



The Society for the Study of Social Problems
Publishers of the Journal *Social Problems*

901 McClung Tower University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN 37996-0490
Phone: 865-689-1531 Fax: 865-689-1534 E-mail: sssp@utk.edu
www.sssp1.org

OFFICERS (2015-2016)

David A. Smith, Ph.D.
University of California, Irvine
President

Donileen R. Loseke, Ph.D.
University of South Florida
President-Elect

Marlese Durr, Ph.D.
Wright State University
Past-President

Ronnie J. Steinberg, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University
Vice President

Valerie Leiter, Ph.D.
Simmons College
Vice President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Ph.D.
Miami University
Secretary

Patrick Donnelly, Ph.D.
University of Dayton
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Dale, Ph.D. (2016)
George Mason University

Heather M. Dalmage, Ph.D. (2016)
Roosevelt University

Cheryl A. Boudreaux, Ph.D. (2017)
Grand Valley State University

Keith M. Kilty, Ph.D. (2017)
The Ohio State University

Louis Edgar Esparza, Ph.D. (2018)
California State University, Los Angeles

Saher Selod, Ph.D. (2018)
Simmons College

Elroi J. Windsor, Ph.D. (2018)
Salem College

Kathryn M. Nowotny, Student (2016)
University of Colorado, Boulder

Kasey Henricks, Student (2017)
American Bar Foundation &
Loyola University Chicago

Bhoomi K. Thakore, Ph.D. (2018)
Northwestern University
Ex-Officio, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Ph.D. (2018)
University of Houston
Editor of Social Problems

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
University of La Verne

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Michele Smith Koontz
University of Tennessee
Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

Sharon Shumaker
University of Tennessee
Information Technology Specialist

Marisa Stone
University of Tennessee
Administrative Assistant

Douglas Oeser
University of Tennessee
Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster

December 28, 2015

Dr. Nazli Kibria, Chair
Department of Sociology
Boston University
100 Cummington Mall, Suite 260
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Kibria:

Several years ago the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) wrote a letter on behalf of Dr. Frances Fox Piven, a respected scholar and social justice activist, who was being attacked by right-wing critics for her views on poverty. The attacks escalated to threats on her life. Dr. Piven was not the first to be attacked in this way and since then other scholars have had to endure and respond to these types of attacks. Some of these attacks have targeted scholars of color, LGBT scholars, women, and scholars with marginalized identities in particular. Among these more recent cases were attacks against Dr. Saida Grundy and Dr. Zandria Robinson, whose views on how we socially construct black and brown men as violent and dangerous prompted attacks by ultra-conservative individuals and groups that included calls for their termination; a break-in into Dr. Grundy's office by the National Youth Front, a white supremacist organization; and threats to their academic freedom and freedom of speech.

In the fall of 2015, the SSSP membership passed a resolution denouncing these attacks. The academic enterprise is rooted in the freedom of scholars to ask questions, including controversial and unsettling questions, that are essential to our understanding of the world and society in which we live. This requires civil conversations and eschews any attempt to silence others. In a society that grows increasingly diverse, the space for these types of conversations must be expanded, not constricted, and in that endeavor and in the pursuit of social justice, the SSSP stands in solidarity with Dr. Grundy and Dr. Robinson and others who are committed to academic freedom, freedom of speech, and research for the betterment of society and the world.

Most sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer

Cc: Dr. Saida Grundy, Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies