

July 22, 2018

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: A. Javier Treviño, Chair

SSSP 2018 Annual Meeting Program Committee

RE: SSSP Program Committee Report 2018

Theme: Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems

It was a pleasure to serve as this year's Program Chair at the invitation of President Luis A. Fernandez. As stated in his program statement, the theme of the 2018 conference—Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems—invited “participants to help us develop ways to abolish social problems entirely, to think through what is required to eliminate systems of subjugation, and to document the current struggles that are already leading the way in these efforts.”

Though I had previously served as SSSP Program Chair in 2009, since then much of the process involved in organizing the annual meetings has changed considerably. This was truly a new learning experience for me and any success I may have had in discharging my responsibilities was almost wholly due to the efforts of Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager, Michele Koontz. I will always be grateful to Michele for her guidance, professionalism, diligence, patience, and friendship. Working largely “behind the scenes,” but no less important in making the annual meetings possible, were Héctor Delgado, Executive Officer; Rachel Cogburn, IT Specialist; Marisa Stone, Administrative Assistant, and Caitlin Mize, Graduate Research Associate and Webmaster. They deserve much of the credit for the success of this year's conference. I am also thankful to the members of the Program Committee: Michelle A. Harris, University at Albany (SUNY), Meghan G. McDowell, Winston Salem State University, and Ana Muñiz, University of California, Irvine.

The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Adriana Leela Bohm (Delaware County Community College), was exceptionally helpful. I am grateful to last year's Program Committee Chair, Amir Marvasti (Penn State Altoona) and Sara L. Crawley, Co-Chair (University of South Florida) for their encouragement and for sharing their expertise with us at a lunch meeting in Montreal. Lastly, I thank Bhoomi K. Thakore (Chairperson, Council of the Divisions) and the chairpersons of the various divisions for sponsoring thematic sessions and offering their own exciting and insightful sessions in line with this year's program theme.

Michele kindly provided the necessary information for this year's SSSP program. Based on the Online Session Management System, there were originally 780 papers submitted on January 31, 2018. As of July 22, 2018, there were a total of 676 papers submitted using the online submission process and 34 papers added by session organizers for a total of 710 conference papers. At this point, there are 903 registrants for this year's conference. A total of 45 program participants were removed from the program for failing to register despite multiple reminders. There are 155 total sessions this year. Twenty-one sessions were cancelled. In total, there are 2 plenary sessions, 29 thematic sessions, and 5 special sessions. There were 69 sessions that were co-sponsored.

The program included a new session, “Networking Event: Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Publishing,” organized by A. Javier Treviño (Wheaton College) and Sarah A. St. John (University of California, Los

Angeles). Other notable offerings included, “New Research or Theoretical Agendas by Advanced Undergraduates,” organized by Chris Wellin (Illinois State University), “The Academic Job Market,” organized by Héctor L. Delgado (University of La Verne), and “Surviving the Academy as a Marginalized Academic,” organized by Britany J. Gatewood and Anthony Jackson (both of Howard University). In addition, President Fernandez organized two sessions: “Presidential Perspectives on Current Issues in our Field,” and “White Supremacy, the AltRight, and Academia.”

The Program Committee sponsored two author-meets-critics sessions, both organized by A. Javier Treviño: “*Decolonizing Dialectics*,” by George Cicciariello-Maher and “*Deep Inequality: Understanding the New Normal and How to Challenge It*” by Earl Wysong and Robert Perrucci. We also arranged two film screenings, of “The Pushouts: A Film on the Crisis in Education for Marginalized Students of Color” with discussants Katie Galloway (Big Pictures) and Victor Rios (University of California, Santa Barbara) and of “Voices of Baltimore: Life Under Segregation,” organized by Omari Jackson (Morgan State University), Saher Selod (Simmons College), A. Fiona Pearson (Central Connecticut State University) and Ranita Ray (University of Nevada). Two one-day workshops, both sold out, were offered this year: on Community-Based Participatory Action Research and on Writing and Publishing.

In closing, I would like to bring 7 topics to the Board of Directors for your consideration.

**1. Author-Meets-Critics Policy recommendation:** At the August 10, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, the Board invited the Program Committee Chair and Co-Chair to submit a report on challenges and best practices regarding the selection of author-meets-critics selected by future Program Committees. Attached is a report written by 2017 Program Chair Amir B. Marvasti. Amir recommended that the 2018 Program Committee consider adopting a policy similar to that of ASA. I have reviewed and wholly agree with Amir’s proposed policy. I respectfully request that the Board discuss this policy and vote on it.

**2. Policy on video conferencing requests:** This year, like last year, we had a request for an online presentation via video conferencing from presenters who could not travel to the meeting site. This involved presenting a paper co-authored by colleagues incarcerated at a state prison in Philadelphia. SSSP does not have a policy regarding virtual presentations. In his SSSP Program Committee Report 2017, Amir proposed the following possible topics that need to be considered in this context:

- 1) whether or not virtual presentations are permitted; 2) how virtual presentations should appear on the program (if at all); 3) who is responsible for covering the basic costs of providing the high-speed connection and other computer equipment; and 4) is the virtual presenter required to be a current member and register for the conference.

I respectfully request that, based on these considerations, the Board discuss instituting a policy and vote on it.

**3. Policy on submitting previously published papers:** We had a request about submitting a previously published paper for the SSSP Labor Studies division Student Paper Competition. According to the Labor Studies SPC guidelines, this paper could be considered. The Labor Studies’ guidelines state:

As in the past, we are soliciting graduate student papers that build on the legacy of the late Harry Braverman. Papers co-authored with faculty members will not be accepted. Single

authored papers by graduate students and papers co-authored by graduate students are welcome.

Currently, there are no guidelines on whether previously published papers can be presented at SSSP. Divisions may have different policies on this. I respectfully request that the Board of Directors vote on whether to allow the submission of published papers at future meetings. My sense is that all divisions would have to honor this policy.

For your information, ASA's policy is the following:

Original Contribution. Papers must reflect original work or major developments in previously reported work. Papers are NOT eligible if they have been: Presented previously at ASA or other professional meetings. Published prior to the meeting or accepted for publication before being submitted to organizers for consideration. Modified in only secondary respects after presentation or publication.

**4. Policy on double submitting of papers:** Though it may be common practice for scholars to present a similar paper at more than one professional meeting, SSSP does not have a policy concerning this. I was contacted by someone who asked if it was permissible for him to present a paper at SSSP similar to the one he was presenting at ASA. I gave him an impromptu response: as long as the SSSP paper presented was "50% or more" different from the one he was presenting at ASA, it would be acceptable. I request that the Board develop a policy for future program chairs.

**5. Organizing special events:** This year we offered a "Networking Event: Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Publishing." There was a sign-up sheet for those that planned to attend; this made it difficult for Michele to identify a day/time that works for everyone. If this or similar events are considered for future meetings, I recommend that there be no sign-up form for those wanting to attend.

**6. Excursions/Tours:** We had a request for SSSP to arrange a tour of a state prison, located about an hour from Philadelphia, and attend a workshop to be led by the men who are incarcerated. The purpose was to coordinate interaction between SSSP attendees and the inmates and "facilitate discussions on abolition of prisons, power, privilege, and other social problems intersecting incarceration." Tours near the meeting site are organized by the Local Arrangements Committee. Question for the Board: Should there be a plan in place for proposals for workshops and tours that take place at a considerable distance from the meeting site?

**7. Exemptions from paying registration fees:** This year we received several requests for exemptions from paying registration fees. 35 of these requests were granted and funded. Exceptions were made at the discretion of the Program Chair as set forth in the following guidelines:

(A) Non-students who are unemployed and/or receiving monthly financial assistance to meet living expenses may request a waiver of registration fees to participate in the program. (B) Individuals from community, labor, and comparable organizations working on social problems or social justice issues who have been invited to serve on a panel or to make a presentation. (C) *Non-U.S. and non-Canadian scholars who are from less advantaged countries.* (D) Co-authors of papers who will not be attending the meeting. One of the co-authors must be a paid registrant. Both co-authors must pay if both expect to attend the meeting. (E) Persons excused by direct request of the Program Chair. (my italics).

Scholars may also apply to the Lee Scholar Support Fund for financial assistance. The general purpose of the Fund is,

to help globalize cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in applying social scientific findings to confront social problems and create social change. Consistent with past practice, preference may be given to applicants *from economically disadvantaged countries* who without these funds would be unable to attend the SSSP Annual Meeting. (my italics)

Requests for exceptions were made by several scholars from “economically disadvantaged countries” (e.g., India) but who are currently studying and teaching at U.S. universities (e.g., Virginia Commonwealth University). The question for the Board to consider and decide on is: Should scholars from economically disadvantaged countries *but who are currently at Canadian or U.S. institutions* be exempted from paying registration fees?

January 7, 2018

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Amir Marvasti, Chair

SSSP 2017 Annual Meeting Program Committee

RE: SSSP 2017 Program Committee Report on Author-Meets-Critics Sessions

At its annual meetings, SSSP offers “author-meet-critics” sessions where new and important books are discussed. In the course of organizing such sessions, the 2017 Program Committee encountered some challenges, particularly concerning the following questions:

- Are self-nominations permitted?
- Could the author(s) recommend their own critics for the session?
- How many author-meets-critics sessions can be offered by the Program Committee?
- Is there a cut-off publication date for books presented in such sessions?

It is recommended that the 2018 Program Committee consider adopting an explicit policy to proactively address these questions, perhaps one modeled after the American Sociological Association’s policy copied below.

“Author Meets Critic Sessions are designed to bring authors of recent books deemed to be important contributions to the discipline together with discussants chosen to provide different viewpoints. Books published during 2016-2018 are eligible for nomination. Only ASA members may submit nominations; self-nominations are not accepted.

**Author Meets Critics** Session proposals must include:

- Title of Book (include publisher and publication date)
- Brief statement about the book’s importance to the discipline of sociology
- Session Organizer(s)
- A list of potential critics”

Source: <http://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2019/call-invited-session-proposals>, retrieved January 3, 2018).