



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

SSSP Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division

Summer 2022 Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Dear Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division members,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the beginning of summer and getting some rest after a whirlwind academic year.

This summer's newsletter is packed with important information. Scroll down to learn about the PCID's sessions at the upcoming conference, the winners of the Student Paper and Michael Harrington Awards, information about revising our division's materials, and information about our annual business meeting. The newsletter ends with member news.

Speaking of the business meeting, this year there is a lot of business to attend to. In addition to the standard items of soliciting ideas for next year's sessions, looking over the budget, and providing a quick rundown of the division for new members, we'll be trying to refresh and revise our division's materials. We'll be considering proposed revisions to our division's mission statement, recommended reading list, and awards. To get this process started, please fill out this survey about our division: <https://forms.gle/voVp5vSW7y65S7p37>. I'll prepare the results as proposals to consider at the business meeting, hopefully resulting in refreshed division materials going forward.

The 2022 Conference is scheduled for August 5-7 in Los Angeles, CA, organized around the theme "The Sociological Reimagination: From Moments to Momentum." Our division is involved in several exciting sessions listed below in this newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who, over the past year, has given their time to the division through service in committees, session organizing, and more. Your efforts make the division thrive.

Warmly,
Rahim Kurwa

Schedule of PCID Sessions and Meetings

Friday, August 5th

12:30pm – 2:10pm

Divisional Business Meeting

Room: Bunker Hill

4:30pm – 6:10pm

Session 032: Black Feminism/Black Feminist Epistemologies

Room: Watercourt A

Saturday, August 6th

8:30am – 10:10am

Session 035: Using GIS to Answer Sociological Questions

Room: Crocker

12:30pm – 2:10pm

Session 058: The Welfare State and COVID-19

Room: Rose

2:30pm – 4:10pm

Session 065: Exposing and Addressing Inequities of Space and Place

Room: Museum B

Sunday, August 7

8:30am – 10:10am

Session 075: Reconceptualizing Education after COVID-19: Creating a Better System

Room: Rose

10:30am – 12:10pm

Session 083: The Impending Mortgage Crisis and Racial Inequalities in Housing

Room: Rose

4:30pm – 6:10pm

Session 099: Reimagining Poverty, Class, and Inequality through a Du Boisian Lens

Room: Hershey

Congratulations to the winner of the 2022 Student Paper Award!



Steven Schmidt, Ph.D. Student
Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine

“Protected Ties: How Renters Mobilize
Their Social Networks to Find Homes
in Los Angeles”

Abstract: Scholars have argued that poverty isolates low-income families and erodes social support networks. Yet other work shows that social ties remain central to the everyday survival of poor households. To examine this tension, I use interviews with 125 renters living in Los Angeles to compare how Latino and non-Hispanic

white, very low and middle-income families mobilize their social ties during a common household transition—rental housing searches. Compared to middle-income families, poor renters more frequently received help from their friends, family members, and coworkers during moves. However, requests for assistance played out differently depending on the perceived economic status of the connection. Poor renters established protected ties with poor friends and family members by lowering their expectations for instrumental assistance and minimizing the potential burden of requests. In contrast, poor renters expected comparatively affluent ties to provide more support during moves, and relationships became strained when these expectations were not met. Although low-income white and Latino/a renters approached support requests similarly, network wealth inequalities between the two groups contributed to unequal housing outcomes. The findings suggest that poverty is more likely to strain relationships across income gaps and that the resources available to poor renters through their social networks stratify access to shelter.

The paper will be presented Sunday, August 7 at 10:30am in the Rose Room. Session 083: The Impending Mortgage Crisis and Racial Inequalities in Housing.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Michael Harrington Award!

The Michael Harrington Award recognizes individuals, organizations, faculty, or students that, by their actions, advance our understanding of poverty, social class, and/or inequality, and/or propose effective and practical ways to attend to the needs of the economically marginalized and reduce class inequalities.



This year's award goes to Joan Maya Mazelis, Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. Professor Mazelis is also an affiliated scholar at Rutgers-Camden's Center for Urban Research and Education, a Faculty Affiliate at the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty, a member of the Council on Contemporary Families, a member of and former chapter co-leader for the Scholars Strategy Network, and the editor of the Social Stratification section of Sociology Compass.

Honorable mention for this award also goes to Korey Tillman, Doctoral Candidate, Sociology - University of New Mexico. Korey is a scholar-activist who has dedicated his scholarship and community organizing to the abolition of prisons and policing in the United States. His work sits at the nexus of Black feminist thought and a postcolonial sociology of race, and his dissertation research investigates the antiblack and colonial underpinnings of contemporary policing.



Revising the PCID's Mission Statement and Awards

Our division has two main documents that explain our mission and intellectual orientation to the greater SSSP audience and potential members.

The first is the division mission statement, and the second is the division's reading list. Both are on the division's page, <https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1237/m/464>. These documents were last revised in 2014.

This summer, I am asking for division members to help refresh these and other parts of the division. You can give input here: <https://forms.gle/voVp5vSW7y65S7p37>. Please review the division mission statement and reading list and suggest any changes that you'd like to see going forward. I am also asking you to consider whether the division needs a third award. We currently have a student paper award and a more activist/public sociology oriented award, leaving room for perhaps an outstanding scholarship award, something specific to a particular issue, group, or method, etc. Finally, the form also has room for any other suggestions to improve the division.

Division Business Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 5th
12:30pm – 2:10pm
Room: Bunker Hill

1. Introduction to the division, ways to get involved
2. Soliciting ideas for the 2023 Conference's PCID sessions
3. Soliciting volunteers for sessions and committees
4. Review feedback on the Division Mission Statement
5. Review feedback on the Division Reading List
6. Review feedback on the Division's Awards
7. Review Existing Budget, draft following year's budget

I will send an update about remote participation in the business meeting as the conference gets closer.

Member News

Publications

Alicea, J. A. (2022). The racial state and the violent (re)production of educational inequality. *Sociology Compass*, e12980. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12980>

Das, Veena. *Slum Acts*. John Wiley & Sons, 2022.

Fowle, M. Z. (2022). Racialized Homelessness: A Review of Historical and Contemporary Causes of Racial Disparities in Homelessness. *Housing Policy Debate*, 1-28. Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511482.2022.2026995>

Mazelis, Joan Maya. 2022. "Paying for Child Care Shouldn't Be This Hard." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. March 9. <https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/child-care-cost-philadelphia-biden-20220309.html>

Mazelis, Joan Maya and Arielle Kuperberg. 2022. "Student Loan Debt, Family Support, and Reciprocity in the Transition to Adulthood." *Emerging Adulthood*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/21676968221080007>

Ray, Ranita. 2022. "School as a Hostile Institution: How Black and Immigrant Girls of Color Experience the Classroom." *Gender & Society* 36(1): 88-111. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/08912432211057916>

Ray, Ranita. 2022. It Never Seems to Be a Good Time to Talk About Teachers' Racism Educators are under siege for teaching "CRT." But curriculum isn't everything. *Slate*. March 1st. <https://slate.com/human-interest/2022/03/teacher-racism-in-classrooms-and-curriculum.html>

Awards

Joanie Mazelis received the 2022 Public Sociology Award from the Eastern Sociological Society