

# EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS



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

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The Sankofa bird is a Akan symbol that reminds us that we must continue to move forward as we remember our past . And at the same time we plant a seed for future generations.

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## Letter from the Division Chair

Written by Myron T. Strong, Ph.D.

The longer I learn, research, and grow, the more that I am fascinated by the way people's imagination lead to amazing work and adventures. I am also fascinated with how narratives, in all forms, make me feel. As a transition, from chair of the division, I want to thank you for allowing me to share in your journeys. I would like to especially thank Michele Koontz, Kelsey Whitaker, and Linda Waldron for advice and guidance. Also a shout out to the social media coordinator Alannah Caisey, who has done a great job managing our Twitter and Facebook account and making sure both are sustainable across the administrations.

I often think about a quote by Anthony Bourdain on traveling, who once said, "Travel isn't always pretty. It is not always comfortable. Sometimes it hurts, it even breaks your heart. But that is okay. The journey changes you; it should change you. It leaves marks on your memory, on your consciousness, on your heart, and on your body. You take something with you. Hopefully, you leave something good behind." The intersections between our journeys intersect, it's meaningful and we leave a mark on each other.

I know many people feel like it's a chore to do professional discipline work, but I think that there is joy in finding ways to support, encourage, and learn from scholars, students, activists, professors, etc. Some of my friends and I refer, to this brand of sociology as the sociology of friendship.

I want to encourage everyone who is attending the annual conference to support our sessions. The 73rd annual conference is scheduled in person for Aug 18- 20 in Philadelphia, PA. The conference theme is Same Problem, Different Day: Recognizing and Responding to Recurring Social Problems captures the moment and I am looking excited to hear the variety of perspectives on moving society forward. Just another reminder, the annual meeting is July 20 at 2 pm EST. The link is on the first link of the newsletter. Please follow us on Twitter @EpSssp and SSSP-Educational Problems Division on Facebook.

I am excited for Kyla to become chair and I know that the division will continue to grow.

If anyone ever needs anything feel free to reach out. As I transition, I want to encourage you try something new, continue to chase you dreams and imagine ways create a better world.

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## Letter from the New Division Chair

**Written by Kyla Walters Ph.D.**

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the incoming Chair of the Division of Educational Problems. My sincere gratitude goes to Myron Strong, the outgoing Chair of the Division of Educational Problems. His term ends shortly after this year's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. It will be a challenge to fill his shoes, as Myron has worked extensively to update and fortify our corner of SSSP.

I hope the academic year is coming to a smooth close for each of you. The last days of the school year are often emotional. Some less rosy feelings arise during the end-of-the-year bustle to finish grading, complete projects, and bid farewell to folks who won't be returning in the fall.

Yet many moments are filled with excitement and hope. This joy is especially heartfelt for the Class of 2023. They have taught us perseverance, among other noteworthy lessons.

Congratulations to our members who are graduating and their families and friends.

Congratulations also to PhD, master's, and undergraduate mentors whose students are closing this important chapter of their lives. Please take a moment to revel in the beauty of achieving dreams and setting new goals.

I look forward to working with the Division over the next two years.

Feel free to email me at [kyla.walters@sonoma.edu](mailto:kyla.walters@sonoma.edu).

Warm regards,

Kyla



# Educational Problems Division Sessions For 2023 Annual Meeting

Date and Time	Session Title and Room	Brief Description	Presider(s)
<p><i>Date:</i> Friday, August 18</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM</p>	<p><b>Session 003: Issues Related to Early Childhood Education</b> Room: Freedom E</p>	<p>It's no secret that the childcare profession is in a state of crisis. More than 120,000 educators left their jobs in the last two years alone. It's only projected to worsen as those in the field struggle with new challenges brought on by the pandemic and experience record rates of burnout. Join us to discuss how to translate issues into sustainable early education solutions that better serve our children, families, and communities. You'll leave with actionable tips you can use to improve your practice wherever you intersect with these issues related to early childhood education.</p>	<p>LaNysha T. Adams, Edlinguist Solutions</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Friday, August 18</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 011: How Do We Progress: Addressing Institutional Racism and Sexism in Higher Education</b> Room: Independence D</p>	<p>The session focuses on the specific ways to address institutional oppression within higher education, specifically issues associated racism, sexism and their intersections. Papers discuss the current climate and provide specific recommendations to make it academia more inclusive and equitable.</p>	<p>Angie Beeman, Baruch College, CUNY</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Friday, August 18</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 021: Institutional Ethnographies Across the Life Course</b> Room: Freedom F</p>	<p>This session explores the many ways privilege continues to evolve as a social problem, but also the how new methodologies and approaches are addressing it.</p>	<p>Naomi Nichols, Trent University</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Saturday, August 19</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 052: First and Second Generation Immigrant Students and a Sense of Belonging</b> Room: Freedom F</p>	<p>There is increasingly interest in the role that being first and second-generation plays in both feelings of acceptance and the cultural capital of students. This is further complicated when students are first or second generation citizens or immigrants. The papers in this session will focus on how all these factors and more affect their sense of belonging. The goal is that better institutional tools can develop to address systematic exclusion and to create and support programs are design to support these students.</p>	<p><i>Presider:</i> Myron Strong, The Community College of Baltimore County</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Saturday, August 19</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 072: THEMATIC: Reconceptualizing Education after COVID-19: Creating a Better System</b> Room: Freedom F</p>	<p>This paper session takes place at the nexus of community-based change efforts and education. Taken together, these papers shed light on how communities shape and transform institutions of education and how institutions of education shape communities to adopt more inclusive and just policies and practices.</p>	<p>Thomas Pineros-Shields, University of Massachusetts Lowell</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Sunday, August 20</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 102: THEMATIC: Is Lecturing Racist?: The Emergence of New Pedagogy Approaches</b> Room: Independence D</p>	<p>Traditional methods of pedagogy often leave out the experiences and knowledge of women of all races, racial minorities and other oppressed groups. This produces a pedagogy that reproduces inequality. This session focuses on new pedagogy approaches ways that both challenge old paradigms and forge a path to new more inclusive pedagogy.</p>	<p>Myron T. Strong, Community College of Baltimore County</p>
<p><i>Date:</i> Sunday, August 20</p> <p><i>Time:</i> 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM</p>	<p><b>Session 112: Dreamers Assemble: 1.5 Immigrant Youths and a Sense of Belonging</b> Room: Independence D</p>	<p>This session welcomes any papers that focus on immigrant-origin youth (specifically, foreign-born youth who arrived to the U.S. before age 18). We invite research exploring youths' sense of belonging related to their educational experiences (e.g., during school, after-school programs, clubs...etc.). Studies focusing on U.S. citizens, LPR, DACAmended, refugees, and undocumented individuals are all welcome.</p>	<p>Irina Chukhray, University of California, Davis</p>

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## Graduate Paper Award Winner



**Winner: The Commodification of Diversity in the  
Context of School Choice by J'Mauri Jackson,  
Indiana University**

## Graduate Paper Award Honorable Mentions



**Honorable Mention: The Labeling Power of CRT: Measuring Support  
for School Content using a Survey Experiment  
Andrew Myers & Crista Urena Hernandez  
Indiana University, Department of Sociology**

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## Outstanding Book Award Winner

**The Culture Trap: Ethnic Expectations and Unequal Schooling for Black Youth** by Derron Wallace, Brandis University

The author argues that the over-reliance on culture to explain Black students' success or failure in schools is not only tricky; it is a trap. He draws on the case of Black Caribbean young people in London and New York City public schools to illuminate the historical, political and educational implications of what he calls the culture trap. He defines the culture trap as a faulty set of logics that over-emphasizes the role of culture and under-estimates the influence of national and institutional structures in shaping group outcomes in schools. Please watch this [animated book trailer](#) to learn more about the book. You can also listen to me talk about The Culture Trap in a recent interview on [FreshEd](#).

Purchase book [here](#)



## Outstanding Book Award Honorable Mention

**Care-Based Methodologies: Reimagining Qualitative Research with Youth in U.S. Schools.** by Vasudevan, Veena, Nora Gross, Pavithra Nagarajan, and Katherine Clonan-Roy. 2022.

Care-Based Methodologies reimagines relationships between researchers and youth participants in school-based research. The book calls attention to care-based methodologies as essential to qualitative and ethnographic research in schools, particularly when participants are youth from nondominant communities. While researchers come to schools seeking to understand youths' lived experiences and become implicated in the quotidian rhythms of their lives, it is rare that they receive training on how to navigate the complex interpersonal dynamics and relationships that take shape during long-term school research.



**Dr. Nora Gross**

Purchase the volume [here](#)

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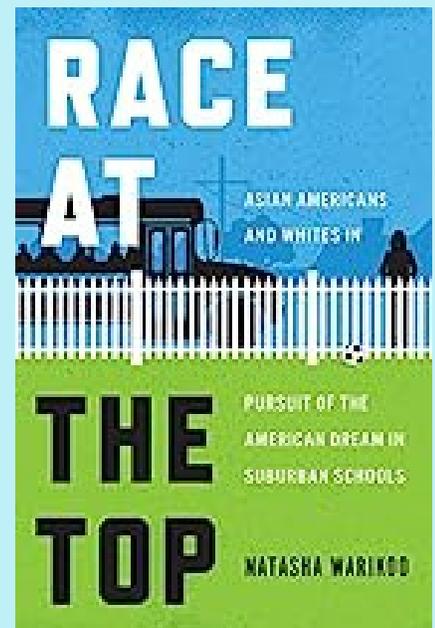
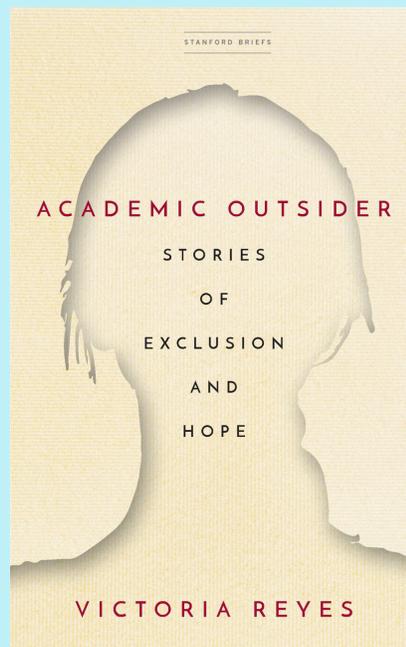
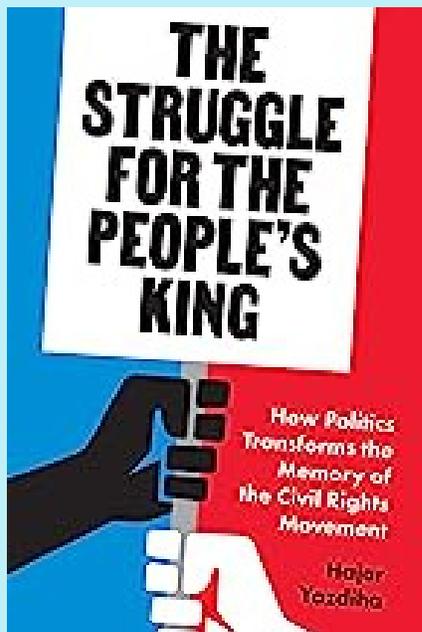
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## Contribution to the Discipline Award

Past Division Chair Linda Waldron wins the first "Contribution to the Discipline." In his letter support Joseph Healey wrote among other things, "I believe that Dr. Waldron is an exceptionally well-qualified candidate for this award. She is extremely talented, hard-working, dependable, personable, and easy to work with and a delight to be around. Her research agenda puts her at the forefront of the discipline. She is an accomplished and respected instructor, and a valued and admired colleague."



## Books that may interest the division members



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## Recent Announcements by Division Members

Zalewski, J. M., & Brudvig, S. (2023). Encouraging Productive Behavior in Student Teams with Interventions. *Teaching Sociology*, 51(2), 127–138. Bruhn, S. (2022) “Me Cuesta Mucho”: Latina immigrant mothers navigating remote learning and caregiving during COVID-19. *Journal of Social Issues*.

Jackie and her collaborator Dr. Susan Brudvig (Northern Kentucky University) created a Podcast for the American Sociological Society describing why they conducted research on student teams, their research methodology, and their findings on the value of incorporating “team development interventions” into their teamwork pedagogies in the classroom. Links to the Podcast here

Strong, M. T., Cook, T., Belet, L. A., & Calarco, P. (2023). Changing The World: How Comics and Graphic Novels Can Shift Teaching. *Humanity & Society*, 47(2), 245–257.

### **Freeden Blume Oeur and C.J. Pascoe. 2023. Gender Replay: On Kids, Schools, and Feminism**

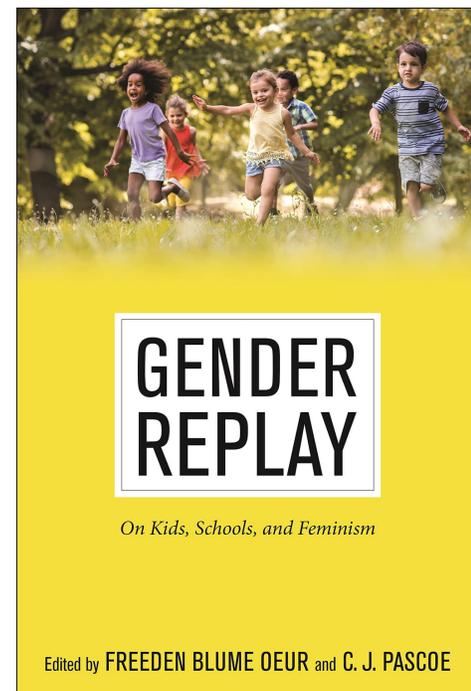
Gender Replay celebrates and reflects on Barrie Thorne’s Gender Play classic, extending Thorne’s scholarship into a new and different generation.

The new volume brings together many of the foremost scholars on youth from an array of disciplines, including sociology, childhood studies, education, gender studies, and communication studies.

Together, these scholars reflect on many contemporary issues that were not covered in Thorne’s original text, exploring new dimensions of schooling, the sociology of gender, social media, and feminist theory.

Over fourteen essays, the authors touch on topics such as youth resistance in the Trump era; girls and technology; the use of play to challenge oppressive racial regimes; youth activism against climate change; the importance of taking kids seriously as social actors; and mentoring as a form of feminist praxis.

Click [here](#) to purchase



# Call for Papers

Call for Proposals: Special issue of *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society* on:

## **FAT SOCIAL JUSTICE NOW!**

Editor-in-Chief: Carla A. Pfeffer, Michigan State University, [cpfeffer@msu.edu](mailto:cpfeffer@msu.edu)

A *Time Magazine* headline in 2023 shouts: “More Than Half of the World Will Be Obese By 2035.” For decades, fatness has been decried as a global public health scourge, a crisis, an epidemic. An array of dietary, exercise, surgical, behavioral, psychological, interpersonal, and pharmaceutical interventions have been amassed with the aim of diminishing bodily fat, to no long-term avail. Alongside this costly array of interventions are myriad empirical research studies demonstrating the profound consequences of anti-fat social stigma and bias across nearly every facet of social life today—employment, health and healthcare, romantic relationships, public access and accommodations, legal systems, housing, education, families, socioeconomic status, public transportation, politics, religion, and the media. Even as representation of some fat bodies slowly begins to expand, supersize and infinifat people experience increasing social isolation, broad lack of access, care refusals, and public ridicule. Fatness is intersectionally experienced, producing variable outcomes for individuals and groups of people who live at these intersections. Few legal protections exist for fat people and fatphobia, anti-fat stigma, and discrimination have emerged as equal-opportunity antipathies, as common among social and political liberals as they are among conservatives.

In the context of these difficult social realities, I invite papers for a special issue of *Fat Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Body Weight and Society*, on Fat Social Justice Now! This special issue seeks to encompass a variety of topics around a broad definition of fat social justice. As such, I invite you to consider how fat social justice has been conceptualized in the past, its status today, and how we might more effectively envision and strategize around fat social justice for the future. To be considered for inclusion in this special issue, please send a tentative title, 200-250 word abstract, and current CV to: Carla A. Pfeffer, [cpfeffer@msu.edu](mailto:cpfeffer@msu.edu), by June 30, 2023. Any questions about the topic may also be directed to Carla A. Pfeffer at this e-mail address. Those invited to submit full papers (5,500 words or fewer, including references) will be notified by August 01, 2023 and will be required to submit a full paper by November 01, 2023.

### **Welcome topics include but are not limited to:**

- Shifts in fat social justice tactics, strategies, and approaches over time
- Fat social justice manifestos for the twenty-first century
- The role of fat acceptance in fat social justice (provocations welcome)
- Access, accommodations, and the built environment
- Intersections of fat social justice theories, politics, and social movements with crip and disability studies
- The rise of bariatric surgeries and weight-loss pharmaceuticals in the context of fat social justice
- Fat social justice within or across particular social contexts (e.g., relationships, families, legal systems, health and medicine, employment, education, housing, religion, politics, media, etc.)
- Local and global fat social justice
- Bodily autonomy, boundary and bodily surveillance, and bodily transitions in the fight for fat social justice
- Barriers, challenges, and strategies for achieving inclusive and intersectional fat social justice
- The role of Health at Every Size in the fight for fat social justice
- Fat social justice-focused organizations, groups, and social movements
- Building and promoting solidarity for fat social justice
- The state of legal protections for weight, body size, and shape
- The role of resilience, resistance, and activism for fat social justice
- Necessary intersections, solidarity, and allies in the context of fat social justice (e.g., anti-racist, anti-sexist)
- Art for fat social justice
- Technologies for fat social justice

**In addition to these topics, I also invite brief reflective essays on the outgoing and founding editor of *Fat Studies*, Esther Rothblum’s, many contributions to defining, nurturing, and elevating the field of fat studies. This special issue will contain a special section celebrating Dr. Rothblum’s scholarship, editorship, mentorship, and longstanding commitments to advancing social justice.**

*Fat Studies* is the first academic journal to critically examine theory, research, practices, and programs related to body weight and society. Content includes original research and overviews exploring the intersection of gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. Articles critically examine representations of fat in health and medical sciences, the Health at Every Size model, the pharmaceutical industry, psychology, sociology, cultural studies, legal issues, literature, pedagogy, art, theater, popular culture, media studies, and activism.