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# SSSP SOCIETY & MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION NEWS

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## A Note From the Chair



Fernando I. Rivera,  
2017-2019 Society &  
Mental Health Division  
Chair, University of  
Central Florida

Greetings Division members,

I cannot believe that my term as chair of the division is already ending. I am happy to inform you that Giovani Burgos at Adelphi University will be our next division chair. Congratulations Giovani! Please look at all the wonderful presentations schedule for the 2019 Annual Meeting in New York City listed on pages 2 - 7 of the newsletter. I am also thrilled to announce the winner of the James R. Greenley Award, Dr. Verna M. Keith at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. See below. Please, mark your calendar for our divisional meeting on Saturday August 10. We will be recognizing Dr. Keith for her outstanding contributions to the sociology of mental health.

Last, but not least, I want to thank all the division members, session organizers, presenters, presiders and attendees for making my work as chair a memorable one. I also want to thank our newsletter editor, Angela Vergara, for her contributions to the division. I have certainly enjoyed my time as division chair and want to thank you all for your support.

Make sure to follow us on Twitter ([link here](#)) and as always feel free to contact me at: [Fernando.Rivera@ucf.edu](mailto:Fernando.Rivera@ucf.edu) if you have any questions or concerns.

See you in New York City!

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## 2019 James R. Greenley Award: Dr. Verna M. Keith



We are delighted to announce that this year's James R. Greenley Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Mental Health winner is Dr. Verna M. Keith Chair and Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Keith's teaching and research interest focus on social inequalities and health, as a product of the early graduate training in social demography. During graduate school, Keith worked on projects that emphasized race, social class, and gender differences in rural-urban migration, labor force participation, and attitudes towards public policy. After completing studies at the University of Michigan in the School of Public Health, Dr. Keith's research coalesced around inequalities in health with particular emphasis on understanding the relationship between social hierarchies (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, SES) and health outcomes.

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## Meet your new Chair – Giovanni Burgos



Dr. Burgos research and teaching interest center on the pathways that link structural disadvantages to the well-being of marginalized populations. Research wise, Dr. Burgos enjoys using advanced multilevel and structural equation modeling techniques in two lines of research. The first line of work examines how school factors impact academic achievement among Canadian youth. In addition, Dr. Burgos is interested in how residential segregation, income inequality, neighborhood disorder, and discrimination stress impact the life chances (e.g., health, death from homicide) of African Americans and Latinos in the U.S.

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# 2019 SSSP Society & Mental Health Division Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Sessions

Numbers refer to session numbers in the Program Schedule

*Date: Friday, August 9*  
*Time: 8:30 AM - 10:10 AM*  
**THEMATIC Session 7:**  
**Technology and Mental**  
**Health**

Room: Fashion Suite  
Sponsors: Society and Mental Health  
Organizer & Presider: Alex Trillo, Saint Peter's University

*Papers:*

“‘Trans Enough’ for Tumblr? Accounting for Body and Self in Digital Worlds,” Spencer A. Garrison, University of Michigan

“From the ‘Wicked Witch of the West’ to ‘Sabrina the Teenage Witch’: Witches Perception’s of Representations in Popular Culture,” Anna S. Rogers, University of South Carolina

“It’s Hard to be ‘Woke’ All the Time: Feminism, Television, Identity, and Self-Care,” Abigail M. Letak, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Misinformation and Facebook: A Rising Social Problem,” Courtney James Thomas Brown, Coastal Carolina University

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*Date: Friday, August 9*  
*Time: 10:30 AM - 12:10 PM*  
***Session 24: Applied***  
***Sociology and Mental***  
***Health***

*Room: Vanderbilt Suite*  
*Sponsors: Society and Mental Health*  
*Organizer: Angie P. Mejia, University of Minnesota, Rochester*  
*Presider: Michael Branch, Syracuse University*

*Papers:*

"After the Easy Hard: Institutional Grieving after the Gun Violence Death of a High School Student," Nora Gross, University of Pennsylvania

"Coming off Psychiatric Medication: Lay Expertise in the Making," Kevser Pinar Ustel, University of Michigan

"Put Some 'RESPECT' in Mentoring Programs for High Risk Black Boys," Quinn Gentry, Messages of Empowerment Productions, LLC

"Shifts in College Students' Perceptions of Mental Health Issues and Resources," Emily A. Ekl, Indiana University

"What Can Sociology Teach Mental Health Clinicians?" Angie P. Mejia, University of Minnesota, Rochester

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*Date: Friday, August 9*  
*Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM*  
***Session 35: Disasters and***  
***Mental Health***

*Room: Vanderbilt Suite*  
*Sponsor: Society and Mental Health*  
*Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Fernando I. Rivera, University of Central Florida*

*Papers:*

"Healing as Empowerment/Empowerment as Healing: Community-based Responses to Mental Health in Post-Maria Puerto Rico," Jacqueline Villarrubia-Mendoza, Colgate University and Roberto Vélez-Vélez, SUNY New Paltz

"Measuring Community Resilience: A Review of Two Instruments," Daniel Walker, University of Arkansas, Charleen McNeill, East Carolina University, M.E. Betsy Garrison, Tim Killian and Zola Moon, University of Arkansas

"Social Work and Climate Change Thinking," Kelly Smith, University of Southern California

"Vesico-vaginal Fistula: Issues, Challenges, and Integration in Northern Nigeria and Dynamics of Flood Disasters in Nigeria: A Psycho-spatial Perspective in Nigeria," Catherine Eveh Uloko and Amina Lami Abdullahi, Kaduna Polytechnic, Nigeria

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*Date: Saturday, August 10*

*Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM*

***Session 89:***

***Neurodivergency and  
Neurodiversity***

*Room: State Suite*

*Sponsor: Disability, Society and Mental Health*

*Organizer: Justine Egner, University of Wisconsin LaCrosse*

*Presider & Discussant: Melinda Leigh Maconi, University of South*

*Papers:*

*"Immobilizing the Moving Target: Bureaucratic Narrowing and Truncating of Mental Illness," Kerry M. Dobransky, James Madison University*

*"Twice Isolated: An Exploration of the Experiences of Autistic Transgender Adults," Nicole A. Rios, The Graduate Center, CUNY*

*"#ActuallyAutistic: Using Twitter to Construct Individual and Collective Identity Narratives," Justine Egner, University of Wisconsin LaCrosse*

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*Date: Sunday, August 11*

*Time: 10:30 AM – 12:10 PM*

***Session 135: CRITICAL***

***DIALOGUE: Mental***

***Health and Healthcare***

***Disparities Inside and***

***Outside of Prison or Jail***

*Room: Sutton Suite*

*Sponsor: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; & Society and Mental Health*

*Organizer: Robert L. Peralta, The University of Akron*

*Presider: Eric Victory, The University of Akron*

*Description:* This critical dialogue will focus on physical and mental health disparities facing current and former prison/jail inmates. Health disparities, health care access, and the implications thereof for this marginalized population will be focused upon.

*Papers:*

*"Engagement in Meaningful Occupations in Prison," Sandra Rogers, Rutgers University*

*"Mental Health Illness among the Incarcerated: Case Study of Jails in Rural Arkansas," Veena Kulkarni and Joseph Rukus, Arkansas State University*

*"Not Part of My Sentence: An Examination of the Flaws in Canadian Correctional Facilities," Helen Kosc, Queen's University*

*"Substance Use and Violence among Former Prison Inmates: A Qualitative Study of Barriers to Health and Health Care," Robert L. Peralta, The University of Akron, Meghan A. Novisky, Cleveland State University, James R. Carter and Nickolaus Gotsiridze, The University of Akron*

*"The National Survey of Healthcare in U.S. Jails: An Overview of 'JailCare'," Kathryn M. Nowotny, Kapriskie Seide, Carrie Hough and Marisa Omori, University of Miami*

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*Date: Sunday, August 11*

*Time: 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM*

***Session 147: Drug Use, Health,  
and Self-Medication***

*Room: Lexington Suite*

*Sponsors: Drinking and Drugs & Society and  
Mental Health*

*Organizer & Presider: Ellen Benoit, National Development and Research I  
Institutes, Inc*

*Papers:*

"Pain Underground: Kratom, the Plea to Nature and Fear of Big Pharma," Andrew Robert Burns and Lynnette Coto, Louisiana State University and Jolene Vincent, William & Mary

"'I Don't Look the Way Those People Look': Women, Symbolic Boundaries and Diverted Prescription Opioids," Yesenia Aponte-Melendez, The New School

"Women Coping with Stigma: Intimate Partner Violence and the 'Misuse' of Prescription Medications," Jeralynn S. Cossman, Walter S. DeKeseredy and Misty L. Harris, West Virginia University

"A Qualitative Analysis of Self-reported Experiences of Stimulant Effects from Opioid Use," Jeffrey Turner and Aukje Lamonica, Southern Connecticut State University

"Perceptions of Hepatitis C Virus among People Who Inject Drugs," Brandon Michael Muncan, Stony Brook University, Ashly E. Jordan, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, CUNY, David Perlman, Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Suzan Walters, New York University

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*Date: Sunday, August 11*

*Time: 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM*

***Session 160: Environmental Justice  
And Life Changes***

*Room: Riverside Suite*

*Sponsor: Environment and Technology Society & Society and Mental  
Health*

*Organizer, Presider & Discussant: Giovanni Burgos, Adelphi University*

*Papers:*

"'There Was Nothing Alive There': The Role of Emotion in Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Participation," Jaime J. McCauley, Coastal Carolina University

"Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Childhood Mental Health: Inequalities of Neighborhood Built Environment?" Yuying Shen, Norfolk State University

"Residential Racial Segregation and Neighborhood Air Quality: A Multilevel Test of the Racialized Place Inequality Framework," Giovanni Burgos, Adelphi University

"The Tiny House Movement and Social Transformation: The Importance of Thinking (and Building) Tiny," Tracey D. Harris, Cape Breton University

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# 2019 SSSP Society & Mental Health Division Reception and Special Events

## **Welcoming Reception: Grand Ballroom Foyer**

*Date:* Friday, August 9

*Time:* 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

## **Graduate Student Happy Hour: The Beer Bar**

*Date:* Friday, August 9

*Time:* 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

## **Society and Mental Health Divisional Meeting: Vanderbilt Suite**

*Date:* Saturday, August 10

*Time:* 10:30 AM – 12:10 PM

## **Division-Sponsored Reception: Grand Ballroom Foyer, Mezzanine Level**

*Date:* Saturday, August 10

*Time:* 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Complimentary beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be available.

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### **THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR!**

Thanks to Angela Vergara, Doctoral Candidate at the University of Central Florida Sociology Department, for her time and efforts serving as the Society and Mental Health Division Newsletter Editor. Thanks Angela!