the complexity of events happening on UN grounds. Individuals interested in building out research and teaching expertise could both use the CSW as a “site” for investigation about how the UN functions and feminist movement organizes, and as a space to share their research with new audiences. In fact, individuals could artfully blend the two by examining what it is like to participate as an attendee/researcher/teacher at CSW, or by teaching diverse audiences about how to conduct research in a way that galvanizes and sustains a contextually responsive feminist movement.

Özlem Altıok: During CSW67, I stayed in West New York/New Jersey. Every morning in the ten days that I was there, I took the ferry from West New York to Manhattan, and from there, took the bus to the UN Building. I then walked for several blocks. The number of events of interest at the CSW67 was overwhelming, so I actually appreciated my daily ferry-bus-hike routine. It gave me time to plan what events I would attend, and with whom I would meet. The ferry experience was as much a travel in time as in space. As I was crossing the Hudson River to reach Manhattan, I could close my eyes and imagine myself on the Bosphorus, crossing from the “Asian side” to the “European side” of Istanbul, a magical everyday event for millions.

Traveling by ferry, being on the water, even with the many different languages spoken around me, somehow made me feel closer to home. My thoughts were not exactly scattered, but flowing, like the waters I was crossing. Exactly a month after the devastating earthquakes that hit Türkiye (and Syria), my heart and head were in my homeland, even more than usual. Given the magnitude of what happened after the February 6 earthquake, it was hard to talk about the devastation wrought by the earthquake. It was hard to not talk about it. Entire cities, some of the oldest cities in the world, nearly all reduced to rubble. People posting messages on social media posting their location and asking for help. Mothers, fathers, siblings, nieces, keeping watch over the rubble, trying to get someone to come rescue their loved ones, listening to their loved ones cry for help for days until they stop hearing them altogether. A horrible way to die. How do you talk about all that? How do you grieve? How do you rebuild? How do you heal?
Yes, home was on my mind constantly during CSW67, in the lack of presence by Türkiye’s official delegation in New York (not to mention its absence in the earthquake-hit region and its utter failure to respond). Home was on my mind as I walked through the streets dotted with UN buildings, and thought about humanitarian aid “negotiations” (and delays) that were taking place in them. In my head, what was going on back home came into uneasy contact with the priority theme for CSW67: “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

I noticed that there weren’t many sessions on the nexus of digital technologies and disaster management. And there I was, not able to talk to friends and family in earthquake-hit Hatay still, much less have a Zoom meeting with them, given the fact that the infrastructure for digital communication had collapsed miserably when it was needed the most. I pointed out the irony at some of the sessions I attended, inviting the panelists to reflect on the need for digital technologies as well as the need to take into account existing gender inequalities before and after natural disasters. We have to think about the fact that the infrastructure that enables digital communication can collapse miserably as happened in several earthquake-hit cities after February 6.

One of the panels (also not about natural disasters) where I voiced this concern was hosted by the USAID (March 9). The keynote speaker was Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the first woman director of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), who shared that “four out of five girls and women in the “least developed countries” had not ever accessed the internet. This was a stunning statistic. As far as I could tell there was no recording of this event, but it included speakers from UNDP, the Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, which I learned has an “equitable AI challenge.” I thought about the “black box” of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and how it reminded me of the “black box” of hedge funds and automated trading.

I attended some ministerial roundtables, and too many NGO events and policy-relevant panels to list and summarize here, [but some included]:

- **Ministerial Roundtable** (televised in the General Assembly Hall) where ministers talked about what they had done and planned to do to ensure women’s access to digital spaces, empower them through innovative digital technologies. ...The Minister from Singapore shared that they have laws specifically to combat digital violence against women. She also shared that survivors of sexual assault can attend court remotely (and not have to face their assailter), which I think is a great use of digital technologies. The representative from the Iraqi government talked about the importance of gender equality, but emphasized that the gender divide could not be closed without the gap between countries being closed. The representative from Australia began in her native/aboriginal tongue, and shared that Australia had set up the world’s first Online Safety Commission in 2015.

- An in-person panel discussion titled “Anti-gender hate towards WHRDs in the digital ecosystem” (March 7) organized by the Women’s Major Group. Unfortunately, there is no recording, but Melissa Upreti, Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, made particularly lucid remarks on the speed and permanence of reputational damage inflicted on women’s human rights defenders, and women in general. She talked about the types of online violence that are not legally accepted as crimes. My notes suggest that the Working Group has some thematic reports on these issues (published in 2018, 2020 and 2022).

- On March 8, a celebration in the General Assembly Hall. After that, at noon, I attended a rally organized by an immigrant rights group in honor of International Women’s Day. I found it amusing that there were nearly as many women from Türkiye as folks from New York City at that rally. We held up our make-shift signs, including one that said “Karanlıkta Kalmayaracagız” (“We will not remain in the dark”) to protest the government’s lack of coordination and effective response to the earthquakes that devastated our country. It felt good to be there together, some of us living on this continent, most of us having arrived from Istanbul and Ankara to New York for the CSW67. It broke my heart to think about our privilege and to think about the conditions of living for people after the unprecedented destruction of the earthquake. I found it hard to express this feeling of desperation then and I find it hard still. I also attended Bridging the Gender Digital Divide through Policy Action - the “kick off” event for the Network of Women Digital Ministers, which is to be a platform for exchange and joint advocacy to enhance the representation, participation, and leadership of women in global policymaking processes in the digital sector seeking to promote more inclusive digital policies and to set standards for an accessible, safe, and gender-equal digital transformation. I learned about the Handbook on Mainstreaming Gender in Digital Policies during this session.

- On March 10, I attended a Women’s Learning Partnership event that featured long-time as well as younger activists from Iran and Afghanistan. The event opened with a beautiful poetry reading by Fatemeh Shams. Another SWS delegate and I attended this event together, and we were both moved by it, especially for how it made clear the myth of linear progress; and how our rights continue to be fragile in patriarchal societies. As someone who has seen the regression in women’s rights in Türkiye in the past ten years, I made some comments on this point of fragility in the Q&A session. It was also moving to see the show of solidarity of women from different countries, in all of their diversity (notwithstanding some tensions and historical pains that make sisterhood an ongoing challenge). You can view a recording of this event [HERE](#).

I had not really thought about technology-facilitated violence or violence in digital spaces much before, so attending panels and ministerial roundtables was very useful for me; for understanding the state of what we know, and the relevant policy issues. I picked up on certain themes that ran through the sessions. First, not a revelation but an important lesson...
that must be stated: It is important to bring a critical feminist lens to all new phenomena, especially those hailed as the next best thing in the development of our societies. Second, the algorithms on which the functioning and popularity of many everyday platforms we use are complex and are sort of “black boxes” that most of us do not understand, but require very close attention. Third, there are different types of violence against women in digital spaces. I knew about cyberbullying and stalking online, but I did not know the meanings of “deep faking” and “doxing” to name two that are new to me. Another striking fact I learned: many of these acts are not considered crimes legally speaking. Overall, I left the CSW67 determined to think more seriously about different facets of digital technologies for feminist organizing and movement building (and the continuation of gender-based violence against women in digital spaces as part of the backlash against women’s rights).

It really is different to be with people in person and to “feel” their presence and warmth. As someone who has done a lot of organizing over Zoom, I was pleased to finally meet some people I had only seen on screen. Some of these were planned dinners or “coffee dates.” Others were more serendipitous, warm and beneficial. I also connected with people from agencies and organizations that offer research and other types of internships, which will be helpful for my students.

The irony of waiting in line for so long to get my ID, and not finding any charging stations at the main UN building was surprising. That most of the sessions were NOT interactive was also surprising. I understand it was big, and that this is the UN, but some of the smaller sessions were also not as interactive as I thought they would be. I was surprised that there was no coverage in the mainstream media or even local press and that there were not many tech companies present at the CSW67 meetings.

Being in New York for the CSW67 had a personal meaning for me as well. More than 20 years ago I worked at the UNDP’s Bureau for Development Policy as a research intern. Under the supervision of the late Dr. Mümaz Kekek, I contributed to the book Making Global Trade Work for People (2001). Back then there was no UN Women; there was UNIFEM. Working at the UN, and having such a rare opportunity to secure an internship, and one that involved research at that, was a very valuable experience for me. That was the summer of 2002, one of the most miserably hot and humid summers in New York. Despite the heat, and the unsavory odors in the subway, I remember those days and the people I learned so much from very fondly.

I was also an unofficial delegate of sorts for the women’s groups I am part of in Türkiye. As part of a group of feminist activists from Türkiye, I also got to meet Ms. Sima Bauhaus, the Director of UN Women and Ms. Lopa Banarjee, the Chief of the Civil Society Section at UN. I met with a number of women from all over the world that I had only met through Zoom, if at all. It felt good to be able to actually hug each other.

I also found out information about the state of humanitarian aid to Türkiye (and Syria) following the earthquakes. What I learned was depressing about humanitarian aid negotiations and the low expectations of how much donors were expected to pledge for Türkiye and Syria during the donor conference on March 20, 2023.

Being back at the UN was a sort of traveling in time for me on different levels. I felt home and I also felt a bit strange to be just a visitor. We were at the UN headquarters, people from all over the world, gathering together. This should be our space, I thought, but it did not feel so. Many people could not be there for a number of barriers, borders, visas, finances, language barriers. I felt privileged to feel a familiarity with the space, but also a bit out of place when my heart was heavy with the feeling of loss and devastation of the earthquake – devastation that I was spared, physically, but nevertheless left a permanent mark on me.

Autumn Martin: This was my first CSW and I wish I had been able to make it in person, but due to familial obligations, I had to attend online. The sessions that I attended were extremely informative. The first thing that I noticed was just how much work there still needs to be done for gender equality globally. Hearing how there is still so much pushback for the legislature and the high violence rates is alarming. CSW also happened during the height of my home state of Tennessee presenting legislature that would negatively impact women’s healthcare. I found it astounding how hard organizations have been working and putting in the effort and there is still so much to still be done. I also thought about ways that SWS could continue in their
progression to promote gender equality. One specific thing is thinking about a UNDRIP committee to look at the inequalities for Indigenous women and promote policies.

The CSW session this year made me realize how I would like to be further involved in legislature and policy to help advocate for women’s rights. If I was to try to recommend to others about gender equality issues and feminist movements, I would suggest not only CSW but also local organizations. Getting involved in any way is beneficial and will help benefit the fight for women’s rights globally. Below, I summarize some of the sessions I attended and my experiences:

- Social Media Movements to Change Asian Girls’ Future? (March 6): This session looked at different ways in which social media has been used as a platform to address situations surrounding gendered issues and improve gender equality. Each panelist discussed different ways in which social media can be utilized in promoting gender issues and advocating for equality movements in Asia. I think that implementing some of these approaches for SWS could help the organization further its expansion on promoting gender equality. What I really liked about this session was that they looked at both the benefits and risks of utilizing social media. How social media could be used as a positive platform to promote gender equality, but how it could also be used in a negative way. How girls can be negatively affected by social media, especially in regards to their confidence and self-esteem.

- Our Bodies, Our Land (March 6): There is little access for these indigenous women, including period necessities and other rights such as opportunities to own land. There is little support from the state for gender issues. Child marriage is higher for these indigenous women and with these marriages, women fall at higher risk for domestic violence and abuse. This panel was to bring awareness and promote recommendations for how to advocate for change. I thought that SWS could incorporate a committee such as UNDRIP to look at these issues and possibly look at ways to advocate for gender-related issues in the indigenous community.

- Women on the Frontlines. Against Violence & Femicide, For Inclusion (March 7): Looking at the need to address femicide and the need for inclusion of women’s rights. The need for strategies to help women against violence. Specifically discussed women with disabilities. Access to voting is not equal, especially for those with disabilities in Europe. Honor killings- a number of femicides occurring by family members. The discussions from this seminar were insightful to see where we still need to be focusing and how we can advocate. I thought that the emphasis on women with disabilities was extremely significant since there is still a high need for advocacy here. The need for policy and legislation is heavily needed for women with disabilities as they are continuously facing oppression.

- Europe & North America Regional Caucus (Session 2): This session was extremely important when looking at current policies that impact gender and violence toward women. We went into small breakout rooms to discuss where they were at with negotiations and what was extremely prevalent in this pushing for legislation. I thought about how important that we talked about the language that was being argued in these discussions. Words such as prostitution, and technology-gender violence. How does omitting these terms take away from the severity of what is really happening. See HERE for more information.

Neisha Terry Young: Sister, I Stand With You. As an attendee and delegate for the SWS at UNCSW67, I decided to engage in an inductive approach where I would remain open to seeing what themes and ideas emerged across sessions. In this way, I sought to answer the questions: What are some common concerns/themes regarding digital literacies that have been raised across sessions? In what ways have digital literacy considerations shown up in my actual lived experience of the conference? In the following report, I share my reflections on the insights gained during my attendance at the UNCSW67 in order to answer the questions posed. First, I will share a brief anecdote, and then I will use that anecdote as a springboard to examine some of the common themes that emerged across sessions. I will then pivot to explore the ways in which digital literacy mediated my personal experiences of the UNCSW67.

"Any good sessions at 2:30?" The WhatsApp text message came into the general group as I sat by myself in a hall at the UN headquarters, contemplating the next session to attend. Prior to arriving at the UNCSW67 conference, I had outlined a detailed schedule of sessions to attend, curated around a specific theme. However, now that I was here, I found that it was easier, and indeed more interesting, to simply attend the sessions that happened to be available and accessible to me. It also worked out better for me, considering I was also navigating health issues. The text was sent by Özlem, another SWS delegate. Incidentally, they and I had made plans to meet up on Tuesday and collect our grounds passes together. However, our schedules were misaligned, and we ended up joining the line at different times. "I’m looking for a good one too. Perhaps I can join you if you find one," I replied. That is how I ended up seated next to Özlem, as she shared some of her pain surrounding the devastation in Turkey with a Canadian attendee, while the other woman encouraged us to practice self-care. That was not why we were there, however. We were not there for self-care. We were there for solidarity. We were there to support the women from Iran and Afghanistan as they, too, shared their pain. We were there for sisterhood. And perhaps, when we consider all of this combined, this was in itself a sort of self-care.

For the panelists, their pain was both personal and collective as they reflected on the progress that they had personally helped to achieve in their countries, and lamented the erasure brought on by men and wars, where the main victims were women and girls. Özlem and I sat side by side listening to the panelists, our hearts breaking with a shared pain for our sisters in other countries. Our hearts broke too, because we recognized that these women struggling under the staggering load of patriarchal oppression could have been our mothers, our sisters, and our daughters. These women could very easily have been us. As Özlem stood up and reminded the group that no woman anywhere should think herself safe from a
similar tragedy since women’s rights can be erased with the single stroke of a pen, I couldn’t help but think, “Sister, I stand with you.”

Common Themes Across the Digital Divide. This theme of sisterhood across distances is one of the themes that emerged across the sessions that I attended. Peroni and Rodak (2020) define sisterhood as “an anti-essentialist bond based on trust and an expression of free will, with a potential of converting new mutual practices into common action” (p. 15). The sessions that I attended varied in relation to foci and the global geographic region of conveners and attendees. Yet, again and again, there were calls for solidarity as we were reminded that we were united by a common cause for gender equality and liberation for women globally. For example, during the Helpline Foundation’s discussion on the digital gender divide, the call was made for women to stand up and support other women. The panelists argued that young girls need positive, forward-thinking women who will mentor and empower them to break barriers. We were also admonished that we need to establish feminist networks and support systems based on trust. As women, we need to trust ourselves, and we need our daughters, our sisters, and the young girls whom we mentor to trust us.

In the session convened by the Action Coalition on Technology and Advancement, this theme of sisterhood was further expanded when the presenters reminded us that the way to advance a feminist digital future is for us to all work together as women. The importance of strong female mentors was also raised in the discussion of how to secure success for women and girls in the digital age. The session on women in Iran and Afghanistan also underscored this need for sisterhood when the panelists implored us that we need a global women’s movement. Those of us living outside these nations need to become a voice for the women who are on the inside. We need to tell their stories and amplify their messages via digital technologies in order to support them in the fight for basic human rights and freedom from patriarchy.

“Do you realize something? There is only one man in here, and he is the videographer,” Özlem leaned over and whispered this to me, as we sat listening to our Afghan and Iranian sisters. A quick glance around the room confirmed her observation. I found this to be surprising, as I had seen many men at the other sessions that I had attended. However, this reality of the paucity of male support, especially within the context of certain cultures, underscores another recurring theme that emerged across sessions; the need to dismantle systems that promote toxic masculinities so that men can be activated as allies in the fight for gender equality.

Session after session, we were engaged in discussions of how panelists worked with men to bring them into the gender mainstreaming movement. We heard of online video programs that focused on training fathers. We heard of movements to create digital safe spaces for men to explore and grow in their feminist allyship. We heard of digitized efforts to target boys and shift their mindsets from an early age. We heard of the work being done to educate parents about their gendered presentations of chores.

Notably, in all the discussions of the need to galvanize men as allies in the fight against patriarchy, there was one man who cautioned us against certain approaches that could serve to reproduce patriarchal systems by centering men in the conversation. A male presenter from MenEngage implored us to walk away from praising men for doing the basics like cooking and sharing in childcare. Rather, he argued that we need to push men to expand their involvement in women’s liberation from patriarchal oppression through greater advocacy and engagement in civic issues, such as working to make room for women in political offices and other spheres of power.

While there were many other themes that emerged across sessions, I want to highlight the need for training. This need was emphasized countless times, as presenters from various world regions spoke of efforts that increased access to computers and the internet but stopped short of empowering women and girls in how to effectively utilize the technology in contextualized ways to support their advancement. This identifies a gap in current efforts to bring a digital revolution to women and girls, especially those in rural areas. Yes, they need technology, but they also need training so that they can leverage technological tools to aid in their liberation.

The examination of the need to not only provide women and girls with access to technology but also to equip them with the requisite skills to utilize technological devices was nuanced by a panel from Canada that argued that when women and girls respond to the encouragement to get trained in fields that feature traditionally ‘masculine’ technology, they are often exposed to unsafe working conditions. They presented statistics and shared anecdotes demonstrating how men often refuse to support women and girls in these workplaces that were once dominated by men. They argued that male coworkers often do not offer women and girls the support they need to be safe as they learn to apply their technical skills. In addition to training, women and girls also need male allies to support them in the workplace to ensure a safe transition.

The impassioned participation of men across the sessions, as well as the general consensus of the need for men as allies, made the absence of men in the session on the struggles of women from Iran and Afghanistan much more pronounced. The lead presenter from the session on women in Iran and Afghanistan was hopeful as she told us about the young men joining the feminist revolutions. Optimistically she proclaimed that the young men in these countries are ready to fight and die for their mothers’ and sisters’ freedom. Yet, the men outside of these countries were not as visible during the session. It is true that we need men as allies (Carlson et al., 2020; Madsen et al., 2019; Shinbrot et al. 2019). I cannot help but
wonder how we can work to shine the spotlight on the need for more men allies in this area. How can we get more men to say to women in countries such as Iran and Afghanistan, “Sister, I stand with you”?

Digital Literacy, Feminist Support, and my Experiences at the UNCSW67 -
“Sister. I am here.” The private message came to me via the Zoom chat, as I sat and waited for the session to begin. I was about to help host a virtual session with women from around the world, and I was excited but a little nervous. “Sister. I am here.” The message brought a smile to my face and reminded me that I do not stand alone. The message in the chat had come from my sister, Shaunda, who lives in Jamaica. She was there. Just as she had been for almost all of my other moments. Though we are far apart, we are constantly united by digital technology. I marvel at this technology that connects me with my biological sisters, and that also connected me to a web of feminist digital support while at the UNCSW67. Seven. That is the number of WhatsApp groups and group texts I participated in over the course of my attendance at the UNCSW67. Five. That is the number of countries from which my UNCSW WhatsApp connections hailed as they joined me in forging digital collaborations. Innumerable. That is the word that comes to mind when I think back on the messages of support, concern, and friendship.

“Hello, all. Welcome to our group.”

“It’s going to be a great experience with you all.”

“I have a seat for you. Look to the right when you come in.”

“How are you today? What can I do to help?”

“We support you.”

“I had no idea what this would be like. I feel lifted up from all of you and from hearing from the participants.”

“I appreciate you more than you will ever know.”

The snippets of conversation above, taken from different group chats at various points throughout my time in New York at the UNCSW67, capture the spirit of sisterhood that carried me throughout the conference. Via our WhatsApp chats, I grew to develop bonds of fellowship with my fellow SWS delegates. There were no strangers here. Rather, we were women and sisters, united in a common cause, to work together and use our various areas of expertise and influence to push the needle on promoting gender mainstreaming in this digital age, with a particular focus on women and girls in rural areas.

“As a female youth activist, I get very passionate when I hear of what is happening to young women and girls in Afghanistan and Iran. However, I only see it when it comes across my social media feed. What can we, who are geographically distanced from the situation, do to help on a consistent basis?” The question was posed by a young lady sitting in the back row. The panelists had ended their presentations, and the session conveners were now taking questions from the audience. What can we who are geographically distant do? How can we keep the conversation going, even when there is nothing sensational for the news to report? How can we stand as constant pillars of support for our sisters in countries like Iran and Afghanistan?

My mind drifts back to WhatsApp, and I think of the simple power of a group conversation via this digital platform. I think of how WhatsApp has provided me with the opportunity to make friends, find support, and express gratitude in a space that can be curated to promote a feminist framework of sisterhood. The brilliant thing about WhatsApp is that it is free. As long as we have access to the internet and access to a phone, we have access to WhatsApp. Could this be one of the tools we leverage as we continue this feminist digital revolution? How could we take the potential of WhatsApp as a space for feminist support and connection and use that potential to not only connect with but amplify the voices of our sisters in more oppressive nations? How could we use WhatsApp as an educational platform to support our sisters who need training in how to use digital technologies to enhance their opportunities? How could we use WhatsApp as a space to create affiliation groups that promote more critical allyship from the men in our lives? How might we use WhatsApp to say, “Sister, I am here, and I stand with you”?

My experience at the UN CSW was life changing. I have always dreamed of being at the UN, and I have also often fantasized that one day I might work for the UN in some capacity. It was a great honor to be given the opportunity to attend the UNCSW67 as a delegate. I prepared well in advance of my trip and had an elaborate plan regarding my ethnographic study. I explored all the sessions that would be offered during my time in New York, and culled from the schedule a variety of sessions connected to my topic of interest. However, upon my arrival, practicality won the day, and I decided to leave myself open to whatever themes emerged from the sessions that I was able to attend. It turns out that this was the best way for me to engage in feminist ethnography. By letting the speakers’ and panelists’ voices tell me what was most important, I learned much about the state of digital technology and the gender divide and about what is needed to move the needle forward globally. Additionally, the final session that I attended proved to be the one that spoke most to my soul, as it reminded me of the fragility of freedom, the tenuous nature of rights, and the importance of standing with my sisters across borders.
Did you catch the release of episode 2 of Feminist Intersections, a podcast created by Sociologists for Women in Society to highlight the work of feminist scholars and activists?

Produced by Whitney Hunt and Erin Baker, the guest of the second episode is Minha Kahn, a Sociologist of Education with a particular interest in educational access and opportunity. Her research has previously explored how schooling in a child’s non-native language can make learning inaccessible, how household and gender norms complicate accessing higher education for female students and the role of education in breaking the inheritance of despair in low-income families. Since graduating from Stanford University in 2021, Minha has been working as a Research and Design Consultant at Noora Health, USA, and The Citizens Foundation, Pakistan. She is also an incoming postgraduate student in Oxford University’s Social Policy and Intervention Department. In her free time, Minha enjoys drinking tea, having conversations, and trying to figure out how the world works.


Stay tuned for new episodes of Feminist Intersections. These interviews are so worth the wait! In the future you can look forward to hearing from the following amazing SWS members (in alphabetical order, not order of publication):

- Tanya Cook
- Manisha Desai
- Gina Longo
- Heba Sigurdardottir

A quick shout-out to my co-host Whitney Hunt for everything she has done to help me through this process. I couldn’t have done this without her!
STUDENT CAUCUS

Co-Chairs: Alexis Grant-Panting & Pedrom Nasiri

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclc-Crpj4vEtGeC9VaV8P-nBI7EqUZB7r5

SOCIAL ACTION

Co-Chairs: Heather R. Hlavka & Evonnia Woods

Congratulations to Iblin Edelweiss Murillo Lafuente, Ophra Leyser-Whalen, Nabila Islam, Andrea Roman Alfaro and Özlem Altiok, the 2023 SAIA Award Winners!

In 2016, the SWS Council approved the Social Action Committee’s (SAC) proposal to support more direct social action of SWS members. The Social Actions Initiative Awards (SAIA) provide a way for the SAC to directly support and encourage the social activism of SWS members. Awards are given out twice per year on a competitive basis until funds run out. The social actions represented by this initiative are central to advancing the mission of SWS. Current SWS members can apply for funding up to $1,000 to support broadly defined social action initiatives (e.g., advocacy, public education, organizing, movement-building) that also support the mission of SWS. You can read more about this award HERE. Special thanks go to this cycle’s award subcommittee: Evonnia Woods and Heather Hlavka (Co-Chairs of the Social Action Committee), Pedrom Nasiri, J’Mauri Jackson, and Sara Tyberg.
Iblin Edelweiss Murillo Lafuente is an early-stage sociology researcher and instructor. She is a transnational feminist and a PhD candidate at the University of Florida. She was born in what is officially called La Paz, Bolivia. Her most recent research focuses on anti-ableist feminist movements in the global south. She believes in kindness and social change.

With the SAIA award, Edelweiss plans to organize an in-person meeting with Las FemiDiskas: An encounter of Bolivian activist women with disabilities. Las FemiDiskas is an anti-ableist feminist collective formed by women with disabilities and allies. It is a grassroots organization founded in 2021. Edelweiss is an active member of this collective. During this meeting, Edelweiss will lead an activity based on communitarian feminist knowledge to establish a collective positionality statement.

Ophra Leyser-Whalen is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Her work focuses on reproductive justice broadly. In the past few years she has been engaging in community-based work, including working with Texas abortion funds. Her current research is focusing on the national abortion fund landscape post-Dobbs.

With the SAIA award, Ophra plans on bringing a traveling photography exhibit on abortion to the Centennial Museum on the UTEP campus. This exhibit includes photos of people who have had abortions, accompanied by their stories. One mission of the museum is to work with UTEP students, staff and faculty, so they would like to accompany the traveling exhibit with highlights of some of the work done by campus student groups, staff and faculty.

Nabila Islam is a PhD candidate in sociology at Brown University. Her dissertation explores the emergence of detention as a major policy response to migration and the seeking of refuge across the globe. She also serves as the Co-Principal Investigator, alongside colleagues at the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN), at the Northeast hub of the Pursuit of Dignity project. Funded by Migrantes Unidos and the Henry Luce Foundation, the Pursuit of Dignity project investigates the impact of electronic detention on migrants and asylum-seekers in the U.S. and amplifies impacted communities’ capacity to challenge and resist detention. As a scholar-activist, Nabila is broadly interested in understanding the role of colonialism and racial capitalism in creating carceral technologies and imagining abolitionist alternatives.

With the SAIA award, Nabila plans to advance intersectional and language justice in the Pursuit of Dignity project. The assembled group speaks a mixture of English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, French, and Haitian Creole. The funds will be used to pay for interpretation in Brazilian Portuguese and Spanish in order to enable equitable participation for everyone in the group.
Andrea Román Alfaro (she/ella) is a Peruvian mestiza PhD candidate in sociology, a Vanier CGS scholar, a Connaught Public Impact Fellow, a Mary H. Beatty Fellow and a graduate fellow at the School of Cities at the University of Toronto. Her research agenda examines the relationship between social inequality, violence, and resistance from an intersectional perspective. Her dissertation titled, Interconnected Violence: Life and Death at the Urban Margins of Peru, examines how women from marginalized urban neighbourhoods make sense of and respond to the interconnection of different forms of violence. She connects women's everyday experiences of violence to government policies that shape violence at the urban margins. Andrea is a scholar and activist who combines research with community work and advocacy. She works with community to address social justice issues and create new alternatives for a more just future. She is currently working with a group of young people from Puerto Nuevo, an marginalized urban neighbourhood in Callao (Peru), to create Puerto Nuevo’s first young people-led community house.

With the SAIA award, the funds will support the activities of the Puerto Nuevo Children’s Photo Club. Puerto Nuevo is a marginalized urban community located in Callao district, the second deadliest district in Peru. The award will support the collective curation process (May 2023), three exhibits (in Puerto Nuevo, Callao/Lima, and Toronto), and the design of a web page where we will be uploading the photos taken by club members and those collected for the Puerto Nuevo Community Archive (an ongoing project that is collecting pictures from neighbors). The Club will print the pictures, set them up in an exhibit, and take the photo club members to present their photographs and the work of the club to people inside and outside the community.

Özlem Altıok is a feminist sociologist who studies social movements, public policy, and the entanglements of politics, religion, and gender across borders. She teaches Women’s & Gender Studies, and International Studies, at the University of North Texas (UNT). Some of her community partners in Texas include the Refugee Support Network, Opening Doors International Services, and Denton County Friends of the Family. She is also a women’s rights, peace, and environmental activist and a dedicated member of Equality Watch Women’s Group (EȘİTİZ) and Women’s Platform for Equality, Turkey (EŞİK). A long-time member of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), she is active in the International Committee, and has served as an SWS delegate to the UNSCW meetings.

With the SAIA award, the funds will be used to sponsor 13 university students directly impacted by the earthquake that hit southeastern Turkey. The scholarships will be distributed in collaboration with the Turkish Association of University Women during the 2023-2024 academic year.
TIMELY TOPICS

SWS Intern, Kejsi Ruka, has been busy interviewing our members about exciting initiatives and upcoming SWS events! Her interviews with Baker Rogers and Georghiann Davis were shared on the SWS Blog, but in case you missed them here they are. Thank you Kejsi!

BAKER ROGERS FOUND QUEER HAVEN BOOKS

Interview By Kejsi Ruka

Recently, I spoke with Baker A. Rogers about their new business, Queer Haven Books, an independent, queer bookstore in Columbia, South Carolina. Queer Haven is the only bookstore of its kind in South Carolina. Baker is a Past President of SWS-South and presently serves as an elected member of the SWS Nominations Committee.

K: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your background?
B: “I am an Associate Professor of Sociology and the Director of our Masters and Social Sciences program at Georgia Southern University. I live in Columbia, South Carolina. I moved here twelve years ago and I saw the need for more space for queer communities. Especially in the South, there’s a need for more spaces, but I was young and couldn’t really do anything. I wanted to open a gay bar, but now that I’m back here and a little older, there’s even more of a need for queer space, and actually a lot of lesbian bars have closed down. There are two gay bars now that are left, so I wanted to open a more inclusive queer space and I didn’t want it to be a bar because queer people need other places to hang out. Based on my background in education and sociology and inequality, I decided this would be where I could use my skills to provide education and books and things like that to the community, but also to create a queer space in the South.”

K: What inspired you to open this business? Can you tell us a little bit about Queer Haven Books and how you got things started?
B: “What inspired me is I grew up in South Carolina and have always felt that there weren’t any queer spaces. It’s getting better in South Carolina, like we’re now getting physicians and surgeons who focus on trans people, but that’s very recent and we still are lacking queer space. I decided to start Queer Haven Books and I incorporated it and wrote a business plan the first week in April. I have just been promoting it as much as possible and we have the online store up and running. We’re doing events, there’s a local NoMa Flea where they have a warehouse where local artists do a lot of their work and sell their work, and every Friday night they have an event, a flea market and so we’re selling there. We’re going to the South Carolina Pride Outfest, and will be at Prides in Rock Hill, South Carolina and Asheville, North Carolina, and we’re going to be at some other things in Charleston and Greenville. So, we’re all around the South right now, selling and trying to raise money…”

K: What are your aspirations for the bookstore? What types of programming are you hoping to have?
B: “A big part of it is education and selling books, but then a big part of it is community and helping and giving back to the community. So right now, we’re selling books. We’re going to have a coffee shop so it will be more communal. And in the evenings, we are going to use that space for programming and things. Right now, we’re thinking about queer book clubs, sex positive education classes, and any other support groups that really need a space to meet. The Harriet Hancock Center in Columbia is a great resource and they have a lot of support groups, so we don’t want to be overlapping services, we just want to create extra space because one place is just not enough space. I’ve talked with some people trying to open a nonprofit in Atlanta that would provide trans and queer counseling services, so eventually I would love to have counselors, HIV testing, even physicians or nurses to provide care surrounding the business. I would like to partner with different people to have certain services, as well, which would be further down the road. That’s an aspiration for sure.”

K: How have you curated your book collection?
B: “Right now it’s small, because it’s all in my house and we don’t have a budget, so we’ve been curating largely through a lot of things I’ve read that I love, some classic books, some academic books that I know of because of what I do. Also, I have a young daughter and so the books that I read to her are kind of where my curation of my children’s section comes from. We have lots of queer children’s books around the house so that’s where I started. Also, people are now emailing me, asking if we can carry their books. People are emailing me telling me books we should carry. Lots of people have sent me
lists they think we should carry, so I have a very long list for once we get funding, and I’m sure we’ll keep growing. It’s really interesting because people are surprised, even some queer people are like, “How could you open a queer bookstore?” and they saw us at the NoMa flea last Friday and they’re like, “I thought there would only be five or ten queer books.” I said, “Yes, we still need a lot more, but there are thousands of queer books out there.” So, just spreading the word that this literature is there; we just need to read it and support queer authors.

K: Is there anything else you would like the SWS membership to know about you and this project/business?
B: We need support. I know that SWS members understand that feminist and queer spaces have been lacking, and we’d appreciate any support to get this business up and running, in the South especially. To think, in 2023 alone there have been over 540 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills proposed. So, it’s a time when this space and resource is needed more than ever, and we need the feminist community’s support.

There will be a Kickstarter campaign in September to raise the money to open the brick-and-mortar store!

For more information on Queer Haven Books, please visit: https://queerhavenbooks.com.
On social media, follow @queerhavenbooks on Instagram and Facebook.
To learn more about Baker Rogers, visit their website: https://bakerarogers.com/.

GETTING TO KNOW GEORGIANN DAVIS, THE 2022 SWS FEMINIST ACTIVISM AWARDEE

Interview By Keji Ruka

We hope you are as excited as we are for Georgiann Davis’ Feminist Activism Awardee talk during the SWS 2023 Summer Meeting Awards Reception at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown on Sunday, August 20.

See you there!

PHOTO: Georgiann Davis today and as a teenager

K: Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?
G: “I’m an intersex scholar-activist, and Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. Much of my work is related to my experience being born with a body outside of the sex binary. I have complete androgen insensitivity syndrome, CAIS, which means on the outside I’m female, but on the inside, instead of ovaries, a uterus, fallopian tubes, and XX chromosomes, I was born with internal and undescended testes and XY chromosomes. Doctors didn’t discover my CAIS until I was a tween. And when they did, they didn’t tell me the truth. They lied to me about my body—telling me I had premalignant underdeveloped ovaries—and they encouraged my parents to do the same. I only learned the truth years later after I obtained copies of my medical records. I was at first confused, then devastated and ashamed, and eventually just unapologetically angry which is where I’m at today.

I didn’t pursue my doctorate in sociology to study intersex. But that changed in a feminist theory class I was taking. We were discussing intersex, and there I was with this deep dark secret—I was intersex. It was during that doctoral seminar, in the fall of 2007 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, that I slowly started opening up about being intersex. And, you know what? It was fucking freeing to let go of that secret.
I wrote a paper on intersex in that seminar, and then shortly after, for a handful of reasons, decided to study the way intersex is experienced and contested in contemporary U.S. society. My first book, *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis* (2015), evolved from my dissertation and in it I interweave my personal experience with my interview data.

**K:** *As a feminist medical sociologist, what kinds of topics are you researching and looking into?*

G: “I like to say that I study all sides of the hospital bed, meaning I like to study patient and provider experiences and interactions. I’m also currently working on a new book, a cultural memoir, which I’ve tentatively entitled *Five Star White Trash: A Memoir of a Society in Crisis.* It’s about my journey from, in 1992, when I was a 329 pound tomboy who dropped out of the seventh grade to today a still fat tenured Associate Professor of Sociology. I used to think of my journey as a story of overcoming a lot of adversity with everything from hard work to mentorship. But I trash much of that narrative in *Five Star White Trash* by using my sociological tools to analyze my life experiences with everything from dropping out of school, medical abuse, childhood trauma, and more.”

**K:** *You’ll be a presenter at the SWS Summer Meeting, can you give us a preview of what you plan to talk about?*

G: “I’m nervous as hell, so I hope I follow through with this, but I want to talk about being *Five Star White Trash.* And the multiple Lifetime movies I’ve been through . . . mostly unscathed.”

**K:** *I am curious to hear a little bit about your activism and advocacy work. What drives you to be a scholar-activist?*

G: “I used to think it was the possibility for social change, but that was ten years ago when I was naive and way more optimistic about how scholars can use their research to improve lives. Back then I also took for granted that scholars were mostly in the game for altruistic reasons and not for their next promotion, publication, or award. I know much better these days about egos and gatekeepers. My scholar-activism these days begins with a mirror. How can I be a scholar-activist if my scholar-activism doesn’t begin with me? What’s my role in the continuation of the social problems I study? What does it mean to get paid, as a scholar, to do work so many activists have been doing without pay for a lot longer?”

**K:** *Do you have a call to action or a departing message for us?*

G: “We have to be vigilant and honest about where we come from and where we’re located today. I think oftentimes we come into our studies and research interests with the goal of being social justice oriented, which is great, but in order to do that work, we have to work on ourselves. I mean really work on ourselves—think about our role in racial oppression, our role in gender oppression, our role in all sorts of oppression.”

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**MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Publications**

**NEW BOOKS**


**ARTICLES**

- **Christine E. Bose**, “Regional gender regimes in the global South: An empirical approach” in *Women’s Studies International Forum*.
- **Chandra D.L. Waring**, “*We are Going to be the New White [People]:* Multiracial Americans Envision the Future” in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and “Be Confident,” “Creative,” and “Careful”: Advice from Multiracial Adults” in *Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity (JCSCORE)*.
- **Gina Marie Longo**, “*The Internet as a Social Institution: Rethinking concepts for Family Scholarship*” in *Journal of Family Relations* and “Moral Lines of Credit: Forging Race Projects, Citizenship, and Nation on Online U.S. Spousal Reunification Forums” in *Migration Politics*.
- **Sutton, Barbara** and Nayla Luz Vacarezza, "Introduction: Abortion Rights Strategies in Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico" in *South Atlantic Quarterly* and “Resurgencias feministas en el Cono Sur.” *Conversaciones del Cono Sur* 6 (1).

Jeffrey W., Lockhart, Molly M. King, and Christin L. Munsch, “Name-Based Demographic Inference and the Unequal Distribution of Misrecognition” in Nature Human Behavior.


Spencier R. Ciaralli and Breanne Fahs, "Period Sex for Queer Cis Women and Queer Assigned Female at Birth Individuals: Navigating Gender, Power, and Heteronormativity in Sex During Menstruation" in Women's Reproductive Health.

BOOK CHAPTERS


Celebrations - Congratulations!!!

Manisha Desai was awarded the 2023 University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Leadership Award.

Bandana Purkayastha, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, UConn, was elected as the Vice President for National Associations, International Sociological Association (2023-2027). ISA has individual members from over 125 countries. In addition, 73 national associations, including ASA, are members. She will continue to strengthen collaborations and amplify sociologies from across the world.

Michelle R. Jacobs earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Wayne State University.

Rianka Roy won the Outstanding Graduate Student in Research Award in the Sociology Department and was awarded a 2023 Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Connecticut.

Ophra Leyser-Whalen was awarded Faculty Development Leave for Spring 2024.

Cynthia Deitch has received the Stuart A. Rice Merit Award for Career Achievements from the D.C. Sociological Society (DCSS). Professor Deitch, who is retiring from George Washington University this year, is a distinguished scholar whose accomplishments over the last 30+ years richly deserve this recognition. To underscore one of her most impressive research contributions, the award recognizes her 1993 article in Gender & Society about the inclusion of women in Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This was a very early intersectional article that helped establish the state as a gendered, racialized, and capitalist entity.

SWS extends congratulations to Adia Harvey Wingfield, past SWS President and past SWS Vice President, as the 2024 President-Elect of ASA and Allison J. Pugh, the 2024 Vice President-Elect of ASA! SWS also highlights and congratulates the following SWS members on their new ASA roles! See all of the new members of the ASA leadership team HERE.
Feminist Impact Work
Mindy Fried shares her work, “Tackling an Accumulation of Inequalities” in Contexts Magazine.

Stacy Torres published an Op-Ed in the Los Angeles Times, “I’ve lived into my 40s without ever owning a smartphone. Hopefully I’ll never have to.”

Carole Joffe reflects on the first anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs to overturn Roe v. Wade in her piece, “OB-GYNs could have solidified abortion as health care after Roe. They missed their chance” in STAT.

Roberta Villalón and Beatriz Padilla presented “Transnational Migration and Health Access” with USF Health International.

Özlem Altıok wrote an article discussing the politics of gender and the stakes for democracy to the Sunday’s critical election in Turkey, “The politics of gender in ‘the election of the century’” for Transforming Society.


PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

Resources for Members

★ SWS LISTSERVS: SWS has a number of listservs available for members. You can manage your subscriptions to them in your MemberClicks Profile. To subscribe to the general listserv, send an email to: sws@lists.socwomen.org. If you have questions about your listserv setup, please email Natasha Santana at: nsantana@socwomen.org.

★ CONNECT WITH SWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
  SWS Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SocWomen/
  SWS Twitter: https://twitter.com/socwomen

★ SUBSCRIBE TO THE SWS YOUTUBE CHANNEL!
  Instructions on how to subscribe:
  Subscribe to a YouTube channel
  - Open the YouTube app or go to m.youtube.com.
  - Sign in to YouTube.
  - If you’re on the Home tab 🏡:
    - Below the video whose channel you want to subscribe to, tap the channel icon.
    - Tap Subscribe .
  - If you’re watching a video whose channel you want to subscribe to:
    - Below the video, tap Subscribe .
  How to get notifications:
  When you subscribe to a channel, YouTube will automatically send you notifications about the highlights from that channel. You can opt to get a notification every time the channel publishes content by changing your notification settings.

★ FEMINIST RESOURCE COLLECTIONS FOR COURSE PREP AND BEYOND: Looking for feminist resources for the (re)design of a course? Check out the following:
  - The SWS Applied Sociology website.
  - SWS member crowdsourced list of Global Teaching Resources on COVID-19 and SWS's list of Black Feminist Scholars.
  - The Gender & Society blog’s pedagogy project includes a series of teaching modules created by students from around the world that center topics important to the sociology of gender. Gender & Society authors and board members reviewed and edited these lesson plans to ensure that they will be helpful tools in building your syllabi.
  - Signs has a syllabi resource collection for some commonly taught courses in women’s, gender, and sexuality studies.
The SWS Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has compiled a collection of teaching materials, “Applying the CEDAW Framework to Teaching About Women's Struggles During the Time of COVID-19”.

★ UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA:
★ Misinformation & Marginalization Symposium, October 16, 2023, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Organized and hosted by the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP). This symposium on Misinformation & Marginalization will explore global and comparative frames for mis- and disinformation studies that center marginalized perspectives, investigating how online mis- and disinformation spreads and functions differently within different communities, how it can contribute to further harm in such communities, and asking how critical disinformation studies perspectives like these might transform the field as a whole. This hybrid, one-day symposium will consist of an opening keynote speech by Dr. Sarah Banet-Weiser, and three subsequent themed panels. The first panel will explore gender, sexuality, and misinformation; the second will address misinformation in diasporic communities; and the third will look at global perspectives on algorithmically amplified misinformation as it relates to race and religion. SEE HERE for more information.

SWS Virtual Feminist Engagement Opportunities

WRITING GROUPS SCHEDULE
EVERYDAY
Monday thru Friday
10:30-12:30 ET
12:30-3:30 ET

*See MemberClicks "SWS Writing Groups" for more detailed information and Zoom links

*THANK YOU to Dina Pinsky and Penny Harvey for organizing this initiative and to all of our current writing group hosts (Kate Berheide, Namita Manohar, Stef Shuster, Erika Slaymaker, Jinsun Yang, Dina Pinsky, Crystal Jackson, Emily Mrig, Ruth Hernandez, Lauren Clingan, and Serra Kocak) for tending to these empowering co-writing spaces.

SWS Sexuality Researchers Workshop Group
If you are an SWS member and your research relates to sexuality, please consider joining the SWS Sexuality Researchers Workshop Group. We meet once a month to share our works in progress and give each other feedback. If you are interested in being added to our contact list and receiving a Zoom link, please contact Dina Pinsky pinskyd@arcadia.edu.
Latinx Feminist Antiracist Liberatory Praxis Collective: Learn more about the collective HERE.

The Latin+ Feminist Blog: https://www.latinplusfeministcollective.org/blog

Latinx Feminist Collective Meetings

This is a space where we can share and reflect on our experiences and create collective knowledge about being critically conscious Latinx Feminist Sociologists in the Global North and developing an intersectional, antiracist, transnational, liberatory praxis.

For more information contact Roberta Villalón at latinxfemsoc@gmail.com

More information about all of these opportunities (including Zoom links) and resources can be found on the SWS Member Portal, MemberClicks: https://sws.memberclicks.net/

SWS CHAPTER UPDATES

SWS-South

SWS-South shares a new issue of their Newsletter biannually. Each issue shares news from their members about the many happenings within SWS-South. Including important updates from leadership, news on upcoming meetings and more!

Please click here to download the SWS South Spring 2023 Newsletter.

For more information on SWS-South, please visit: https://socwomen.org/sws-south/

SWS-Midwest

This year, the SWS Midwest chapter enjoyed activities at the 2023 SWS Winter Meeting as well as our regional annual conference for the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS). In New Orleans, SWS Midwest members enjoyed a meet and greet at breakfast, and that evening we enjoyed a fun-filled tour at the Sazerac House – we learned a lot about the history and distilling process, and had some interesting samples along the way! At MSS in Minneapolis, attendance tripled at our annual SWS Midwest open meeting, and members enjoyed dinner afterward. We are excited about the growing chapter, and look forward to continuing to engage new members. SWS Midwest co-facilitated a session at MSS with the Committee for Women in the Profession about institutional change, work, and gender. We are especially excited about the work of Virginia Leach, SWS Graduate Student Representative. Virginia planned a community-partnered panel in Minneapolis – we are looking forward to continuing these sorts of collaborations at MSS again next year. SWS Midwest members will connect again at the SWS summer meeting in Philadelphia and the winter meeting in Santa Ana Pueblo!

Christy Craig, SWS Midwest Chapter President
Sadie Pendaz-Foster, SWS Midwest Chapter Vice President
Virginia Leach, SWS Midwest Graduate Student Representative
SWS Statements and Calls for Action

SWS Statement Against Flordia HB 999 (March 2023)

Gender & Society Achieves Highest Impact Factor Ever for the Journal
Congratulations to Barbara Risman, Gender & Society Editor and to the Gender & Society Editorial Team and Editorial Board! Special thanks to the Reviewers, Readers, and All Supporters! We are proud to share that Gender & Society’s Impact Factor has increased to 5.5, as compared to last year’s 4.314. This is the journal’s highest Impact Factor ever for the Journal! This means that now Gender & Society is ranked 7/149 in the Sociology category and 2/44 in Women’s Studies! This moves the journal up thirteen spots in rank in Sociology and up one rank position in Women’s Studies.

About Gender & Society: Gender & Society is a peer-reviewed journal, focused on the study of gender. It is the official journal of Sociologists for Women in Society and was founded in 1987 as an outlet for feminist social science. It is currently a top-ranked journal in sociology and women’s studies. Gender & Society publishes less than 10% of submitted papers. Articles appearing in Gender & Society analyze gender and gendered processes in interactions, organizations, societies, and global and transnational spaces. The journal primarily publishes empirical, theoretically engaged, and methodologically rigorous articles, including qualitative, quantitative, and comparative-historical methodologies. Gender & Society also publishes reviews of books from a diverse array of social science disciplines. Gender & Society is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

EDITOR: Barbara Risman

INCOMING CO-EDITORS: Patricia Richards, University of Georgia, Sharmila Rudrappa, University of Texas - Austin

ARTICLES IN CURRENT ISSUES:

Volume 37 Issue 2, April 2023

"Multidimensional Gender Ideologies Across Europe: Evidence from 3 Countries" by Katia Begall, Daniela Grunow, and Sandra Buchler

"Israeli Ethno-Religious Differences in Motherhood Penalties on Employment and Earnings" by Michelle J. Budig, Vered Kraus, and Asaf Levanon

"Gender Differences in Job Resources and Strains in Authority Positions" by Dragana Stojmenovska

"I Have Tasted Freedom: An Intersectional Analysis of College-Going Latinas’ Desire for and Meanings of Mobility" by Michelle Gomez Parra and Lorena Garcia

"The Interior of the Movement for Black Lives: "A New Political Generation" by Shaneda Destine

Volume 37 Issue 3, June 2023 - SPECIAL ISSUE: Race, Gender, and Violence
Guest Editors: Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Pallavi Banerjee, and Maria Cecilia Hwang

"Race, Gender, and Violence" by Pallavi Banerjee and Maria Cecilia Hwang

"An Intersectional Analysis of System Avoidance" by Marta Ascherio
"Building the Settler Colonial Order: Police (In)Actions in Response to Violence Against Indigenous Women in “Canada” by Jerry Flores and Andrea Román Alfaro


"Imprisoning Intimacy: The Expanding Sites of Racialized-Gendered Carceral Violence" by Allison E. Monterrosa

NEW! On The Gender & Society Blog

"Why Do Economically Marginalized Latinas Go To College?" by Michelle Gomez Parra and Lorena Garcia

"Police (In)Actions and Violence Against Indigenous Women in “Canada” by Andrea Román Alfaro and Jerry Flores

"Reporting Experiences of Violence to the Police” by Marta Ascherio

"How Do People Come To Claim New Gender Identities?” by Sonny Nordmarken

"How Does Race, Gender, and Sexuality Shape the Murder of Transgender People in the United States?" by Laurel Westbrook

“Gender, Work, & Embodiment” A new teaching module by Sepideh Borzoo and Chetna khandelwal

“Changing Minds: Can Information About Parental Leave Contribute to Changes in Beliefs About the Gendered Division of Parental Leave?” by Marie-Fleur Philipp, Silke Büchau, Pia S. Schober, and C. Katharina Spiess

“Dr. Jane Lankes Nominated for the Kanter Award” for her 2023 G&S article, “Negotiating “Impossible” Ideals: Latent Classes of Intensive Mothering in the United States”

Gender & Society Podcast

Did you know G&S has a podcast?! Check it out and SUBSCRIBE here.

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2023 SUMMER MEETING

Open Committee Meetings and Business Meeting to Take Place on Friday, August 18, 2023
Workshops to Take Place on Saturday, August 19 - Sunday, August 20, 2023
Philadelphia, PA

SWS Co-Presidents: Melanie Heath and Mary Osirim

Please be reminded that SWS Summer Meetings are held in tandem with the ASA Annual Meeting. As per a long-standing agreement between SWS and ASA, SWS Summer Meeting attendees must also be registered for the ASA 2023 Annual Meeting.

We hope you can join us for our in-person meeting in Philadelphia at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown from August 19 - 20, 2023! We are grateful that the American Sociological Association has provided this meeting space for us at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Save the date for our virtual Students’ Research Symposium in October!

In addition to featuring workshops, our Summer Meetings will include presentations from our 2022 SWS Feminist Activist Awardee, Georgiann Davis, and Honorary Feminist Sociologist, Sharon Harley, as well as our Reception and Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening, August 20.

**For the most up-to-date information about the summer meeting and to see a draft program visit: https://socwomen.org/2023-summer-meeting/

Questions??
Please direct questions to Barret Katuna, SWS Executive Officer, at swseo.barretkatuna@outlook.com.
THERE'S STILL TIME TO BECOME A 2023 SUMMER MEETING SPONSOR!

The SWS Meeting Program is a great place to advertise your book, program, or even a congratulatory message. Gain the attention of meeting attendees and our 34,000+ social media followers on Facebook and Twitter!

All sponsorship levels include:
- Logo will be displayed on the Meeting Website and in the Digital Program.
- Blog posts to thank sponsors will also be shared on Social Media where we can include images and links.
- Acknowledgement prior to sponsored programming (if applicable).

Sponsorship Packages:
- Conference Program Sponsor $350
- Workshop/Session Sponsorship $500
- Hospitality Suite Sponsorship $1,000
- Reception Sponsorship [Partial] $2,000

Sponsorships must be processed by August 5, 2023, in order to be featured in our program.

Interested in sponsoring the 2023 Summer Meeting? Please complete this form: https://sws.memberclicks.net/23summersponsor!
SAVE THE DATE!
SWS Winter 2024 Meeting
January 25 – January 28, 2024
Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico

We are contracting with the Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa at Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. SWS is holding its 2024 Winter Meeting on the land of the Pueblo of Santa Ana – Tamaya. The Tamaya Indian Reservation is located in North-Central New Mexico, along the Rio Grande. Tamaya is made up of three villages: Rebahene, Ranchitos and Chicale. More than 800 tribal members call the Pueblo of Tamaya home. Many tribal members are bilingual and proudly speak the Keresan language, the original language of the people of Tamaya. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and are grateful to have the opportunity to gather here and develop relationships with the local community.