



SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, Social Problems Theory Division Members,

I am greatly looking forward to seeing many of you next month in New York! In this newsletter, you will find information about our division-sponsored sessions for this year's conference (P. 5), our 2026 award winners (Pp. #2-4), and recent publications of our members (P. 6). Please join us for our Division's Annual Business Meeting on Friday, August 7th, at 12:30 PM in Ambassador III. SSSP is currently undergoing multiple budgetary changes, which we will discuss during the business meeting. Additionally, we will use this time to seek volunteers for our award committees, plan sessions for our 2027 meeting, and present plaques to the winners of our Outstanding Book Award and Junior Scholar Award. Our Division-Sponsored Reception will be Saturday, August 8th, at 7:15 PM in the Gershwin Ballroom.

I am pleased to introduce the Division's Incoming Chair - Morena Tartari. Morena is currently an Associate Professor at Northumbria University and has been an active member of SSSP. Morena's teaching and research are grounded in social problems theory, and she previously served as chair of the Teaching Social Problems Division. She has worked closely with our division over the years, and I am greatly looking forward to continuing to work with her in the years to come!

See you next month in New York!

Joshua H. Stout
Illinois State University



Joshua H. Stout

Social Problems Theory Division Chair 2024-2026
Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, Illinois State University

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2: 2026 Outstanding Book Award

Page 3: 2026 Outstanding Student Paper Award

Page 4: 2026 Junior Scholar Award

Page 5: 2026 Annual Meeting Division-Sponsored Sessions

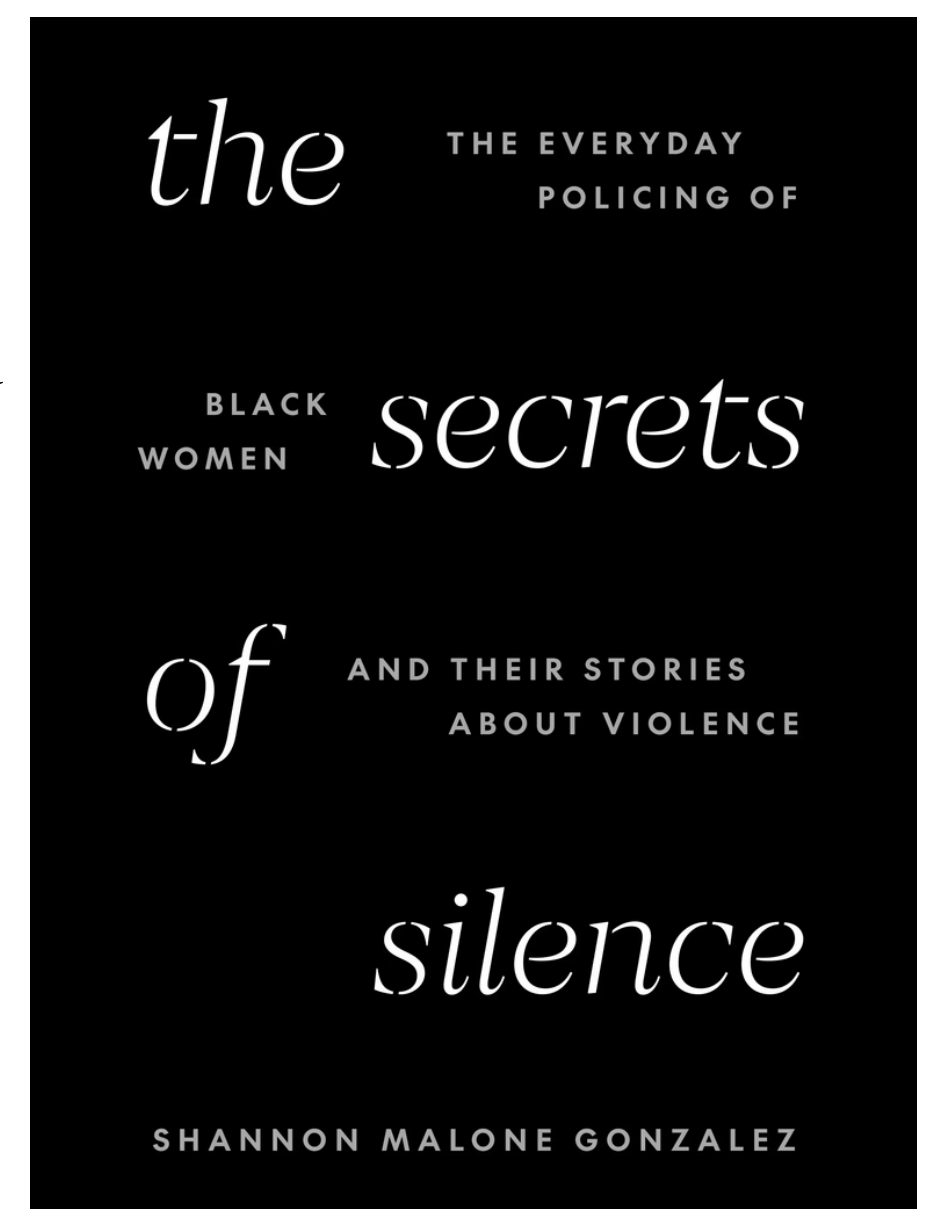
Page 6: Recent Member Publications

Editor: Kimberly A. Ingold

SSSP THEORY DIVISION OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD

Malone Gonzalez, S. 2025. *The Secrets of Silence: The Everyday Policing of Black Women and Their Stories about Violence*. Princeton University Press.

In *The Secrets of Silence*, Dr. Shannon Malone Gonzalez, thoughtfully and with the utmost care, brings us into the daily lives and inner worlds of Black women and girls, with a focus on how everyday policing shapes their lives. Based on extensive ethnography, life history interviews and pre-interview surveys, Malone Gonzalez innovatively theorizes the “missing-ness” of Black women and girls’ experiences, and the myriad ways in which they name, share, report or hide the violence that is inflicted on them. Building upon the matrix of violence, this missing-ness, she argues, is due to silence as a matrix, which “consists of politics, norms, and sanctions that make it difficult and dangerous for black women and girls to speak about and report violence.” Black women and girls, then, are confronted in what Gonzalez theorizes as “the space between”: “spaces where black women encounter and make meaning around our lived experiences of violence from officers and others outside of what is conventionally recognized and known about policing,” (8). More than showing how everyday policing shapes their lives, Malone Gonzalez creatively reveals the limits of conventional research methods for understanding complex social problems by attending to that which we see and refuse to see, hear and refuse to hear, and the implications of these silences. Yet, not all is lost, as Malone Gonzalez demonstrates how gatherings are spaces where Black women can name and discuss these violences inflicted. In doing so, these gatherings serve as a counter to everyday experiences and as a place where Black feminist epistemologies take shape. Beautifully written, Malone also intersperses the book with poetry from these women’s stories and makes clear the importance of studying Black women and girls on their own terms.



Shannon Malone Gonzalez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and a Faculty Researcher at the Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Their research draws from black feminism and critical criminology to examine the relationship between marginality and policing—in particular how black women and girls experience, understand, and resist police surveillance and violence. She is especially interested in institutional and communal knowledge production processes used to conceptualize, track, and address police violence and other types of violence on the margins. Shannon is from Jackson, Mississippi where they earned her B.A. from Tougaloo College. She received her M.S. from the University of Pennsylvania and her Ph.D. in Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Lily Ivanova, Victoria Reyes, and Stève Bernardin

SSSP THEORY DIVISION OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD

A Framework for Ongoing Settler Colonialism Rooted in Indigenous Sociology by Melissa Horner-Petrone

The winner of the 2026 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for the Social Problems Theory Division is Melissa Horner-Petrone. According to the committee, her paper, *A Framework for Ongoing Settler Colonialism Rooted in Indigenous Sociology*, “uses the metaphor of cornerstones to understand how features of settler colonialism interact with each other and affect everyone in a settler colonial society, and applies this framework to the study of suicide.” Members of the committee noted that the manuscript “provides a new way of approaching the ongoing settler colonialism in the United States. The Four Cornerstones is a helpful analytic—for students, academics, and public alike—to locate settler colonialism in their own lives and work.” Moreover, “we believe Horner-Patrone’s paper pushes social problems theory to be as thorough with our theorization of settler colonialism as the field has been with other core social structures.”



Melissa is a citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation and a descendant of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. She also has settler lineages including German and English. Melissa grew up in Montana and loves spending time with her family, shooting her bow, traveling, reading, hunting, and hiking with her dog Koy, all of which shape her thinking, writing, research, teaching, and creativity. Broadly, her research examines the structure of everyday, ongoing settler colonialism, and her current project highlights the experiences and knowledges of Native American lawmakers in Montana. Melissa is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at the University of Missouri and the 2026-2028 Charles Eastman Fellow in Native American and Indigenous Studies at Dartmouth College.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Sione Lynn Pili Lister, Clara Mey, and David C. Lane

SSSP THEORY DIVISION JUNIOR SCHOLAR AWARD

Members of the committee lauded Dr. Stout's scholarship for its timely and compelling contributions to social problems theorizing, specifically noting how it advances a constructionist framework for understanding the intertwined complexities of substance abuse as a social problem. His steady efforts towards advancing public sociology around this issue—in the forms of invited presentations, media appearances, and professional reports—were cited as a promising new direction in his scholarly trajectory. Finally, the committee also appreciated the breadth and depth of your many contributions to SSSP and the Division, which include more than a decade of mentoring, service, and progressive leadership roles.

Joshua H. Stout is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences at Illinois State University. His research primarily explores the impacts of, and responses to, drug use in society. Dr. Stout's work has explored the experiences of individuals bereaved by a drug-related death, pointedly examining how this population experiences stigma and engages in various advocacy efforts. He is currently conducting research on the spread of disinformation about fentanyl exposure among first responders, and the abusive practices of America's Troubled Teen Industry. Joshua is from Durango, Colorado and he received a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Delaware, and a B.A. in Criminology and Psychology from the University of Denver.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Brian Monahan and Stève Bernardin

2026 SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Time and Place
	Social Problems Theory Division Business Meeting		Friday, August 7, 12:30, Ambassador III
19	All the Feels: Emotions as Acts of Resistance	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Sport, Leisure, and the Body	Friday, August 7, 2:30pm, Ambassador II
34	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Decolonizing Solutions: Lessons from the Global South for the Global North	1. Conflict, Social Action, and Change 2. Global 3. Social Problems Theory	Saturday, August 8, 8:30am, Broadway III
51	Medicalization as a Social Problem: A Tool of Oppression and Resistance	1. Disability, Mental Wellness, and Social Justice 2. Social Problems Theory	Saturday, August 8, 12:30pm, Manhattan Room
71	Social Problems Theory: Past to Present	1. Social Problems Theory	Sunday, August 9, 8:30am, Melville
75	New Directions in Social Problems Theory	1. Social Problems Theory	Sunday, August 9, 10:30am, Broadway I

RECENT MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Budd, Kristen M., Heather E. Dillaway, David C. Lane, Manjusha Nair, Marko Salvaggio, and Jason A. Smith, eds. 2026. *Global Agenda for Social Justice 3*. Policy Press.

<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/global-agenda-for-social-justice-3>

Juárez, Nicolás. 2026. ““When We Fight, We Win!”: An Ethnographic Investigation into Class Struggle Unionism in Higher Education.” *Social Service Review* 100(2):307-45. <https://doi.org/10.1086/740777>

Lister, Sione Lynn Pili. 2026. "Lessons from the Peripheries: Coloniality, Belonging, and Resistance Among U.S. Territorial Peoples." *Sociological Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.70070>

Reyes, Victoria. 2026. “[Afterward: Fractal Whiteness in a Violent World](#)” in *Migrant Academics’ Narratives of Precarity and Resilience* (Volume 2), edited by Ladan Rahbari and Olga Burlyuk. Open Book Publishers (invited), pp 285-297.

Rocha Beardall, Theresa, Eman Ghanayem, and Sione Lynn Pili Lister. 2026. “Sociologies of Resistance: Gaza Student Encampments as Sites of Global Indigeneity, Placemaking, and Solidarity.” [Handbook of Anticolonial, Decolonial, and Postcolonial Sociologies](#), edited by J. Puri and V. Patil. Northampton, MA. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Steele, Paul D. 2026. *Civil and Criminal Justice Responses to the Sexual Victimization of American Indian and Alaska Native Children: Contexts, Decisions, and Outcomes*. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780190275662.001.0001>

Stout, Joshua H. 2026. ““Punishing Death Dealers’: Examining Claims to Expand the Death Penalty to People Who Deal Drugs.” *Contemporary Justice Review*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2026.2663183>

Thai, Mai. 2026. *Kid Cops: What Communities Gain and Lose from Junior Police in Schools*. University of Chicago Press. <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/K/bo263809689.html>

***Research from this book won the Student Paper Award from SSSP's Social Problems Theory Division in 2019!