

**Report of the student group meeting by the student representatives to the board of directors – Apoorva Ghosh (Outgoing Rep), Melissa Maxey (Current Rep), and Lydia Hou (Incoming Rep). July 23, 2020**

We held a meeting for the SSSP student members from last year and this year. Nine students attended, including the three student representatives to the SSSP Board of Directors.

After discussing the SSSP mission and ways to get involved, we (the student representatives to the board) reminded the attendees of the importance to renew membership in SSSP and asked them to encourage their colleagues to do so as well.

We then turned to overall feedback and brainstorming for the graduate student workshop for next year's meeting:

- Student Feedback:
  - We asked, “How else can SSSP support graduate student professionalization both within and outside of academia?”
    - A theme of our conversation included the many challenges facing graduate students now in the time of COVID. Attendees expressed a desire to engage with SSSP on an ongoing basis to encourage the organization to seek ways to help graduate students navigate academia and the world of sociology as we carry forward in a widely changing environment.
- Workshop topic suggestions:
  - Non-Traditional Student Issues, which was requested in 2019 for 2020 meeting and set aside when meeting cancelled. This idea is still desired with the following additions:
    - Managing Family and Professional Responsibilities
      - There was wide support for this topic for a workshop among attendees including a desire to learn about how to navigate having familial responsibilities and/or full-time work responsibilities while being a graduate student.
    - Navigating Academia as a Graduate Student in the Time of COVID-19
      - Attendees expressed a desire for workshop(s) that would provide information on how to navigate the new terrain of academia in a virtual environment. This might include strategies from a social media or digital media consultant, ideas for how to use/leverage different forms of data such as digital data when our research is stalled or no longer possible due to lack of in-person possibilities for data collection.
    - While there was support for both research topics above, it was also discussed that if only one workshop is possible that these could also somehow be combined in that issues of family and professional responsibilities are all different now in the time of COVID than in prior times.