2022 SSSP Student Report

August 1, 2022

Lydia Hou (Outgoing Representative)

Shaonta' Allen (Current Representative)

Shiv Issar (Incoming Representative)

Old Business:

- Transition Meeting: Outgoing Representative, Lydia Hou, and Current Representative, Shaonta' Allen, met immediately following the August 2, 2021 student meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities.
- Student Member Meeting:
  - Current Student Representative Shaonta' Allen, chaired the 2022 student member meeting on April 20, 2022. Five student member attended including the Incoming Representative, Shiv Issar. During the meeting we discussed the primary benefits of student membership in SSSP as well as opened the floor for attendees to provide feedback/suggestions (see meeting minutes).

New Business:

- Based on the feedback/suggestions provide during the student meeting; the following action items were identified:
  - *Mentoring Program*: Share mentoring program feedback with committee
  - *Productivity Support*: Determine if there is interest in establishing writing/reading/thinking groups and, if so, begin to establish those
  - *Resource/Networking Platform*: Student members revealed some interest in establishing a networking space (e.g. GroupMe; Slack; etc.).
  - *Student Conference Sessions/Workshops:* Student meeting attendees suggested the type of conference sessions and workshops they would like to see so the Current and Incoming Representatives will work together to determine which ones would be feasible for the 2023 annual meeting.
- Newsletter: During the 7/27/22 E-Board meeting, the possibility of establishing a student newsletter was discussed. We will begin to draft what this might look like and what type of sections/segments the student members might appreciate.
- Transition Meeting: A transition meeting is currently being scheduled between the Current Representative, Shaonta' Allen, and Incoming Representative, Shiv Issar, to be held soon after the annual meeting.

Date: 4/20/2022

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Shaonta' Allen, Korey Tillman, Shiv Issar, Shan Siddiqui, Em Ahrend, Ellie

Notes:

- Welcome & Introductions
- How to Get Involved- Shay explained to attendees the various ways they can take maximize their membership in SSSP
    - Mentorship Program
    - Division Meetings
    - Business Meetings
    - Scholarships
    - Paper Awards
    - Conference Events
- Open Floor- Shay allowed attendees to provide feedback about their experience thus far and suggestions for programmatic efforts they would like to see
    - Mentorship Program:
        - One attendee reported that they signed up for program but it seemed like the mentor was very busy; student invited mentor several times to attend zoom meetings of practices talks and to offer feedback on their work but received no response
            - *How can we incentivize faculty who are less busy to take on these roles? Or to make sure that those who sign up take the role seriously?*
            - Mentors should be reminded that their impact on graduate student success (via their commitment to the mentoring program) is huge (from the perception of the student)
                - Many students are receiving little to no support in their home depts
            - Ultimately this student had to reach out to their assigned mentor from other soc orgs because their SSSP mentor was too busy
        - *We might need to create some type of feedback process—from both mentees and mentors— to assess whether or not there had been any contact between the two; if so, how frequent?; what kind of feedback/guidance had the student received?; etc.*
        - Another student had 0 contact from their SSSP mentor. They did not reach out to the mentor because the initial email says that the "mentor would

contact the student." They only ended up hearing from the mentor later when the mentor reached out regarding a request for a completely separate ASA related request.

- A third student said "they felt like they were mentoring the mentor" when reflecting on how much work they had to do in reaching out to their assigned mentor and scheduling meetings.
- Another student suggested that we might consider peer mentoring instead, matching student members into pairs and/or small groups based on research interests
- Another student encouraged the Mentoring committee to maybe establish some guidelines regarding how a mentoring pair would move throughout the graduate student journey—so that there can be some expectations in place and a protocol for what to do if these expectations are not met.
- Ultimately, the students felt disappointed by this neglect from their assigned mentors.

- o Collaboration across Soc Orgs
    - Attendees suggested that they would like to see collaboration between SSSP student reps and student reps from other soc orgs like ABS and ASA (asa sections)
    - They also suggested that we might consider establishing a slack channel for grad students in and beyond SSSP

- o International Student Member Concerns
    - We should consider our international membership (e.g. time zones) when planning events
    - International student experience- feeling erased in the structural aspects of the org regarding awards; divisions; how can we celebrate non-US soc better (theoretically, methodologically, etc. as international scholarship is more transdisciplinary)
    - *Do we have a member on the Executive Board who serves as an liaison for our international membership?*

- o Future Workshop/Conference Panel Ideas (sessions that would cater to the student membership)
    - How to best engage with classes/coursework- handling all of the reading; how to use course work in such a way that will set you up for long-term success both in and beyond academia
    - Publishing- Having scholars discuss their approaches to writing up qual papers (e.g. have Jessica Calarco talk through her public template); Have quant scholars discuss standard approaches to writing a quant paper; Have the Soc Problems editors talk about the peer review process and what makes a compelling manuscript

- How to navigate a conference/soc conference season in August
- How to prep for the job market- with specific advice for different types of jobs (e.g. post docs, VAPs, TT- research focus, TT- teaching focus, alt-ac)- we need to disaggregate job market prep because it too often continues to center R1 TT jobs
- How to work on professionalization
- Public Sociology- maybe a SSSP blog; what types of public soc are members engaging in; Possibly an op-ed training, just for student members, if there was enough interest

- Reference/Resource Page
  - Attendees were interested in establishing some kind of resource page that would highlight non-academic (and academic-adjacent) job options as one attendee stated "SSSP's vision can certainly be served through institutions other than universities"
  - This could be similar to the lost of opportunities ASA's SPPS section shares

- Writing groups/sessions\
  - Attendees expressed interest in community work sessions
  - These would be held a couple of times a semester
  - They also would love for faculty to show up as well