



SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings, Social Problems Theory Members!

It was truly wonderful getting to spend time with some of you at the Annual Meeting a few months ago in Chicago. Thank you to everyone who attended our sessions, and to our members who helped organize and chair! During the conference, we had an incredibly productive Business Meeting discussing our division's identity, awards, and session reallocations that are being implemented in SSSP. I would encourage you to review the copy of the meeting notes that are now published on the division website (<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/1240>). There are two important changes I would like to highlight now. First, we have now created a Bluesky account for our division's social media platform – please follow [@spttheorydivision](https://bsky.app/profile/spttheorydivision). Second, as a result of session reallocations across SSSP, we will now hold 2 division-sponsored and four cosponsored sessions. Below, you will find the call for papers for our 2026 sessions. The submission portal is now open – please submit your papers for the 2026 annual meeting by January 31st. I am excited to see you in New York!

In this newsletter, you will also find the call for papers for our division-sponsored awards. I am excited to announce that we are introducing the new Junior Scholar Award this year! Each year, we will alternate between this award and the new Mid-Career Faculty award each year. I look forward to the opportunity to celebrate all the incredible work that each of you is doing! Lastly, on page 6, you will find the recent publications of our division members.

Please send me (jhstout@ilstu.edu) recent works and publications to include in our summer newsletter and share with our members

Best,

Joshua H. Stout
Illinois State University



Joshua H. Stout

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

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Editor: Kimberly A. Ingold

2026 CALL FOR PAPERS

Graduate Student Paper Award

Deadline: 1/31/26

The Social Problems Theory Division invites papers for its annual Student Paper Award Competition.

To be eligible, papers must:

1. be authored or co-authored by students currently enrolled in a graduate program,
2. make an original and innovative contribution to the theoretical understanding of social problems,
3. not have been accepted for publication,
4. not have been previously presented at SSSP or presented or accepted for presentation at other professional meetings, unless substantially revised with new data, findings, or theoretical contributions.
5. may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student, and
6. be submitted through the Annual Meeting Call for Papers process as a condition for consideration, preferably to a Social Problems Theory Division session.
7. only be submitted to one division for consideration.

Self-nominations are welcome. Manuscripts should be limited to fewer than 10,000 words, including references. The winner will receive membership dues, Annual Meeting registration (if you attend), an electronic certificate of recognition, and \$200 honorarium. The winner will also be invited to present their paper at the 2026 SSSP Annual Meeting - while presenting at the Annual Meeting is expected and encouraged, it is not required to receive award funding. Please also note that students may only submit a paper for consideration to one SSSP Division. A paper submitted to multiple divisions will not receive consideration for the Social Problems Theory Division Award. Please send all questions and submissions to: Joshua Stout, Chair, Social Problems Theory Division: jhstout@ilstu.edu.

2026 CALL FOR PAPERS

Outstanding Book Award

Deadline: 1/31/26

The [Social Problems Theory Division](#) requests nominations for its Outstanding Book Award. The Division welcomes books that critique or advance the ongoing scholarly and public dialogue about social problems theorizing. More information regarding the Division's vision can be accessed through our Mission Statement. Eligible books must have been published between 2024-2026. Single or multiple-authored books will be accepted. Authors are encouraged to nominate their own work. Nominees must be members of SSSP. If the book is co-authored and only one author is a current member, the expectation is that all authors will become members of SSSP to accept the award. Please send a brief nomination letter to the Social Problems Theory Division Chair, Joshua Stout (jhstout@ilstu.edu) and arrange to have copies of the book sent directly to all three members of the Outstanding Book Award Committee Chair.

Junior Scholar Award

Deadline: 1/31/26

The [Social Problems Theory Division](#) is now accepting nominations for the Junior Scholar Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the research (publication, grants, etc.), service, and/or mentorship within the discipline of Social Problems Theory. Eligible candidates must have defended their doctoral dissertations within five academic years prior to the annual meeting at which the award is made. All award nominees must be current members of the SSSP and the Social Problems Theory Division. You may become a member of the division to be considered. Self-nominations are encouraged. Winner will receive the award at the Social Problems Theory Division Business Meeting at the SSSP Annual Meeting in New York in August 2026. Please send a nomination letter and a complete CV to Brian Monahan (bmonahan@bw.edu).

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

76th Annual Meeting

August 6-9, 2026 • New York City, NY
Dr. Sarah Jane Brubaker, SSSP President
Virginia Commonwealth University



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CALL FOR PAPERS

As we face multiple crises at global, national, and local levels, in higher education, social movements, and in the SSSP itself, we seek ways to conceptualize both causes and solutions. *Colonization of lifeworlds* is a powerful way of thinking about systems based on logics of profit, domination, and coercion. Such systems have taken over - and threaten to destroy - spaces where we give life and build and sustain community through solidarity, love and mutual care, and participatory engagement in civic life. These are spaces where we celebrate and respect all forms of life, where we share our creativity and joy, and where we create space for hope. Colonization, in all its forms, depends on and requires processes such as objectification, commodification, corporatization, financialization, criminalization, militarization, and bureaucratization, among others. The logics of these forms of social relations have invaded our lifeworlds and undermined our humanity, our species-being, our interspecies relationships and commitment to caring for all forms of life. How can we work together to recreate and elevate the logic of lifeworlds in resistance to the forces of colonization?

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- Community, Research, and Practice
- Conflict, Social Action, and Change
- Crime and Justice
- Critical Race and Ethnic Study
- Disability, Mental Wellness, and Social Justice
- Drinking and Drugs
- Educational Problems
- Environment and Technology
- Family, Aging, and Youth
- Gender, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities
- Global
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- Institutional Ethnography
- Labor Studies
- Law and Society
- Poverty, Class, and Inequality
- Social Problems Theory
- Sociology, Social Work, and Social Welfare
- Sport, Leisure, and the Body
- Teaching Social Problems

2026 SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Organizers
11	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Decolonizing Solutions: Lessons from the Global South for the Global North- THEMATIC	1. Conflict, Social Action, and Change 2. Global 3. Social Problems Theory	Lister, Sione Lynn Pili sionelister@asu.edu Moussawi, Ghassan moussawi.ghassan@gmail.com
29	Medicalization as a Social Problem: A Tool of Oppression and Resistance	1. Disability, Mental Wellness, and Social Justic 2. Social Problems Theory	Maconi, Melinda Leigh melinda.maconi@moffitt.org Ivanova, Lily lily.ivanova@gmail.com
59	New Directions in Social Problems Theory	1. Social Problems Theory	Mey, Clara csmey@me.com
60	All the Feels: Emotions as Acts of Resistance-THEMATIC	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Sport, Leisure, and the Body	Stout, Joshua H. jhstout@ilstu.edu Johnston, Michael O. johnstonmo@wmpenn.edu
61	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Beyond Our Problems: How to be More Solutions-Oriented in the Classroom	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Teaching Social Problems	Johnson, Jacqueline jjohnson@adelphi.edu
	INVITED SESSION: Social Problems Theory: Past to Present	1. Social Problems Theory	Stout, Joshua H. jhstout@ilstu.edu

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Sione Lynn Pili Lister. 2025. Relational colonialisms and a turn to place based epistemologies. *Critical Sociology* (Online First).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205251367449>

Meghan L. Rogers and Kimberly A. Ingold. 2025. Trade, tolerance, and transformation: How globalization reshapes gender equality and female homicide victimization. *Justice Quarterly* (Online First).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2025.2595246>

Joachim J. Savelsberg, Jillian LaBranche, Miray Philips. 2025. Prosecutorial-NGO Complex: New legal opportunity structures and the role of (I)NGOs in universal jurisdiction trials on Syria. *Law & Society Review* (Online First).

<https://doi.org/10.1017/lsr.2025.10062>