

To: SSSP Board of Directors

Cc: Elroi Windsor and Michele Koontz

**From: Pattie Thomas, PhD,
Chair of the Transnational Initiatives Committee**

Date: July 18, 2025

Re: Report from the Transnational Initiatives Committee (TIC)

Membership of TIC

The following members comprised this year's Transnational Initiatives Committee (TIC) as of July 18, 2025:

- **Pattie Thomas, Chair (2024-2025)** College of Southern Nevada
- **Jamella N. Gow, Chair-Elect (2024-2025)** Bowdoin College
- **Debadatta Chakraborty (2023-2026)** University of Massachusetts Amherst
- ***Francisco Longa (2023-2026)** Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento
- **Leping Wang (2024-2025)** Boston University
- ***Angus A. Nurse (2024-2027)** Anglia Ruskin University and Nottingham Trent University
- ***Agata Pacho (2025-2027)** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- **Elroi J. Windsor, Voting, Ex-Officio, Executive Officer (2024-2025)** University of West Georgia

*** Denotes non-U.S.-based members**

According to the TIC's by-laws, the TIC will need a new Chair-Elect for 2025-2026, and replacements for members who will step down. We are also recommending the replacement of one absent member (see action item below). These new TIC members shall be nominated by the President-Elect in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors.

The 2025-26 Transnational Initiatives Committee shall consist of the following members:

The following members comprise next year's Transnational Initiatives Committee (TIC) with the above appointments TBD:

- **Jamella N. Gow, Chair (2025-2026)** Bowdoin College

- ***Angus A. Nurse, Chair-Elect (2025-26)** Anglia Ruskin University and Nottingham Trent University
- ***Francisco Longa (2023-2026)** Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento
- **Debadatta Chakraborty (2023-2026 student)** University of Massachusetts Amherst
- ***Agata Pacheco (2025-2027)** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- ***Sanjay Tewari (2025-2028)** Indian Sociological Society
- **TBD (2025-2028)**
- **Elroi J. Windsor, Voting, Ex-Officio, Executive Officer (2025-2026)** University of West Georgia

*** Denotes non-U.S.-based members**

Annual Meeting of the Transnational Initiatives Committee

The TIC held its official Annual Meeting on Friday, July 18th, before the SSSP Annual Meeting, as requested by the Board of Directors. Throughout the year, we met twice online because our members lived or worked in distant time zones. We also discussed decisions via email.

Goals achieved by TIC in 2024-25

This committee was leaderless until December 2024, when a replacement chair was appointed. This impacted the committee's goals and activities. Most of the committee's efforts this year focused on organizing sessions for the 2025 Annual Meeting and on providing financial support to members from the Global South to enable their attendance at the event. The committee accomplished three goals this year:

Goal 1). Provide financial support for qualifying participants at the 2025 Annual Meeting

TIC funding is available to partially cover travel expenses for scholars from the Global South, as well as economically disadvantaged countries and nation-states, and politically, economically, and culturally subjugated regions within all countries. As per last year's committee recommendations, the definition of qualifying countries was based on the [American Sociological Association's criteria](#).

Last year's committee also requested that a point system be developed to consider each response to the form. We designed the point system (see Appendix A) and the Board of Directors approved it in March 2025. We used this system to rank applicants for the travel grant.

The committee received eight requests, one of which was disqualified because it came from a student who should have applied for the Lee Student Support Fund. Due to confusion and difficulties in determining the student's status, we have included an action item below to modify the application process. This will clarify the student requirements and improve application processing, making it easier to identify students who apply in error and guide them to apply for the Lee Student Support Fund in a timely manner.

The available funding of \$6,000 allowed the committee to partially fund the requests for each applicant. One of the applicants was unable to secure enough additional funding to attend. Another applicant was unable to get a visa in time for the meeting. The student and the two who could not travel were given opportunities to present remotely. Thus, we divided the grant money among the remaining five participants.

More information about TIC Support Funds is available at <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2469/>

Goal 2). Sponsorship of two sessions proposed for the 2025 Annual Meeting

Last year's committee recommended allowing at least two sessions sponsored only by the TIC for each Annual Meeting. Because this year's committee was leaderless during the first 4 months of the fiscal year, no sessions were included in the call for papers. The committee had two invited sessions to organize by March 31. We organized both sessions; however, one of them was then cancelled, leaving one sponsored session for the 2025 Annual Meeting:

Session 046: Immigration and Transnational Blackness

Room: Indiana Room

Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Jamella N. Gow, Bowdoin College

Description:

This session will explore the way Blackness as a racial, political, and cultural embodiment of belonging/non-belonging becomes transnational through immigrant pathways, intergenerational cultural and familial practices, social movements, and cultural production. By centering how Blackness is understood by communities and nations in and from the Global South. This session also highlights how immigration, race, and racisms converge around Blackness to reveal past and present traces of colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism that situate nations and diasporas in the present.

Papers:

- “‘We are Here, but Our Hearts are in Haiti’: Temporal and Racialized Emotive Existences of Ethnically Identified Haitian Americans,” Vadricka Etienne, University of Nevada, Reno

- “Belonging Gone Foreign: Reclaiming Jamaican Citizenship in Wake of US Migration,” Marcelle Medford, Bates College
- “Black Caribbean Immigrants and the Educational Legacies of Empire,” Derron Wallace, Brandeis University
- “Damning the Planet: Feeding White Supremacy’s Delusion with the Blood of Blackness,” Vilna Bashi, Northwestern University
- “Racialized Im/mobility and Travelling Blackness: Transnational Organizing across Black Migrant Communities,” Jamella N. Gow, Bowdoin College

Goal 3). Helped organize a virtual session on border crossing concerns.

Following the November 2024 election and the start of the new administration, it became apparent that travel to the United States was undergoing changes. Reports of scholars being denied entry or detained have led many countries around the world to issue travel warnings for entry into the United States. In addition, anger at some of the US policies that have affected relations with countries like Canada, Mexico, and members of the European Union has led to a kind of boycott of the US. For those who have decided to risk traveling to the US, many are concerned about bringing their electronic devices through customs and are worried about dealing with the CBP upon entry.

To address these concerns, Executive Officer Elroi Windsor is hosting a webinar, *SSSP Travel Support Session: Virtual Session on Chicago Travel Concerns*, on Tuesday, July 29, from 11:30 am-1:00 pm (Eastern Time). Along with the Accessibility Committee and the Anti-Harassment Committee, TIC provided support for this event. Some of our members will be attending the event.

Action Items

The following action items are proposed for the Board of Directors' consideration.

Action Item #1 – Revise the application for the TIC Travel Fund to clearly identify students in a timely manner

The bylaws, the description of the fund, and the application state that students must apply to the Lee Student Support Fund. The administrative staff does an excellent job of identifying student applicants and redirecting them to the student funding.

However, two misunderstandings led to a student applying for support from the TIC Travel Fund and losing funding as a result. The first misunderstanding was on the part of the student. She paid for a full membership at the *first-time professional* level rather than a student membership, believing that would qualify her for the TIC fund. She thought the

student status was determined by which SSSP membership category one paid for, rather than being enrolled in a program as a student.

Due to this misunderstanding, it was not immediately apparent that she was a student. It was not until committee members read her CV that her student status was understood. This meant that the error was identified long after the deadline for the student fund. Upon reviewing the application, we noticed that there is no direct question regarding the applicant's career stage or student status. Most of the time, it has been assumed based on the SSSP membership status question.

With this in mind, **we recommend that the application for all travel funds include a specific question asking about the career stage level, including student status**, so that it will be easier for SSSP administrators to identify individuals applying to the wrong fund and inform them before the application deadline. We also recommend that this be a relatively early question in the application, and that a note about the student fund be made as part of the question. **We have provide the proposed changes to the application in Appendix B.**

Action Item #2 – Incorporate more hybrid and remote sessions into the annual meeting

The mission of the Transnational Initiatives Committee is to encourage and promote scholarship on social problems and social change in the Global South and other disadvantaged countries. Barriers to their participation are growing under the current US. Many countries, including Canada and Europe, are issuing travel advisories regarding travel to the United States. This makes funding travel more difficult because many institutions base their availability, in part, on said travel advisories.

There is substance to these cautions as the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers are, in fact, targeting scholars visiting the US. There have been numerous cases not only of refusing entry but also of detaining foreign-based scholars. It is becoming more dangerous to travel to the United States.

There are several reasons for SSSP to become more open to remote participation in the annual meeting. Such options enable more inclusive sessions, not just for foreign scholars, but also for scholars who live with disabilities. It also has a lower environmental impact, reducing the carbon footprint of the meetings. Hybrid and remote participation in the meeting will also open up opportunities for scholars who lack funding for travel.

We do not believe that repeating the separate online conference for Global South scholars that was conducted in May 2022. In addition to the issues outlined in the TIC/TVIC report from that year, we fear that such a separate conference might bring potential harm to participants in the current political climate, as an online-only conference creates a larger and more accessible digital footprint. Some cautions were taken in 2022, but the political changes that have occurred since then make those cautions even more critical.

In addition, creating a separate conference does not seem the best route to more inclusion in SSSP. The more opportunities for remote attendance open up the possibility for more interaction between members from the USA, Canada, and Europe with scholars from the rest of the world. Whereas attracting that interaction in a separate conference seems more complicated to pull off.

We were pleased that remote participation was authorized this year for participants who faced barriers to travel. We hope this marks the beginning of making hybrid and remote sessions a regular part of our annual meetings. We understand that this will require financing and support the idea of having a fee structure that includes hybrid and remote participants to pay for registration at the conference.

With all of this in mind, **we recommend that the Board of Directors form an ad hoc committee to develop a budget and a remote/hybrid fee structure, thereby working towards incorporating more remote participation in the annual meetings.**

Action Item #3 – Replace a missing committee member

One of our members, Francisco Longa, does not have an up-to-date membership and has not participated in any committee work this year. His email consistently bounced when the committee chair and the SSSP administrative staff sent him emails. His term runs through the 2025-2026 fiscal year. **As per the operations manual, we recommend that the Board replace him with a new member appointment.** He is a non-US-based member. Thus, his replacement needs to be non-US as well, per the bylaws.

APPENDIX A

Transnational Initiatives Committee Global South Travel Grant Evaluation

Name of Applicant _____ TOTAL POINTS _____

Is this applicant working in the Global South (using the [ASA definition](#))?

____ Yes, then proceed with evaluation

____ No, inform the committee that this applicant is not eligible

The committee will evaluate applicants using a point system based on the following criteria (maximum 13 points):

- **Conference role (maximum 3 points):** 3 for multiple roles, 2 for discussant (or being a Division Chair), 1 for organizing/presiding
- **Presenting a paper (maximum 3 points):** 3 for three papers, 2 for two papers, 1 for one paper, 0 if no paper but playing another role (which should be counted above)
- **Academic career stage (maximum 3 points):** 3 if recent graduate, post-doc or on the job market, 2 if working two to five years after graduation, 1 if working over five years, non-tenured or tenure-track, 0 if tenured.
- **Received a travel award last year (maximum 1 point):** 0 for yes, 1 for no
- **Amount of financial support received from university or institution (maximum 3 points):** 3 if \$0, 2 if \$1-\$500, 1 if \$501-\$1,000, 0 if more than \$1,000

APPENDIX B

Proposed changes highlighted in yellow



Society for the Study
of Social Problems
In Pursuit of Social Justice

2025 Transnational Initiatives Fund

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on March 15, 2025

Eligibility Considerations:

- All applicants must be 2025 SSSP member when applying for assistance.
- Applicants must be from the Global South, as defined by the [American Sociological Association](#), including scholars from economically disadvantaged countries and nation-states, as well as politically, economically, and culturally subjugated regions of all countries who without this support could not attend the meeting.
- Applicants may only apply to one travel fund. Students must apply to the [Lee Student Support Fund](#). A student is defined as someone who is currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral program at an institution of higher learning. Non-U.S. based international scholars from politically, economically, and culturally oppressed groups in countries not considered part of the Global South (as defined above) must apply to the [Lee Scholar Support Fund](#).
- Applicants must submit a complete budget.
- Applications must be submitted online no later than March 15, 2025. Applications not submitted online are ineligible for consideration. **Persons unable to attend the meetings MUST return all monies to SSSP.**

Please address all questions to:

Dr. Pattie Thomas, Chair,
Transnational Initiatives Committee
pattie.thomas@csn.edu

Complete the form below:

Transnational Initiatives Fund Application

- Last Name
- First Name and Middle Initial
- Affiliation
- Address
- City Province
- Postal Code
- E-mail

Career Stage:

Please indicate which of the following describes your career stage:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral program at an institution of higher learning (NOTE: If you are a student as defined above, you are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for this grant and should apply to the [Lee Student Support Fund](#).)
- Recent graduate, post-doc, or on the job market,
- Working two to five years after graduation
- Working for over five years, non-tenured, or tenure-track
- Tenured.

Funding Information:

- Have you received funding from the Transnational Initiatives Committee before?
- If yes, in what year(s)?
- What funding (if any) will you receive from your institution? Please specify the amount.

Please state your accepted contribution to the meeting.

- Be sure to include the session title, as well as your paper title and abstract. **ONLY** SSSP members who have been accepted for program participation will be considered.
- What additional funding (if any) have you received or have applied for? Please identify the source(s) and the amount(s).

Estimated Expenses:

- SSSP will support estimated air coach fare, auto travel at 67 cents per mile, and travel by bus or train **ONLY**.
- Please provide a breakdown of your anticipated costs to attend the meeting. Membership dues and registration fees will not be funded, and not all of the expenses for attending the meeting can be paid from these funds. **SSSP strongly suggests that other funding sources be sought to supplement your participation.** Pre-registration for the meeting must be paid before funds will be disbursed to the applicant. Award money will be distributed after the recipient provides a copy of their travel visa. Persons unable to attend the meetings **MUST** return all monies to SSSP.