

SSSP Graduate Student Meeting Agenda

New York City, NYC

August 19, 2019

2:30 pm–4:10 pm in Grand Ballroom

Submitted by Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Directors, Apoorva Ghosh (standing), and Melissa Maxey (incoming)

Attendance

We announced the meeting through email to SSSP graduate student members. Nineteen (19) students were in attendance (compared to 6 in 2018, 7 in 2017, 19 in 2016, and 8 in 2015).

Topics Discussed

In the meeting, we discussed the mission of SSSP and the student representatives discussed why they first attended SSSP and why they chose to become involved with the organization. We provided information about participation in SSSP for the graduate students for professional development and to get involved in the organization. We made students aware of various ways of getting involved at SSSP. These included attending Divisional meetings, SSSP business meeting, volunteering for committees, and organizing sessions for the divisions. We encouraged them to walk up to the division chairs and Vice-President Elect to introduce themselves and volunteer for services that are available. We also asked them to pay attention to SSSP's listserv emails to know about various opportunities, like the Meeting Mentorship Program, the Lee Student Support Fund, Beth Hess Memorial Scholarship, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship, and the student paper competitions/awards. Prior to the meeting, students were informed by email about various events at the conference that they might be interested in attending such as the Welcoming Reception, the Graduate Student Happy Hour, and the New Member Breakfast. In the meeting, students were also informed about a session on Saturday at 8:30 am on how to get the most out of the SSSP meeting and on navigating the conference and networking.

Graduate Student Feedback

We received several ideas for workshops for next year's graduate student meeting. One was on learning techniques for time management and making timeline for completing priorities. Another was broadly on postdocs and more specifically learning project management techniques for working in collaborative projects as postdocs. We also received interest in organizing a workshop for non-traditional students focusing on how to effectively forge relationships in the department and to find a place to use their skills and experience effectively. Finally, students

were also interested in learning about the job market, including more information for non-academic or non-faculty job searches.

Graduate Student Workshop

This year's graduate student workshop was offered after student interactions during the graduate student meeting. The workshop was titled, "Navigating Power Relations, Hierarchy, and Anxieties as Graduate Students." It was led by Luis Fernandez, Claire Renzetti, and Dave Smith. The workshop leaders offered several tips for students, especially women and persons of color, to deal with complex situations in their academic departments that involved power dynamics with influential people and advisors during the course of graduate study. We also discussed some individual cases of harassment and what recourses could have been taken in response to them.

Happy Hour

The happy hour was scheduled on Friday August 9, 7:45- 8:45. Approximately 58 students attended. The bar was open to students for complementary wine, beer, or non-alcoholic beverages for the given 1-hr time slot. We thank the generous support of SSSP for the happy hour.