

# SPORT, LEISURE, AND THE BODY

Society for the Study of Social Problems



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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

**Alicia Smith-Tran, PhD**

Texas Christian University

Greetings!

I am honored to serve the division as chair for 2019-21 and thank you for allowing me to serve you and SSSP in this capacity. For those I have yet to meet, I am an assistant professor of sociology at Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth, TX. One of my current research projects is on middle-class Black women who are recreational runners. I am also a medical sociologist, with a focus on illness narratives, and I also study the age-related experiences of middle-class Black Americans in the workplace.

Our division is currently one of the smallest in SSSP, so we are in need of more members in order for the division to stay visible and viable. If you have not already, please take a minute this week to think of a colleague you can tell about the division, or a graduate student you can sponsor. We now have a Twitter account, so we encourage you to follow us there and re-tweet our posts. If you do not already, please follow us on Facebook as well. The links to our Facebook and Twitter are on the last page of this newsletter. We are hopeful that with a larger online presence, we can grow the division and make clear that it is needed in SSSP.

As we continue to grow and re-define our division, I want to reiterate the scope of our focus. While sociology of sport has historically been an emphasis, those that study and teach about issues related to leisure and the body are just as important. At our meeting next August, we will have a session on the intersection of sport, leisure, and the body in order to explore how all three complement each other and are needed interdependently in order to have a full understanding of each of them singularly.

I want to thank Kaitlin Pericak, who has volunteered to help manage our social media presence, including taking the reigns of our Twitter account. In addition, I give many, many thanks to Tiffany Hang, who has done a phenomenal job

compiling this newsletter and bringing it to life. Please feel free to email Tiffany or myself with any ideas that you have, or items that you would like included in the next issue. We hope that social media and the newsletters will become foundational in our ability to stay connected and get our work out into the world.

It is an exciting time to be involved with work on sport, leisure, and the body. I enjoyed getting to meet some of you engaged in these areas of research at the annual meeting in New York, and look forward to meeting more of you in San Francisco next August. There is so much potential for research with implications for social outcomes both within and beyond the stated scope of our division.

All the best,

**Alicia Smith-Tran**

Pronouns: she/her/hers  
 Email: a.smithtran@tcu.edu  
 Twitter: @aliciasmithtran



## DIVISION SESSIONS FOR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

### NEXT YEAR'S SESSIONS:

Our division is sponsoring/co-sponsoring 10 sessions at next year's meeting. Please start thinking about which sessions may be a good fit for you!

### SOLE-SPONSORED SESSIONS:

- 1) "When Sport Brings Hope"
- 2) "Intersections of Sport, Leisure, and the Body"
- 3) "Hobbies for Profit"

### CO-SPONSORED SESSIONS:

- 1) "The Interplay of Health and Sport" (co-sponsored by Health, Health Policy & Health Services)
- 2) "Tourism and the Environment" (co-sponsored by Environment and Technology)
- 3) "Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Within and Beyond #MeToo" (co-sponsored by Gender and Crime & Juvenile Delinquency)
- 4) "Demystifying Drug Use: Pleasure, Benefit, Maximization and Fun" (co-sponsored by Drinking and Drugs)
- 5) "Family, Children, and Sports" (co-sponsored by Family)
- 6) "The Physical Demands of Managing Poverty" (co-sponsored by Poverty, Class, and Inequality)
- 7) "Disability, Sport, Gaming and Technology" (co-sponsored by Disability)

*San Francisco, California*

**AUGUST  
7-9TH**



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

a. Haltom, Trenton M. 2019. "Give Us a Twirl: Male Baton Twirlers' Embodied Resistance in a Feminized Terrain." Pp. 200-212 in *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, and Transformations* edited by C. Bobel and S. Kwan. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press. (Peer Reviewed)

b. Kwan, Samantha, and Trenton M. Haltom. 2019. "Mixed Methods in Body and Embodiment Research." *Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment*, Natalie Boero and Katherine Mason (Eds). (Invited Chapter) DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190842475.013.5

c. Kwan, Samantha, and Trenton M. Haltom. Forthcoming 2019. "Gender & Bodies." In *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Sociology*, Lynette Spillman (Ed). New York: Oxford University Press. (Peer Reviewed)

d. McGinnis, Lee P., James W. Gentry, and Trenton M. Haltom. 2019. "Gender, Millennials, and Leisure Constraints: Exploring Golf's Participation Decline." *Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure & Events*. DOI: 10.1080/19407963.2019.1662427

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

**Trenton Haltom**  
University of Nebraska

**MY CURRENT POSITION:**  
PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology  
at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**COURSES THAT I CURRENTLY TEACH**  
I currently teach Sociology of Sport at University  
of Nebraska-Lincoln

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ME:**  
My interest in studying and teaching sociology of sport comes from my experience as a competitive baton twirler. I conducted qualitative interviews with 30 male baton twirlers around the country for my Master's thesis at the University of Houston. I continue to publish on this work. After completing my competitive career as a member of Team USA in 2015, I became a judge with the National Baton Twirling Association and sit on the marketing committee for the International Baton Twirling Federation.



## GRADUATE STUDENT KAITLIN PERICAK AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT

**Kaitlin Pericak, PhD Candidate**

University of Miami

In September 2019, the NCAA Research Committee selected five research proposals for the 2019 cycle of the NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program.

The program aims to stimulate research on college sports by providing financial support to graduate students' work in social and behavioral science fields. These students' work will help inform NCAA member schools and the public on important topics by introducing new studies to the fields. Graduate students are awarded one-time grants set at a maximum of \$7,500.

The division's own Kaitlin Pericak received a grant on her research, "The thrill of victory, the agony of injury: Social support among injured college athletes."

Through the use of a quantitative survey, her study examines the relationship between injury among Division I collegiate athletes and their socio-emotional responses (i.e., perceived stress, anxiety, and depression). Further, this study examines whether social support services in the form of athletic trainers, sport nutritionists, physical therapists, sport psychologists, team physicians, and other sports medicine staff mediate these socio-emotional responses. Expected findings of this study are that traditional sources of social support for injury (e.g., sports medicine staff) housed in athletic training centers are not the most utilized, compared to non-traditional sources of social support.





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

## Jeffrey Sacha, PhD

American River College

### MY CURRENT POSITION:

I am in my second year as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at American River College -- a large community college in Sacramento, CA.

### RESEARCH I AM CURRENTLY WORKING ON:

My research trajectory changed dramatically upon starting my job at ARC. The 5-5 teaching load doesn't leave much room for research. That said, I include sociology of sport and body-centered research methodology into my courses. For me, sport was one of the first social institutions where it all seemed to click; concepts and theories from my previous sociology classes became tools that I could use to study this "thing" I knew so intimately as an athlete and fan. I try to provide that same "AH-HA" moment for my students (particularly my student athletes) by building sport and body related units into all my classes

### COURSES THAT I CURRENTLY TEACH

Introduction to Sociology

Social Problems

Sociological Research Methods

### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ME:

il was born and raised in Seattle, WA and boxed competitively for about 10 years. While in graduate school at USC, I built and ran a free community boxing gym in Pico-Union, a neighborhood north of USC's main campus near downtown Los Angeles.



# 2020 GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

All submitting authors are required to submit their papers through the annual meeting Call for Papers process as a condition for consideration for the award.

In addition, please submit your paper electronically as a Microsoft Word or PDF file to **Alicia Smith-Tran** at **[a.smithtran@tcu.edu](mailto:a.smithtran@tcu.edu)**

Paper submission must be dated (via electronic time/date stamp) on or **before 1/31/20.**

The Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division announces its 2020 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical and/or theoretical, and may be on any aspect of sport, leisure, and/or the body, broadly construed. The winner will receive a cash award of \$200, a plaque of recognition, student membership in SSSP for 2020, and complimentary registration for the 2020 annual meeting. Two honorable mentions will be awarded \$50 each.

## **To be eligible, a paper must meet the following criteria:**

- 1) The applicant must be a graduate student at the time of the SSSP annual meeting in San Francisco from August 7-9, 2020;
- 2) The applicant must be the first (lead) author on the paper;
- 3) The paper must not be co-authored with a faculty member or a colleague who is not a student;
- 4) The paper must not have been submitted to or accepted for publication (papers that have been submitted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible);
- 5) The paper must not exceed 30 pages including notes, references, and tables;
- 6) The paper must be typed using 12-point font in either Times New Roman or Courier;
- 7) Student papers may only be submitted to one of the SSSP division award competitions.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

**Tiffany Hang**

Texas Christian University

Hello!

My name is Tiffany Hang and I am a current junior Biology and Sociology student at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. I am currently working on writing an autoethnography about my personal experiences with chronic illness in relation to the life course and aging. Since beginning my studies at TCU, I have found a passion and excitement for sociology. As the newsletter editor for the division of Sport, Leisure and the Body for this term I am excited and eager to learn about this specific subfields within Sociology. Please do not hesitate to to send me any material for the newsletter. Thank you all for this great opportunity!

Best,

**Tiffany Hang**

tiffany.hang@tcu.edu



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Let us know what you're working on! Please send information on recent articles, reports, presentations, etc to Tiffany Hang, [tiffany.hang@tcu.edu](mailto:tiffany.hang@tcu.edu)

