

**SSSP Graduate Student Meeting
New York City
August 9, 2013, 8:30-10:10am**

Attendance: 7 graduate students, plus the Board of Directors Student Representatives, Sarah Hendricks (2012-2014) and Margaret Smith.(2013-2015).

Discussion primarily revolved around the following questions:

1. Why are you here at the SSSP conference today?

Most were invited by faculty. Some were informed that this was a friendlier and more supportive place for presenting research, compared to ASA. Some mentioned that it is convenient that SSSP meeting overlaps with ASA and other groups, enabling a cost-effective way of getting to participate in multiple societies.

2. What are challenges in participating in SSSP?

The main challenge discussed was cost. Some didn't know about the SSSP travel funds for students and un/underemployed sociologists, and one in attendance was denied funding because something occurred during the application process and documents failed to upload properly. Furthermore, the cost of rooms is an expense that often exceeds the cost of transportation of getting to the meeting. Being able to share a room, and being able to reserve a triple or quad room was helpful, since these were less expensive when the cost was split among multiple members.

In getting here, some students carpooled with others from their department, one took a two-day train ride, some left at 2am in order to save on lodging costs and arrive in time for a full day on Friday.

Some also wondered about how SSSP could be better publicized, and also in what ways undergraduates could be encouraged to participate in SSSP.

3. How can a society like SSSP help you toward your professional aspirations?

We discussed methods of getting more involved, including through participating in divisional meetings, offering to assist with divisional business, volunteering to serve on committees of the society, and enrolling in the meeting mentor program. There was a bit of discussion about the functioning of the committees, what they do, and what would be expected. A few committees were discussed in depth.

We also mentioned the journal, *Social Problems*, and inquired whether participating in the editorial process is one element that any of the students were interested in. One student in particular voiced strong interest, and a discussion ensued regarding what that would entail: meetings via skype twice a week, perhaps two papers to read each month, and that is was a significant time commitment but that also would be very good for scholarly development. Interested students should contact the editor, Becky Petit, directly (as she has offered). We also encouraged students who may be interested in participating in the peer review process to contact the editor to let her know. As the search for the new editor(s) comes to a close, we would also like to start a conversation at this point about the possibility of how graduate student members of the society can participate in the process.

A third, brief, discussion was regarding the graduate student listserv. To be more effective, we should take it off an announcement-only and allow others to post. This would facilitate using it for last-minute roommate inquiries, and for sharing information regarding job opportunities for students within and outside of academia.

Follow-up plans include:

- Taking the listserv off announcement-only in order to allow decentralized participation
- Better publicity about the travel support funds in the form of more announcements across the listserv
- Inquiries in order to identify and help with the sharing of rooms and carpooling in order to better reach the students who may not be as well connected or accompanied with others from their departments. As we get a better sense of the needs of the students, we will also be able to communicate these with the larger society, as some of the concerns (ie, cost savings) may be shared by members who are not students.
- These minutes will also be shared with students across the listserv.
- Next year, the graduate student representatives will work to have more communication with other students serving the society in various capacities (membership and outreach committee, information technology options committee, etc), to be able to share from multiple perspectives the experience of actively participating in SSSP.