



# Society for the Study of Social Problems Health, Health Policy & Health Services

## What's Inside...

From the Co-Chairs	1
Preliminary Program for SSSP 2020	2
Graduate Student Paper Awards 2019	3
Highlights and Snapshots from SSSP 2019	4-5
Recent News (Awards and Publications) and SSSP resources	6

## Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear *Health, Health Policy, & Health Services* Division Members,

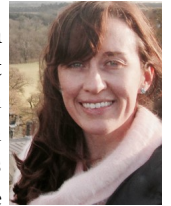
My co-chair Kathleen Abrahamson and I hope everyone had a restful summer break and that your academic year is off to a great start. We would like to use this opportunity to thank all of our session organizers, presenters, and discussants for the role they played in making the Annual Meeting in New York City such a success. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new colleagues from across the globe to discuss pressing issues related to health. A total of **68** papers were included in the Division's program across **11** sponsored and co-sponsored sessions. See page 4 for some highlights and snapshots from the conference.

Turning to next year's meetings, entitled "Bringing the Hope Back In: Sociological Imagination and Dreaming Transformation," we have an exciting list of sessions and roundtables organized and we will be co-sponsoring a reception with other SSSP divisions. See page 2 for a brief outline of planned Health Division activities. The official call for papers from SSSP will be posted on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Graduate student members, please consider submitting a paper to the Division's Graduate Student Paper Award competition. For more information, visit:

[https://sssp1.org/2020\\_SPC\\_and\\_OSA](https://sssp1.org/2020_SPC_and_OSA)

Lastly, we encourage you to renew your membership and spread the word about our division. We are currently one of the biggest SSSP divisions and we hope to see membership continue to grow. Thank you to our members for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you at SSSP 2020!

- Meredith Bergey (2018-2020), Villanova University



## Introducing the 2019-2021 Co-Chair

### Division Co-Chairs

**Meredith Bergey**  
Co-Chair (2018-2020)  
Villanova University  
[meredith.bergey@villanova.edu](mailto:meredith.bergey@villanova.edu)

**Kathleen Abrahamson**  
Co-Chair (2020-2022)  
Purdue University  
[kaabraham@purdue.edu](mailto:kaabraham@purdue.edu)



I appreciate the opportunity to serve aside Meredith as the co-chair of the Health, Health Policy and Health Services Division of SSSP. As a bit of introduction, I am a sociologist, a registered nurse, and an Associate Professor of Nursing at Purdue University. I have participated in SSSP, and specifically in the Division, for the past decade. The research I have seen presented and discussed within Division-sponsored sessions has been formative to my academic career. As a social scientist with applied clinical experience, I have seen first-hand the importance of combining rigorous methodology with sociological theory to create evidence that advocates for improved systems, more equitable outcomes, and justice for the underserved in regards to health and health services. The need for action that promotes overall health, well-being, access to care, and a voice for the unheard is crucial and current. I feel strongly that our division can play a pivotal role in leading these conversations and creating meaningful partnerships between academic researchers, policy makers, providers and community health advocates. I'm excited to serve, and look forward to feedback and input from all members over the next few years.

- Kathleen Abrahamson (2019-2021), Purdue University

## Division-Sponsored Sessions, Co-Sponsored Sessions, Meetings, & Activities

Take a look at our Division's preliminary program and its co-sponsors for the 70th annual SSSP meeting below:  
[https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/783/2020\\_Annual\\_Meeting/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/783/2020_Annual_Meeting/)

Sole-Sponsored Sessions	
SESSIONS	TITLES
THEMATIC SESSION	Building Hope around Health: Challenges and New Directions
CRITICAL DIALOGUE (Invited Panel)	Organizing Transformation around Health
HEALTH ROUNDTABLES	Health Papers in the Round
Co-Sponsored Sessions	
SESSION CO-SPONSORS	TITLES
1) Sociology and Social Welfare 2) Disability	Parity and Equity in Health and Disability
1) Sport, Leisure, & the Body	The Interplay of Health and Sport
1) Sociology and Social Welfare	There is Hope: Advances in Research, Intervention, and Policy Regarding Social Determinants of Health
1) Labor	Care Economy, Care Work, and Disability in the Workplace
1) Global	Global Health Challenges
1) Gender 2) Environment & Technology	Gender, Health, and Climate Disaster
1) Family	Family, Health, and Reproduction

## Honoring Local Organizations for Community Health Praxis

At last year's Health Division meeting, members voted to honor a local San Francisco organization for the praxis of social justice in the area of health, health policy, and/or health services. We urge our division members to nominate a local San Francisco organization for the first yearly Health Division Community Health Praxis Award.

**Nominations  
Needed!**

Please send the name and a brief paragraph describing the mission and service of the organization to Meredith ([meredith.bergey@villanova.edu](mailto:meredith.bergey@villanova.edu)) and Kathleen ([kaabraha@purdue.edu](mailto:kaabraha@purdue.edu)). The award will be presented to a representative from the organization at the Health Division meeting.



**70th Annual SSSP Meeting  
August 7 - 9, 2020  
Park Central Hotel  
San Francisco, California**

## Health Division Student Paper Competition Award Winners

### 2019 Health Division Student Paper Award Winner: Alex Brewer, University of Chicago

#### **“Moralizing the Opioid Shortage: Race, Pain, and Interpretations of Resource Scarcity in an Urban Hospital.”**

This article examines the production of racial inequalities in the healthcare system through an ethnography of a public hospital located on the South Side of Chicago. In Fall 2017, a major nationwide shortage of injectable opioid drugs, the result of a combination of natural disaster, manufacturing problems, federal policy, and market forces, radically altered care for patients with sickle cell disease. I argue that instead of experiencing the opioid shortage as a crisis, workers at this hospital interpreted it as a moral positive because the new practice of rationing opioids resonated with stereotypes about the immorality of low-SES black patients, who were widely believed to be drug abusers. This caused physicians, pharmacists, and administrators to advocate for policies that would make restrictions on opioid prescriptions for sickle cell patients permanent even after the shortage was over. This study provides insight into how seemingly-neutral hospital protocols become embedded with racial biases that disadvantage black patients.



### Honorable Mention for the 2019 Health Division Student Paper Award: Derek Seigel, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

#### **“Emotion Work, Collective Identity, and the Pressure to Have a “Feminist Abortion Experience.”**



When pro-choice individuals expect to feel relieved after their abortions, they are uncomfortable with ambivalence and try to minimize these “negative feelings.” By conducting interviews (n=27) with feminists about their recent abortions, I examine what produces this tension and find multiple explanations. In their communities, respondents fear being (perceived as) “bad feminists,” and in public, worry that pro-life activists will misrepresent their experiences to further attack abortion rights. Ultimately, I use the ‘feeling rules’ framework and the concepts of personal and collective identity to explain how—in this and other social movement contexts—political affiliation shapes the way someone manages their private emotions.



***Congratulations to Alex and Derek!***



## Spring Newsletter Submissions

*We want to hear from our members!*

It is important for us to communicate with one another about innovations in teaching, research, and policy as well as commentary on the things that are happening politically, both locally and nationally. Your contributions can include images as well as written text, as long as they can be easily reproduced and transferred. As always, we welcome announcements of recent publications, media appearances, reports on community events, job opportunities, and other breaking news from Health Division members.

Please submit all newsletter items to  
Meredith Bergey ([meredith.bergey@villanova.edu](mailto:meredith.bergey@villanova.edu))

What's new?



SSSP 2019, New York City, Roosevelt Hotel



## 2019 Critical Dialogue Session - Sunday 11th August

The Division was privileged to have leading social scientists, including past Chairs and long-time active members of the Health Division, bring the 2019 conference to a close with the Critical Dialogue Session, “(Re)Framing the Health Agenda: Pressing Questions and Future Directions.” Participants shared fascinating insights and reflections on the state and direction of the field, as well as inspiring strategies for addressing contemporary health challenges. We thank the esteemed panel for their participation, their service to SSSP, and their many contributions to the field!



Critical Session 2019 participants (L-R): *William D. Cabin* (Temple University), *Valerie Leiter* (Simmons University), *Deborah Carr* (Boston University), *Peter Conrad* (Brandeis University), *Eric R. Wright* (Georgia State University), *Meredith Bergey* (Villanova University, Session Chair), and *Barbara Katz Rothman* (Graduate Center, CUNY).

## SSSP 2020 - A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Thanks to a generous grant from Villanova's Center for Research and Fellowships, I attended the 69th Annual SSSP conference. I presented work there from my undergraduate research assistantship with Dr. Meredith Bergey on the global migration of ADHD diagnosis and treatment. We presented “Medicalization on the Move: Examining the Global Migration of ADHD” at the Division of Health, Health Policy, and Health Services' Papers in the Round session. The intimate setting provided a great introduction for a first-time presenter like me. One of our presenters even flew in from Japan, providing a global, interdisciplinary view of medical movements.

SSSP 2019 exposed me to the academic world of sociology. I attended discussions on topics ranging from the “Dimensions of Health and the Environmental Crisis” to the “Sociology of the Body.” I shadowed the Health Division's business meeting, led by Dr. Debora Paterniti (Sonoma State University) and her co-chair Dr. Bergey and got an inside look at what goes into running a division. My experience culminated at the Critical Dialogue panel discussion on “(Re)Framing the Health Agenda: Pressing Questions and Future Directions.”

With the conference hosted in New York City, I explored the city on my own and sought out the perfect NYC Lox Bagel. Though, it's debatable whether the 50-minute wait around the block for the infamous Ess-a-Bagel was worth it (spoiler: it was!).

At first, I felt intimidated entering this conference. Yet, I soon found myself connecting and networking with undergraduates, graduate students, and professors alike. The welcoming environment also fostered engaging Q&A sessions and the overall experience cultivated my professional and personal development. For those nervous to attend their first conference, I say dive right in and take advantage of such a great opportunity.

-Mikaela Uricheck (Villanova University)





## Recent Member News - Awards and Publications

Congratulations to **Miranda Waggoner** for being selected as a Greenwall Foundation Faculty Scholar in Bioethics for 2019 – 2022! For more information about this prestigious award and the Greenwall Foundation Program more generally, please visit: <http://www.greenwall.org/current-and-former-scholars.php>

### Recent Publications:

Cabin, William. 2019. "Home Care Nurses Claim Medicare Ignores Social Determinants of Health." *Home Health Care Management & Practice* 31(4): 224–230. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1084822319858349>

León-Pérez, Gabriela. 2019. "Internal Migration and the Health of Indigenous Mexicans: A Longitudinal Study." *Social Science & Medicine-Population Health* 8(August). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100407>

Bergey, Meredith R., Jennifer C. Goldsack, and Edmondo J. Robinson. 2019. "Invisible Work and Changing Roles: Health Information Technology Implementation and Reorganization of Work Practices for the Inpatient Nursing Team." *Social Science & Medicine* 235: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112387>

## SSSP Resources

*Call for Submissions and Conferences:*

[https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/361/Call\\_for\\_Submissions\\_and\\_Conferences/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/361/Call_for_Submissions_and_Conferences/)

*Fellowships & Scholarships:*

[https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/328/Fellowships\\_&\\_Scholarships/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/328/Fellowships_&_Scholarships/)

*Members News:*

[https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/359/Members\\_News/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/359/Members_News/)

*Membership renewal:*

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/255/fuseaction/ssspmember.portal>

*Announcements:*

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/360/Announcements/>

### Online Resources Related to Health Policy Research

Below, please find resources for sharing topics regarding the current research needs of the healthcare delivery system, as well as the current state of those topics.

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20190123.63012/full/>  
<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues>  
<http://www.ncsl.org/research/health.aspx>  
<https://www.kff.org/>

## Call for Papers

**SSSP** - The official call for papers will be issued on October 15th. Make sure to check out the SSSP website for more details:

[https://www.sssp1.org/2020\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers](https://www.sssp1.org/2020_Call_for_Papers)

**Additional calls** - The *Journal of Health & Social Behavior* has issued a CFP for a special issue on "Medical Sociology: Findings, Challenges, and Future Directions." See the following site for more details:

<https://www.asanet.org/www.asanet.org/journals/JHSB/CFP2019>



## Job Corner

Please visit SSSP's Job Opportunities Page for a list of recently posted positions that are open:

[https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/320/Job\\_Opportunities/](https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/320/Job_Opportunities/)