

2008 SSSP ANNUAL MEETING EVALUATION

(received 27)

1. What is your status/place in the profession (for example, third year doctoral student, 3 Assistant professors, associate professor, full professor, etc.)

1 – Unanswered
1 – ABD Graduate Student
1 – 3rd Year Masters Student
2 – 4th Year Doctoral Students
1 – Research Coordinator
1 – Assistant Lecturer/Research Scientist
1 – Adjunct Professor
5 – Assistant Professors
6 – Associate Professors
7 – Full Professors
1 – Full Professor and Dean

2. Does your name appear as a participant in the program? Yes: 20 No: 6

3. Did you receive any financial aid to help pay your expenses? Yes: 15 No: 12

Please indicate source:

3 – Research/Grant Funds
1 – Department and SSSP
4 – Department (travel funds stated on forms: \$125, \$200)
1 – Dean's Office
4 – University
1 – Professional Allowance
1 – Registration

4. Do you prefer the business meeting in the morning or afternoon? AM: 11 PM: 8

5. What two events on the program did you consider the most worthwhile?

(A)

3 – Banquet
1 – Division Reception
1 – Film Festival
17 – Individual Sessions:
6 – unnamed Institutional Ethnography Sessions
1 – Institutional Ethnography Session
session 110-Institutional Ethnography: Focus on Methods
4 – Drinking and Drugs Sessions
Session 88-Katrina: Social Justice
Session 101-Substance Abuse and Mental Illness
Session 112-Emerging Trends in Drug and Alcohol Research
Session 129-Drugs, Alcohol, and Youth in Lifecourse Perspective
1 – Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Program Committee Session
Session 3-Outsiders Within Sociologists in the Late 2000's
1 – Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Session
Session 8-Crime Stories: Studies in Social Constructionism
2 – Attendees commented "Many excellent sessions"
1 – Session 110
1 – Session on urban sustainability on Thursday
1 – Reception honoring Past Presidents
1 – Presidential Address

- 1 – Could not pick just two b/c Administrative meetings are so different from sessions
- 1 – Panels

(B)

- 2 – Awards Banquet comments: “Good for seeing folks”

- 1 – Fundraiser

- 8 – Individual Sessions:

- 2 – IE Sessions

Session 67-Social Organization of Knowledge Production Across National, Disciplinary, and Institutional Borders

- 1 – unnamed Global and Institutional Ethnography Session

- 2 – Session 105-Working Together To End Racism

- 1 – Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Session

Session 115-Author Meets Critics: Luis Fernandez, *Policing Dissent*

- 1 – Drinking and Drugs session

- 1 – HIV Session

Session 62-HIV/AIDS: Population Studies

- 1 – Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Session

Session 130-Health, Activism and Social Justice

- 1 – Sessions

- 1 – Filed trip to DSNI

- 1 – Drinking and Drugs Divisional Meeting

- 1 – Presidential Address: commented “should be done in AM”

- 1 – Could not pick just two b/c Administrative meetings are so different from sessions

- 1 – Divisional Business Meetings

6. What two events on the program did you consider the least worthwhile?

(A)

- 1 – The Council of Division Chairs & Program Chair Meeting comments: “Friday was overly bureaucratic and long”

- 1 – Organizing the program for next year. Comments: “This is done in a complicated and time consuming manner.

- 1 – Could not pick just two b/c Administrative meetings are so different from sessions

- 1 – Two Sessions. Comments: “prefer not to move they were mixed”

- 1 – Back Bay Walking tour (The 4 people registered didn’t show up)

(B)

- 1 – Business Meeting and Resolutions Division

7. Have you previously attended a SSSP Annual Meeting? Yes: 24 No: 1

(A) Date of last meeting attended

- 1 – 2008

- 17 – 2007

- 2 – 2006

- 1 – 2005

- 1 – 2004

8. Book Exhibit:

Did you place an order or buy a book? Yes: 8 No: 16

Did you enjoy the book exhibit? Yes: 18 No: 4

Did you see a book in your area? Yes: 16 No: 6

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Comments: Insufficient, Bigger and Textbook publishers are useful, More variety, More, Larger selection if possible, Expand offerings even more, and More books

9. Please score the following on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest). Please also answer the questions and provide your own comments.

Host city: How was the host city?

Response Average: 9.2 10-11 9.5-1 9-3 8-5 7-1 NA-1 Great-1 Yes-1

Comments: Boston is great but always under construction. Wonderful place to visit and learn. Great. Never made it out of conference hotel (because of illness, not the city). I'm a Bostonian.

Hotel: How were the accommodations and meeting space?

Response Average: 8.4 10-5 9.5-1 9-2 8.5-1 8-8 7.5-1 7-2 4-1 NA-1 Fine-1

Comments: Free Wi-Fi would be great. Hard to stay anywhere other than Park Plaza b/c they couldn't guarantee two beds. Rooms had awkward layouts and could not see presenters, hotel was overpriced, room was out-dated and small, lacking in amenities, internet should be included in cost for a conference. Rooms are very cold and uneven in terms of space. Needed to share a hotel room and didn't have someone to share with. Fine. Couldn't get convention rate in hotel as early as April.

Registration: How can registration be improved?

Response Average: 9.6 10-14 9-4 8-2

Comments: It is great. No problem. Perfect. Fine. Very efficient. No problems. Not enough staff at one point. Very good process. Very busy at times.

Program clarity and design: How can the program be improved?

Response Average: 8.8 10-11 9-2 8-2 7-2 5-2

Comments: Put the date and hours with each session number. Found it hard to separate out IE sessions. Less people required in one session. Session block time on every page. The IE session times overlap too frequently. Fine. It's complicated but not sure how to improve it. Having hotel map on back is helpful. List date on each page of program. It's so complex, it'd be hard to say how it could be improved. Would like abstracts (? Online). Would like times on each page (header). Table of contents include Division meetings – when/where p#.

Awards banquet: How can the banquet be improved?

Response Average: 8.6 10-4 9-1 8-2 7.5-1 7-1 6-1 NA-3

Comments: Not Sure. Didn't attend too expensive. Did not attend. Need to distribute summary of awards criteria and winners. Needs to be less expensive. Too much distance from the front to the back of the ballroom. Make sure everyone gets coffee. It's good having it in the hotel so it is easy to get to. More. Found the awards ceremony dragged on a bit.

10. Do you consider your work to be primarily within the discipline of sociology?

Yes:1 No:6 If no, what area? Social Interaction, Social Work, My degree is in sociology but my work cuts across a number of disciplines using history, business/law and art, criminology/justice studies, Anthropology, Institutional Ethnography, Adult education. Nursing.

11. Are you a registered attendee of the American Sociological Association Meeting?

Yes:12 No: 13

12. Are you planning to attend sessions at the American Sociological Association Meeting?

Yes:11 No: 14

13. Would you like to see SSSP meet jointly with some other organization than the American Sociological Association? (For example, Rural Sociological Society; Society for Applied Sociology; Association of Black Sociologists; or the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.)

Yes: 6 No:14 Either Way:1 Open:1

If no, comments: Nice to have a more intimate and interactive conference. ABS and SWS is at same time of SSSP and ASA.

If yes, what organization: 2-Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, ASA, AP, RSS and ABS, Society for the Study of Anthropology, SPSSI or PSA(Pacific Sociologists)

14. How important is it to have the SSSP meeting in the same city as the American Sociological Association Meeting with two days of overlap?

1-8	2	3-5	4-1	5-4	6-5
Not important		Somewhat Important			Very Important

Comments: Not important to me but very important for those who wish to participate in both as a meeting. At a meeting around 1996 I heard a comment "I'm presenting my experimental paper at SSSP and my theoretical at ASA." Due to travel cost among other things of the SSSP meeting. Having a day or two separate from ASA and a day or two overlapping is helpful. Crucial, some faculty get funding only for one or two meetings annually and SSSP & ASA can count as one. Prefer one day of overlap. Always stay very close to ASA meetings. Many of us go back and forth. Why not the same Hotel? What is wrong with this like I see Religion and Society with SSSP.

15. Please make any comments that would help us in planning future meetings.

Great job as always Michele!

We should avoid overlapping with ASA. This hurts our attendance. This year's hotel was not of the best quality. Could we get the hotel closer to the ASA? Still enjoy the mixing of sections with graduate students, professors and researchers. One suggestion may be to have less simultaneous sections to increase attendance.

I am concerned that the theme for next year's meeting is about the color line in the US. Since SSSP has an international membership, I sincerely hope that this will be expanded to incorporate raw relevancy in other countries.

More chairs near book exhibit. My husband has a booth and when I visit him between sessions I often have to stand. Other conference attendees tend to sit in it while looking through a book.

I would have like a transportation registry where people driving to the conference could indicate that they have a spare seat in their car. I am a 6-8 hour drive away in Eastern Canada and have to fly through Nova

Scotia and Ontario to and from the conference. It would be more ecological to have driven to Maine and to share expenses. If our entire ecological footprint for the conference were considered, this and a range of issues could be taken up, including the use of plastic drinking cups and other things.

Huge thanks to Michele Koontz and staff.

Make the meetings more international and inviting for international participants.

My two major comments concern the lack of international organization with international membership. I saw this problem in resolutions put forward by divisions at the business meeting and in the program theme for next year. Please internationalize these.

It's actually more important to me that both SSSP and SSSI overlap each other than to ASA.

Please expand focus of next year's theme to international colour lines.

I think it would be nice to have a way to network and meet with potential employers/candidates.

Please broaden content and reflect new Canadian and British membership. Poster Sessions. Informal Discussions. Great job this year worked very well.

I'm not sure if this is relevant for the conference block in the meet hotel, since I had to wait until after the block was filled to reserve a room, but even if I'd gotten the conference rate I'd be annoyed: the room was about 12 x 12, no tub, mostly filled with a bed, old fixtures, poor lighting, 1 dead phone. \$229/night, btw. Room service was exorbitant and crucially for me, the business center was an overpriced disaster: nothing worked. Positives? Hotel staff all very nice, friendly and helpful (or as helpful as they could be).

Try to keep hotel costs low.

I am puzzled and somewhat troubled by the underlying values and assumptions and dominance of the USA perspective that is built into the program theme for the 2009 conference. "The colour line" is not constructed/experienced within the Canadian organization (in the same way it is described in the program). Furthermore, the "schemata" of discussing "race" contributes to an assumption that race is something that exists (as a biological reality). In Canada the language of "race" is beginning to be deconstructed and most critical writing produces a reference to "race" rather than race – and is often accompanied by a foot not that disrupts ideas of "race – (although racism continues to be a troubling phenomenon).