

Winter
Newsletter
2025/2026

SSSP-Sociology, Social Work & Social Welfare Division

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

We hope that your Fall has been going well and continue to do so. < :

There are a few exciting opportunities coming up in the near future that we wanted to remind you of before the holiday break! We have put these time-sensitive items at the top, with accolades and other potential items of interest below.

'Wishing you all wonderful end of the year celebrations, or just time with family, friends, or on your own to recharge!

Thank you for being a member of our division! There is no us without u!

Erica



& Miriam
Co-chairs and Newsletter Editors

SSWSW TIME-SENSITIVE ITEMS

I. Renew Your Membership

[Join or renew your membership](#)

Deadline: 12/31/25

II. Submit abstracts for 76th Annual Meeting S, SW, and SW Paper Sessions

[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | 2026 Annual Meeting Program Theme](#)

Deadline: 1/31/26

- [Anticolonial Social Movements](#)
- [Caregivers, Care Recipients, and Health](#)
- [Rural Spaces and Services](#)
- [Weaponization of Child Welfare](#)

Please see session descriptions below

III. Graduate Student Paper Award

Deadline: 1/31/26

[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | 2026 Sociology and Social Welfare: Student Paper Award](#)

Please see details below

IV. Virtual Poster Mini-Conference

Deadline: 2/15/26

[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | SSSP Virtual Poster Mini-Conference - Poster Submission Form](#)

Please see details below

76th Annual Meeting Sociology, Social Work, and Social Welfare Paper Session Descriptions

Anticolonial Social Movements

Anticolonial social movements have been a significant force in the fight for freedom and self-determination. These movements have emerged from various regions around the world, driven by the desire for cultural pride, political independence, and the end of oppressive systems. They have utilized a range of strategies, from non-violent resistance to armed struggle, to challenge colonial rule and promote the rights of colonized peoples. Colonization, in all its forms, depends on and requires processes such

Anticolonial Social Movements (cont.)

as objectification, commodification, corporatization, financialization, criminalization, militarization, and bureaucratization, among others. Papers in this session may address how anticolonial social movements have resisted the colonization of lifeworlds throughout time, and how they continue to have an impact today.

Caregivers, Care Recipients, and Health

The session will focus on research on the nature of or alternatives to current policies and practices regarding the provision of either formal or informal caregiving to persons with health issues. As such, presentations may be at any jurisdictional level (national, state, or local) and either present research-based details of the current policy or practice and its impact on health, or present research on both a current policy or practice and research examining an alternative policy or practice to improve caregiving and health outcomes.

Rural Spaces and Services

This thematic session explores the unique challenges and opportunities for change shaping rural communities. Rural spaces face persistent issues of inequality, limited access to resources, and structural barriers in health, education, housing, and social services. At the same time, these communities generate creative forms of resilience, care, and solidarity that deserve sociological attention. Presentations in this session highlight the structural opportunities and constraints associated with rural environments; how policies, practices, and politics affect service delivery; and how rural residents navigate, resist, and reimagine systems of support. By examining rural spaces through the lenses of sociology, social work, and social welfare, this session underscores the significance of rural life for understanding broader questions of justice, equity, and social well-being.

Weaponization of Child Welfare

This session will look at how child welfare systems often operate as a tool of control and surveillance to regulate lifeworlds. In the present child welfare systems, marginalized families and BIPOC communities are disproportionately surveilled, investigated, and separated. Under the guise of “protection”, policies and practices hold power to dismantle kinship networks, impose white, middle-class family norms, and punish families for systemic inequities beyond their control. Panelists will share how these patterns reflect colonial practice and dominant carceral systems while overlooking community-driven solutions. Discussants will explore ways to resist harmful colonialist practices and imagine new approaches to child and family well-being rooted in dignity, solidarity, and collective care
[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | 2026 Annual Meeting Program Theme](#)

Graduate Student Paper Award Details

Winner will receive:

- One year student membership
- \$200 cash award
- Waiver of 2026 conference registration fees
- Certificate of recognition
- Recognition at SSSP Awards Ceremony

Paper topics can focus on various aspects of sociological, social welfare or social work research. Quantitative and qualitative analyses, applied research, and theoretical papers are all acceptable.

For more information see here:

[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | 2026 Sociology and Social Welfare: Student Paper Competition](#)

SSSP Virtual Poster Mini-Conference

March 26-27

Posters are welcome from SSSP members that share findings from completed studies or those in progress. Submissions Due: 2/15/26

Posters should engage directly with SSSP's stated purpose.

See Flyer [here](#)

Extended abstracts of 200-500 words should include:

- Poster title
- Research methods
- Citation list
- Brief study and findings summary

[The Society for the Study of Social Problems | SSSP Virtual Poster Mini-Conference - Poster Submission Form](#)

To attend the virtual poster mini-conference without presenting at it, please register here: [register](#)

For questions, please contact Dr. Atticus M. Wolfe, Program Committee at awolfe@agnesscott.edu



JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professional-track Faculty Lecturer position, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at UNC Greensboro is hiring a professional-track faculty lecturer position in Health and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies starting in August 2026.

As an interdisciplinary program, WGSS invites applicants who work in critical health studies broadly construed. Areas of focus might include disability studies, health access and equity, social medicine, trans health studies, health sovereignty, decolonial approaches to medicine, and the environment and health. The position is for one academic year with the possibility of renewal.

Review of applications will begin January 15, 2026.

For more information and to apply for this position #13903, please see: <https://spartantalent.uncg.edu/>

Please direct inquiries to Dr. Danielle Bouchard at DMBOUCHA@uncg.edu

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track DePaul University

Specializations in immigration, gender, stratification, *the practice of social work*, or the *dynamics of non-profit/non-governmental organizations*.

Department of Sociology
Position to begin September 26, 2026
Application deadline January 12, 2026

<https://academics.depaul.edu/faculty-jobs/Pages/position-detail.aspx?dpusearchbyid=855722>

Professor of the Practice, Sociology and Anthropology Fairfield University

Specializations in *nonprofit management*, *policy implementation* & *program evaluation*, and *strategic planning*.

Sociology and Anthropology Department
Position to begin September 2026
Application deadline January 19, 2026

https://ffd.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/EmploymentOpportunities/details/Professor-of-the-Practice--Sociology-and-Anthropology_JR0003025-1?jobFamilyGroup=744fdc6270fe01eb4c7fbb71b6825329

Other Opportunities

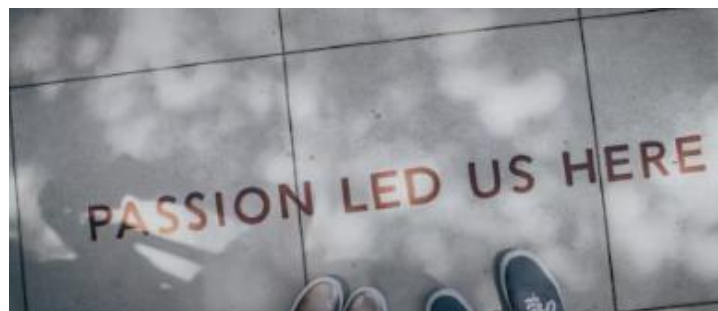
American Journal of Public Health

Calls for paper submissions

To promote innovative and high-quality science on key public health priorities.

Four active [Calls for Papers](#) with topics ranging from:

- Responsible artificial intelligence use (1/2/26)
- Relationship between public health and politics (2/1/26)
- Bereavement as a global health concern (3/1/26)



Training Opportunities

2026 Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality (MIWI) Training Program

The MIWI Training Program is a state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary methods training program that prepares participating scholars to investigate the intersection of mental and physical health, with an emphasis on how this intersection relates to health disparities. The training encompasses conceptual frameworks, study designs, data collection needs, and analytic approaches necessary to conduct this innovative research. The program includes an intensive 3-day summer institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan, followed by ongoing collaboration with a mentorship team.

Funding and Eligibility

MIWI is supported by the OBSSR and NIMH training grant R25MH136652. Participation is limited to early career scholars with a doctoral degree.

How to Apply

For detailed information and application instructions, please visit <https://sph.umich.edu/mental-physical-health-training/join-us/index.html>.

Key Dates

- Application Deadline: 2/1/26, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- Program Date: 5/11–14, 2026

2026-2027 Health and Aging Policy Fellowships

The one-year Fellowship runs from October 1 – September 30 and has full-time and part-time tracks. It is conducted as a hybrid program of mentoring, networking, learning, and practicum experiences. Health and Aging Policy Fellows work across diverse fields of aging and develop lifelong partnerships and networks. Individually and collectively, they are improving the lives of older adults around the country.

PROGRAM TRACKS

- The Residential track
- The Non-Residential track
- The VA Track
- The Caregiver Policy Track
- The Behavioral Health Policy Track

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The program has a broad interdisciplinary focus, and Fellowship cohorts have included newly minted PhDs to senior professors and community leaders from academic and practice settings.

Submission deadline:
Monday, March 16, 2026

[Apply Here – Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program](#)

Other Opportunities

Help Medical Researchers

Futures in Academic Medicine: A Survey for People in / Seeking Careers in Academic Medicine

Researchers who are either:
a) currently employed by an academic medical institution or
b) seeking employment by an academic medical institution

Deadline: 1/1/26

Primarily interested in characterizing and quantifying perspectives on careers in academic medicine in the current sociopolitical environment, including perspectives on job security, confidence in a future in academic medicine, and potential pivots people are making in their careers. Through this research, there is interest in exploring potential differences in these experiences.

Asking people who meet the eligibility criteria and are primarily based in the US if they could take ~15 minutes to complete this anonymous survey and share with their colleagues.

<https://redcap.mountsinai.org/redcap/surveys/?s=Y9AJ97R7DKWNXDH8>

Please feel free to contact Dr. Devin Madden at 212-659-9552, with any questions.



DIVISION MEMBER NEWS

New Positions:

- **Erica Jablonski**, Ph.D.,
Member, Board of Directors,
Boston Senior Home Care
- **Erica Jablonski**, Ph.D.,
Adjunct Instructor, Southern
New Hampshire University

Member Publications:

Published:

- Littman, D.M., Milligan, T., Bender, K., **Cook, D. J.** (2025). Games as a method to engage young people in research: Learnings from The Future of Third Places Game. Co-Design. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15710882.2025.2565283>.
- Littman, D. M., **Cook, D. J.**, & Thurber, A. (2025). Using geographic interviews to conduct community assessments—insights for MSW pedagogy. *Social Work Education*, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2025.2458032>

In Press (Book Chapter):

- **Cook, D.J.** & Banks, S. (In Press). Period Poverty and Menstrual Health in a Global Context. In *Global Agenda for Social Justice 3* (2026 ed.). Policy Press. University of Bristol.

Awards:

SSSP Lee Student Support Fund - Travel Award

Peer-reviewed presentations for 2025:

- **Cook, D. J.** (presented, October 2025). Understanding Student Sense of Belonging at a Commuter University. Council on Social Work Education. Denver, CO.
- **Cook, D. J.**, Littman, D.M. (presented, August 2025). Young Adults' Prioritization of Needs in Third Places. The Society for the Study of Social Problems. Chicago, IL.
- Littman, D.M., **Cook, D.J.** (presented, August 2025). Youth Homelessness in Utah: Needs Assessment of the Mountainland and Balance of State Continuums of Care (CoCs). The Society for the Study of Social Problems. Chicago, IL.
- Lau, C., Palmer, L., **Cook, D.J.** (presented, January 2025). Mandated Reporting Policy, Practice, and Outcomes: A Closer Look at a Hotly Debated Topic. Symposium. Society for Social Work and Research. Seattle, WA.

Other News:

Denae Cook successfully defended her qualifying exam and entered PhD Candidacy. Her qualifying exam, titled "Governing the Poor – Poverty, Perception, and Child Welfare Reunification (A Scoping Review of Poverty Bias in Child Welfare between 2015-2025)," explored literature to better understand the prevalence of class-based bias in decision-making, particularly in U.S. child welfare systems with families seeking reunification. She will be diving deeper into this topic for her dissertation. < :

Because we are always interested in spreading the word about our division, here are ways you can help us thrive and grow:

- Tell friends and colleagues about us;
- Participate in division student paper and conference session submissions;
- Invite others to check out our division webpage and/or [Facebook page!](#)
- Submit contributions or ideas for newsletters, surveys, and divisional meeting topics (e.g., awards, presentations, grant announcements, calls for study participants).

Erica (e.jablonski@unh.edu) and Miriam (miriam-landsman@uiowa.edu)

