



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Community Research and Development Division Fall 2017 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

By Meghan Ashlin Rich, University of Scranton

Greetings Community Research and Development Division members! In August, we had an inspiring SSSP Annual Meeting in a very warm Montréal, with many excellent sessions organized by Community Research and Development Division members. Since then, our CRD members have been busy organizing another great program for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. In this winter newsletter, I would like to call your attention to a number of Community Research and Development Division items.

The SSSP 2018 Call for Papers is now on the SSSP website at: <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/717/fuseaction/ssspsession2.publicView> Our division is sponsoring 10 exciting sessions, summarized on pg. 3. I encourage you to submit your papers/abstracts before the deadline of January 31. The theme for our August meeting is: “Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems” and many of our CRD-sponsored sessions align with this theme.

Our division is also planning a terrific one-day post-conference workshop on Community-Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR). This workshop is only \$25 for SSSP members and will allow participants to explore CBPAR and learn to construct, complete, and publish research using this methodology. The workshop will also help build a research network for CBPAR scholars. Mark your calendars for August 13, 2018 – details on this workshop can be found on pg. 8.

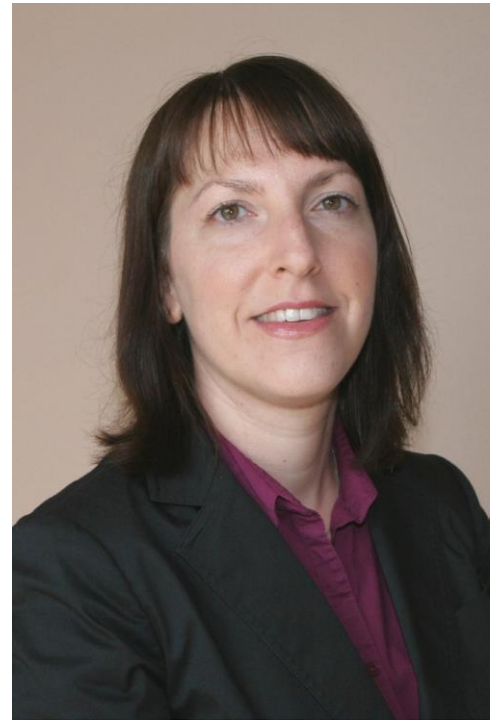
This year we are sponsoring two CRD awards: the Graduate Student Paper Award and the Community Partner Paper Award. I encourage you or your colleagues to apply by January 31. More information on the award application process can be found at: <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2071/> and on pg. 4.

In this newsletter, we also highlight the work of a current graduate student member. We interview Anjuli Fahlberg, a PhD candidate at Northeastern University’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology, about her community-based participatory action research in Latin America.

Lastly, I want to thank our outgoing Division Chair, Jessica Lucero, for being a great mentor and making the transition to the chair position run so smoothly, and to our newsletter editor, Gabriela Palomino, for her continued work for the division.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Meghan Ashlin Rich
University of Scranton



2018 Annual Meeting Program Theme Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems

“Be faithful, be vigilant, be untiring in your efforts to break every yoke, and let the oppressed go free.”—William Lloyd Garrison

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” —Frederick Douglass

“Fight for the right to live, love, and work wherever you please.”
—The Repeal Coalition of Arizona (an immigrant rights group)



In the 18th and 19th centuries, abolitionist developed strong movements demanding the end of slavery. In the United States, individuals like Gerrit Smith, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, the Grimke sisters, and John Brown called for the immediate end to the enslavement of their fellow humans, and were unrelenting in their actions to reach their goals. These were zealots, individuals who were unapologetic about their demands. For instance, in 1855, abolitionists issued a call for an inaugural convention of Radical Abolitionists. It stated,

“We want [people] at this crisis who cannot be frightened from the advocacy of our ‘radical’ doctrines, because of their unpopularity . . . Let us not, then, grow weary, but believing that ‘whatever is RIGHT, IS PRACTICAL,’ go forth with renewed determination to conquer, though we die in the conflict.” (In *The Black Hearts of Men*, John Stauffer, p. 12)

As we face modern social problems, we can find inspiration in the Abolitionist Movement. As we see Latino, Black, and Indigenous youth killed and imprisoned at disproportionate rates, we need strategies to stop racial subjugation. As we witness the call for larger walls at our borders, we need new thoughts of liberation. As we confront patriarchy and economic inequality, we require stronger practices. To that end, the theme for the 2018 SSSP Annual Meeting is Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems.

The SSSP has a long history of experimentation, inviting critique of ideas and concepts as it pushes towards a continual reimagining of social justice. In the current incarnation, we invite participants to help us develop ways to abolish social problems entirely, to think through what is required to eliminate systems of subjugation, and to document the current struggles that are already leading the way in these efforts. This will require not just a rethinking of how to confront social problems, but also a rediscovering of buried histories, of hidden struggles, and of ideas that are submerged below the surface. It is time, once again, to remember that what is right is practical and to be unafraid of principles that are unpopular.

To this end, the program committee will be inviting speakers, organizing thematic sessions, and assembling panels of scholars-activist who are confronting capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, and other forms of subjugation. We also invite you to submit proposals that match the theme.

It is our hope that this year’s theme provides us with an opportunity to have an earnest discussion on the possibilities of developing and implementing strategies that eradicate subjugation. We invite you to engage in our efforts. We hope to see you in Philadelphia, a city steeped in an abolitionist tradition.

Luis A. Fernandez, SSSP President
Northern Arizona University

Community Research and Development Division Sessions at 2018 SSSP Annual Conference

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Organizer(s)
1	Race, Power, and Neighborhoods	CRD	Eccleston, Sara M. Perisho sara.m.eccleston@vanderbilt.edu
2	Refugees, Communities, and Global Citizenship-THEMATIC	CRD	Stanlick, Sarah E. Ses409@lehigh.edu
3	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Case Studies of Gentrification and Neighborhood Change-THEMATIC	CRD	Jonason, Amy amy.jonason@furman.edu
4	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Examining Social Systems on Child Well-Being and Delinquency	CRD, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, Poverty, Class, and Inequality Youth, Aging, and Life Course	Le Claire, Matthew M. leclam1@unlv.nevada.edu
5	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Social Action and Liberation: Community Partnerships-THEMATIC	Community Research and Development Drinking and Drugs Social Problems Theory	Nowotny, Kathryn Kathryn.Nowotny@Miami.edu
6	Green Gentrification	CRD & Environment and Technology	Lewis, Tammy tlewis@brooklyn.cuny.edu Gould, Kenneth A. kgould@brooklyn.cuny.edu
7	When the Company Leaves the Company Town: Research from Rustbelt Communities and Beyond	CRD & Labor Studies	Rich, Meghan Ashlin meghan.rich@scranton.edu Hopwood, Junior R. jrhopwood60@gmail.com
8	PAPERS IN THE ROUND: Law, Justice, and Community Engagement-THEMATIC	CRD & Law and Society	Lucero, Jessica L. jessica.lucero@usu.edu
9	Migration, Citizenship, and Mental Health: Methods for Understanding, Impacts, and Responses	CRD & Society and Mental Health	Trillo, Alex atrillo@saintpeters.edu
10	Housing, Mental Health, and Communities	CRD, Society and Mental Health & Sociology and Social Welfare	hen, Patricia M. pmpan@utdallas.edu

Call for Student Paper Competition Submissions

Our Division announces its 2018 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Paper topics can focus on various aspects of the community, including its capacity, development, renewal, and its relationship with other social issues or problems. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses, applied research and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published nor accepted for publication. Papers must be student-authored; they may be authored by a single student or co-authored by more than one student, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Papers must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages (including all notes, references, and tables), and should include a brief abstract. To be eligible for the award, the author(s) must make a commitment to present the paper at a session during the 2018 SSSP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. To be considered, submit (a) a copy of the manuscript, (b) a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the Community Research and Development Division Graduate Student Paper Competition, and (c) a letter from each author's advisor certifying the person's status as a student and including some brief comments about the research. All materials must be submitted electronically to the Annual Meeting Call for Papers on the SSSP conference website by January 31, 2018 and also sent to the Committee Chair, Dr. Felicia Sullivan at Felicia.Sullivan@tufts.edu. Please note that students may only submit to one division. The winner will receive a \$200 cash award, a one-year membership to SSSP, conference registration fees, and a plaque of recognition at the conference awards ceremony.

Call for Community Partner Paper Award Submissions

We are currently accepting submissions for our third annual Community Partner Paper Competition. Consistent with our division's mission, this paper award is intended to recognize rigorous academic work that has practical implications for members of marginalized communities and specifically, to celebrate community-engaged work. Paper topics can focus on various social issues and problems related to community, such as the causes and consequences of communities' exclusion or marginalization from processes and resources, the capacities and strengths of communities and community movements, and the development and changes within communities. Qualitative and quantitative empirical analyses, applied research and theoretical papers are welcome. To be eligible for submission, a paper must not be published or accepted for publication. Papers must be coauthored with a community partner; they may be coauthored by more than one faculty member and/or student, but must include at least one community partner. Community partners are characterized by any community-based entity that is outside of the academy. Papers must not exceed 25 double-spaced pages (including all notes, references, and tables), and should include a brief abstract. To be eligible for the award, the author(s) must make a commitment to present the paper at a session during the 2018 SSSP Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. To be considered, submit (a) a copy of the manuscript, (b) a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the Community Research and Development Division Community Partner Paper Competition, and (c) a brief letter from the community partner commenting on his or her role in the paper. All materials must be submitted electronically to the Annual Meeting Call for Papers on the SSSP conference website by January 31, 2018 and also sent to the Committee Chair, Dr. Sarah Stanlick at ses409@lehigh.edu. The winner will receive a plaque of recognition at the Community Research and Development Division business meeting.

Fall 2017 Student Spotlight

Anjuli Fahlberg

Anjuli Fahlberg is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University and the Dean's Fellow at the Humanities Center at Northeastern University. Her research focuses on violence, democracy, and social action in urbanizing Latin America. With funding from the National Science Foundation and various institutional grants from Northeastern University, her dissertation documents the possibilities for non-violent collective action in Rio de Janeiro's favelas, which have been under armed conflict between drug traffickers and the military police since the 1970s. Anjuli has published or accepted articles in *Qualitative Sociology*, *Habitat International*, the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Sociology Compass*, and the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and has two forthcoming book chapters. She was also the recipient of the Urban Affairs Association's Alma J. Young Emerging Scholar award, received best paper awards by the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the Latin American Studies Association, among others. She has a B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University and an M.A. in Sociology from Northeastern University. Before graduate school, Anjuli spent five years working with immigrant families impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness.



Can you tell us a bit about yourself and what brought you to your graduate studies?

I started graduate school because I wanted to better understand and address the underlying causes of violence. I was raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and grew up witnessing extreme poverty and violence. I also spent five years after undergrad working with women and children who had become homeless due to domestic and sexual violence. The cards were so stacked against my clients—from trauma and injuries, but also lost jobs, poverty, racial discrimination, and failed welfare and immigration systems—that I couldn't help but feel like there must be a better way to deal with these issues. I went into academia in part to make sense of the tragedies I was witnessing and in part to raise awareness about it among future generations of students, to give them tools to reflect both critically and empathically about social problems.

What is the focus of your doctoral dissertation research?

My dissertation research examines the possibilities for non-violent collective action in the context of armed conflict. It is based in the City of God, one of Rio de Janeiro's most dangerous low-income favela neighborhoods that has been under violent contestation between drug traffickers and the military police since the 1970s. Most research on urban violence focuses on violent actors, or on how people are victimized by segregated violence, poverty, police brutality, etc. Yet we still know very little about how non-violent actors assert agency within these spaces, how they act politically and collectively to effect change in their neighborhood. I grew up on the outskirts of the City of God, and after it became a global symbol of urban violence with the release of the movie by the same name, I came to see my connection to this neighborhood as opportunity to bring a different perspective to how we usually view urban violence—by focusing on non-violent residents as political actors, rather than as passive victims. Most of my research is based on ethnographic fieldwork in the City of God and participant-observation on the social media sites founded by and for City of God's residents. I also had the opportunity to administer a large-scale survey on social development, insecurity, and civic engagement across the neighborhood earlier this year. As it turns out, the City of God is full of activists dedicated to non-violent collective action aimed at improving their neighborhood and demanding protection from police brutality and the uneven distribution of urban resources. While documenting the narratives and practices of City of God's activists has had its challenges—

methodological, epistemological, and personal—it has been an incredible honor to witness the capacity for resilience and action among people who face of so many intersecting barriers.

What made you interested in engaging in participatory-action research?

I was committed to applying a PAR approach to my research even before entering graduate school and was fortunate to find several ways to weave into my research process. My previous work with extremely vulnerable communities provided me a powerful, and often painful, reminder of our unequal access to power. Being an American academic in a mostly non-white poor Brazilian neighborhood only reinforced my sense of privilege and responsibility. While I could not alter differing positions of power between me and my participants, I wanted to do what was possible to make sure my participants had a say in my research process and analysis and derived some direct benefit from it. I mostly did this in little ways: I asked residents what questions they thought were important, I volunteered for several local organizations, I donated prize money from research awards to my host family and local organizations, and I regularly presented my findings to my participants and asked for their feedback. The survey project was much more PAR-intensive. For instance, residents determined which questions should be on the survey, and we paid a team of residents to administer the survey. Several residents and I also created a colorful brochure with some of our findings and distributed 3,000 of them to people in the streets. We put some of the data on a website and are planning to make a report that residents can understand and use to make demands for improvements in the neighborhood, on grant applications, and more.

Where do you see your work going in the future?

At the broadest level, I'm interested in understanding how violence affects possibilities for democratic participation. More specifically, I want to uncover the conditions that enable non-violent collective action in areas under armed conflict. My work in the City of God has allowed me to identify some important mechanisms of action, but I'd like to examine this question in other conflict zones across the Americas, where the transition to democratic governance has been accompanied by rising urban violence. I'm still exploring future sites for research, but the cities on my radar include Cali, Mexico City, and Chicago. I expect ethnography will remain my central method, but I find other methods compelling as well. No matter what, PAR will be at the core of my research.

Do you have any advice for fellow graduate students?

Well, making self-sustaining mantras is my favorite hobby, but I'll share three. The first is to not overthink it—whatever it is. As graduate students, we are trained to open our minds to depths we had never previously imagined. This is both incredibly exciting and extremely overwhelming. Sometimes, it is debilitating as we fall into the deep abyss of possibilities—of research projects, theoretical arguments, bodies of relevant literature, or guilt over newly-visible privileges, and our endless responsibilities to address all the world's problems. We need to think about all these things, but just enough to make a plan and execute the plan. Once I have a solid plan for next few months (with input from advisors, trusted colleagues, my research participants, etc.), I usually try to stop thinking about the plan and just focus on getting it done, one day at a time.

The second is to find pleasure in the process. Only a handful of days do we actually submit a paper or defend a dissertation. On most days, what motivates me is an intellectually-stimulating debate with a colleague, sharing a joke with one of my participants, the smells of my favorite coffee shop, playing with my five-year-old, the rumble of the airplane as it is about to leave, the adrenaline rush of a conference presentation, or the pleasure of learning something new about something old. Graduate school and whatever comes next are long-term endeavors. If we do not honor our need to find meaning in our work every day, eventually we will have nothing left to give to our research, our families, our participants, or our larger commitments to the world and to the fight for justice.

SSSP CRD Member Accomplishments:

Publications

Rich, Meghan Ashlin. 2017. "Artists are a Tool for Gentrification': Maintaining Artists and Creative Production in Arts Districts." *International Journal of Cultural Policy* (early online view available) DOI: 10.1080/10286632.2017.1372754.

Rich, Meghan Ashlin and William Tsitsos. 2017. "New Urban Regimes in Baltimore: Higher Education Anchor Institutions and Arts and Culture-based Neighborhood Revitalization." *Education and Urban Society* (early online view available) DOI: 10.1177/0013124517713607

Boeri, M. (2018). *Hurt: Chronicles of the Drug War Generation*. Oakland, California: University of California Press.

Special Calls, Invitations, & Announcements

Community-Based Participatory Action Research (limit 50):

Monday, August 13, 9:00am–4:00pm, Location: Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel

Registration Fee: \$25 for members or \$75 for nonmembers

The Community Research & Development Division is hosting an interactive workshop for researchers who use or are interested in community-based participatory action research. The workshop will (1) offer a foundational orientation to the purpose and process of CBPAR; and (2) provide a context within which CBPAR scholars, both new and old, can learn from each other and build a stronger network. This one-day workshop will be divided into two sections. In the morning, section I will cover the following topics: (1) What is CBPAR and Why Do It?; (2) Capacity Building and Community Partnerships; and (3) CBPAR Methodology – Balancing Methodological Rigor with Community Need. In the afternoon, section II will cover the following topics: (1) Data dissemination: To Whom, How, and Where; (2) Publishing and Funding: Challenges and Opportunities; and (3) Maintaining Partnerships and Building Steam. The workshop will be collaboratively delivered by Drs. Charlotte Ryan, Felicia Sullivan, and Jessica Lucero. The workshop will be interactive in nature and provide opportunities for attendees to discuss their CBPAR research ideas and receive feedback. Workshop fee includes morning coffee.

<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageId/2102/Optional%20One-Day%20Workshops/>

If you have a publication, special call, invitation or announcement not listed, we would love to include it in the spring issue. Please contact our Chair, Meghan Rich, University of Scranton, meghan.rich@scranton.edu

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