

Join us in Cleveland for the 2015
NCSA Annual Conference April 10th and 11th!



NCSA

North Central Sociological Association

No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable.

~Adam Smith

NCSA 2015 CALL FOR PROPOSALS New Visions of Human Flourishing

The 2015 conference theme, New Visions of Human Flourishing, is intended to stimulate creative and original ideas about structural and/or cultural innovation that allow for diverse perspectives, and potentially promote engagement with other disciplines. Our conversations about new visions of human flourishing will likely involve a serious reconsideration of the meaning of terms such as responsibility, sustainability, morality, and love (even unlimited love for all others without exception). We invite papers, panels, workshops, and roundtables that explore new pathways to individual and collective thriving through sociological theory and research, teaching, and practice.

As always, we welcome presentations addressing this year's theme, as well as a broad range of other substantive, theoretical, pedagogical, and applied sociological issues. This conference highlights, but is not limited to, answering such questions as:

- Are there implicit visions of a better world guiding the work of sociologists and are such visions capable of promoting the flourishing of all people over the long run?
- To what extent are we in need of new visions of human flourishing, as opposed to visions rooted in material gain, self-aggrandizement, and the well-being of one's own group at the expense of others?

- What might we learn from other disciplines to enhance our ability to contribute to human health and well-being at the micro, meso, and macro levels?
- What social factors are associated with thriving organizations, communities, nations, and/or regions?
- How are cultural ideas about responsibility, sustainability, compassion, mindfulness, integrity, empathy, morality, and love implicated in the project of enhancing human flourishing?
- What makes our work as sociologists (teachers, scholars, or practitioners) meaningful and how does this contribute to our ability to thrive in the service of others?
- What is the meaning of "human liberation" and how might sociologists contribute to this goal?
- To what extent does sociology's emphasis on skepticism and critical thinking, along with practical career considerations (e.g., specialization), advance or inhibit our ability to develop new visions of human flourishing?

Submissions outside of the theme are welcome. Please submit by December 5th, 2014. To submit a proposal for a workshop, scholarly or teaching paper, or a panel, make sure to visit the new NCSA website at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2015-annual-meeting>



Student Presenters

For undergraduate students who wish to participate in the conference, please email your name, title of paper, school affiliation, abstract up to 150 words, and email address by January 9th to Alan McEvoy, the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Conference, at amcevoy@nmu.edu. Notifications of acceptance will occur in February.



Student Paper Competitions

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit papers for the student paper competitions. The first place winner's paper in the graduate division will be considered for publication in *Sociological Focus*, the official journal of the North Central Sociological Association. More information about the awards available online at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/student-paper-competition>

2015 Award Nominations

Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award

The Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award is an annual award recognizing an NCSA member who has accomplished one of more of the following:

- Service to the NCSA in a single truly outstanding activity, or
- Service to the NCSA in many capacities and over a long period of time, or
- Service to the NCSA throughout professional career.

When making nominations for the award, nominators are asked to send as much of the following as possible:

- A letter of nomination outlining reasons for the nomination.
- Curriculum vitae and/or a listing of activities which have fostered better teaching of Sociology.
- Documents supporting the nomination.

Submission deadline: January 9th, 2015.
Nominations/materials can be sent to:
Kathleen Piker-King, University of Mount Union

kingdk@mountunion.edu

Scholarly Achievement Award

The Scholarly Achievement Award Committee is now accepting nominations from the NCSA membership for significant work in the discipline of sociology. The work should have been published in the recent past and not have been recognized by the Association. Self-nominations are welcome. There are two categories for the award: book and article. The committee evaluates the nominated books/articles using the following criteria:

- Use, development, extension, or reworking of theory.
- Appropriateness and strength of methods/research design.
- Clarity, quality, and accessibility of writing.
- Overall contribution to and impact on the discipline of sociology- be it through use in the classroom, as a research piece, or both- including its timeliness and significance.

Submission deadline: December 5th, 2014.
Nominations/materials can be sent to: Larry Nichols, West Virginia University
larry.nichols@mail.wvu.edu

J. Milton Yinger Lifetime Distinguished Career Award

The J. Milton Yinger Lifetime Award for a Distinguished Career in Sociology may be given to an individual who is, or who has been, an active member of the NCSA; the nomination must be submitted by a member of NCSA. The principal criterion for this award is an extraordinary career in some activity that has furthered the work of Sociology as a discipline. As such the "criteria" for the award are intentionally flexible in order to accommodate distinguished contributions to sociological scholarship, applied or public sociology that improves the quality of human life, or improvement of teaching and learning in the region and nationally. A person might be nominated for exemplary work in any one of the areas or for uncommon contributions in two or more areas.

- 1) Unique scholarly contributions—an extraordinary career of scholarship, expressed in publications, editorial work on behalf of sociological journals, and/or consultantships.
- 2) Public or Applied Sociology—an extraordinary career of applied sociological or public policy work.
- 3) Sociological teaching and learning—a lifetime of distinguished contributions to sociological instruction and curriculum development.

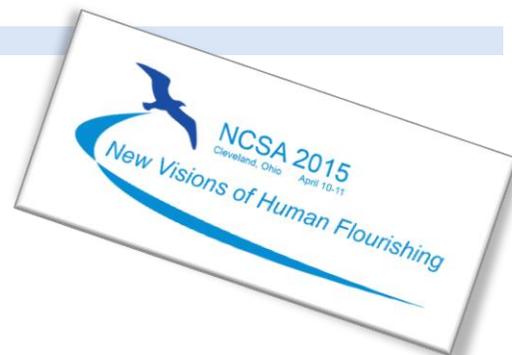
When making nominations for the award, nominators are asked to send as much of the following as possible:

- A letter of nomination outlining reasons for the nomination.
- A vitae or a listing of activities which have advance the discipline of sociology.
- Additional documents supporting the nomination.
- Supporting letters.

Submission deadline: January 9th, 2015.
Nominations/materials can be sent to: Lynn Ritchey, University of Cincinnati at Blue Ash
Lynn.ritchey@ucmail.uc.edu

John F. Schnabel Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award

The NCSA Teaching Committee is now calling for nominations (and re-nominations) for the 2015 The John F Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award. This award may be given to an individual, a department, a program, or an institution. Individuals nominated for the award must be a member



of the NCSA. Departments, programs, or institutions nominated for the award must be located in the NCSA region.

The principal criterion for the award is excellence in some activity enhancing the teaching of Sociology for the NCSA or within the North Central region. As such, the "criteria" are intentionally flexible in order to accommodate the innovative and creative.

A partial list of the kinds of activities that would be considered includes:

- The sharing of pioneering innovations in curriculum design. Creative classroom activities, and/or development of instructional methods.
- The development of especially creative instructional materials.
- A distinguished record of publication and/or research on or about the teaching of Sociology.
- A distinguished record of assuring a teaching emphasis at the NCSA Annual Meeting by organizing research session on teaching, creating displays, chairing panels, conducting teaching workshops, and/or chairing roundtables on some teaching emphasis.
- Faculty developmental efforts such as systematic in-service training of teachers or a distinguished record of preparing graduate students to teach.

When making nominations for the award, nominators are asked to send as much of the following as possible:

- A letter of nomination outlining reasons for the nomination.
- A vitae and/or a listing of activities which have fostered better teaching of Sociology.
- Documents supporting the nomination.

Submission deadline: January 9th, 2015.
Nominations/materials can be sent to:
Jacqueline Bergdahl, Wright State University
jacqueline.bergdahl@wright.edu

Visiting Cleveland

There are a number of local attractions in and around Cleveland that you may want to fit in to your conference schedule. We have included some options here, but *This Is Cleveland* (<http://www.thisiscleveland.com/>) has additional suggestions including a comprehensive visitor's guide, discounts, restaurant suggestions, and local events searchable by date.



East Fourth Street

Steps from the conference hotel, the East Fourth Street Neighborhood is Cleveland's main entertainment district. Boasting over a dozen distinctive restaurants with regional and ethnic cuisine, live music venues, theatre, a comedy club, and even a bowling alley, there is something for everyone in this vibrant community. For specific offerings, visit: <http://www.east4thstreet.com/>.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is located at East Ninth Street at Lake Erie. Opened in 1995, the Hall of Fame and Museum conducts educational programs, offers visitors a unique look at the evolution of rock and roll, and acts as a primary site for the preservation of music history. Visit <http://www.rockhall.com/> for ticket prices and hours.

Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art features exhibits from Asia to the Americas, including an extensive collection of three dimensional art and pieces representing antiquity and modernity. While general admission to permanent exhibits is free, there is a nominal fee for temporary collections. For more information on museum hours, prices, and current collections, visit the museum website at: <http://www.clevelandart.org/>.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has one of the largest primate collections in the United States. The Rainforest Discovery Center boasts vegetation and animals, along with interactive exhibits dedicated to conservation education. Adult zoo tickets are \$13.25. For information on park hours, exhibits, and events, make sure to visit the website at: <http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Zoo/Zoo.aspx>.

2015 Useem Plenary Address

The 2015 NCSA Useem Plenary Address will be delivered by Dr. Layli Maparyan. As a scholar-activist, Dr. Maparyan uses her academic work to generate a platform for social change. Serving as the Executive Director for the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, Dr. Maparyan combines social scientific research on identities and communities with a unique approach to feminist work. A pioneer in advancing feminist and womanist values to create an agenda for change, her research and applied projects transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries and advocate for a more holistic approach to womanist theory.



Editor of the *Womanist Reader*, and author of the *Womanist Idea*, Dr. Maparyan has also published prolifically on a variety of topics, including adolescent development, education, the intersections of race and spirituality, sexuality, gender identity, biracial/biethnic identities, Black LGBTQ studies, the history of psychology, and Hip Hop studies, among others. All of this work has contributed to her ongoing work on womanist theory.



Dr. Maparyan extends her professional work in to the nonprofit sector, with projects for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights (NCCHR) Women's Initiative Task Force, the Women's Funding Network, university consortia, and international advisory board participation. She has worked in connection with the University of Liberia in West Africa to help develop the inaugural Gender Studies Program that adopts an "applied womanism" framework. An advocate for blending spirituality with consciousness raising efforts to create and sustain social change, her research and civic involvement supports academic, public policy, and philanthropic initiatives directed toward women and groups that have traditionally faced exclusion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read more about Dr. Maparyan, visit her website: <http://www.wcwonline.org/About-us-Extra-Information/directors-message>

2015 NCSA Conference Information

Deadline to submit: December 5th, 2014
Submit proposals at www.tinyurl.com/2015CLEV-NCSA

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the 2015 NCSA Conference, please contact us.

General program issues:

Annulla Linders
annulla.linders@uc.edu

All research sessions:

Robert Carrothers
r-carrothers@onu.edu

All teaching sessions:

Jacqueline Bergdahl
jacqueline.bergdahl@wright.edu

All undergraduate papers:

Alan McEvoy
amcevoy@nmu.edu

Hotel/Conference arrangements:

Joyce Lucke
nca@paragonme.net

Public relations:

Danielle Lavin-Loucks
Danielle.lavin-loucks@valpo.edu

For information on the NCSA, membership inquiries, sociology in the news, and conference events, like us on Facebook and visit the [NCSA website](#). Please contact the public relations coordinator if you are interested in writing a guest blog for the NCSA website.



Individual Papers/Presentations or Poster - Research

If you would like to present a portion of a research project you are working on then you can submit it as an individual research paper or poster. The program committee will organize the individual submissions into coherent sessions. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words). Please indicate the general topic that best fits your submission (see list below). If your submission does not fit any of the general research topics, you can choose the "RESEARCH: other" option. For questions or more information on research papers, please contact Robert Carrothers at r-carrothers@onu.edu.

Individual Papers/Presentations or Poster--Teaching

If you would like to give a presentation on a particular teaching related topic then you can submit it as an individual teaching paper or poster. The program committee will organize the individual presentations into coherent sessions. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract (no more than 150 words). Please note the general topic that best fits your submission (see list). If your submission does not fit any of the general teaching topics, you can choose the "TEACHING: other" option. For questions or more information on teaching topics, please contact Jacqueline Bergdahl at jacqueline.bergdahl@wright.edu.

Special Format (e.g., workshops, panel discussion, author-meets-critic, etc.)

We accept workshops, panel discussions, or special format sessions on any sociology-related topic. These proposals should be submitted as a complete or "closed" session, meaning all participants will be focusing on a single topic and must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the proposal. You will need to submit a title and a brief abstract SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (no more than 150 words) as well as the names and email addresses of the session participants. For questions or more information on special format sessions, please contact Anna Linders at annulla.linders@uc.edu.

Complete Sessions - Research

Also referred to "closed" sessions. We accept complete panels on any research topic. These panels should have between 3 and 5 participants who present papers on similar topics. All participants must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the session. You will need to submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of all the presenters, the title of the individual presentations, and a brief abstract for each presentation (no more than 150 words). For questions and more information please contact Robert Carrothers at r-carrothers@onu.edu.

Complete Sessions - Teaching

Also referred to "closed" sessions. We accept complete panels on any teaching-related topic. These panels should have between 3 and 5 participants who do presentations on similar topics. All participants must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the session. You will need to submit the title of the session, a brief abstract for the session (no more than 150 words), the names and emails of all the presenters, the title of the individual presentations, and a brief abstract for each presentation (no more than 150 words). For questions and more information contact Jacqueline Bergdahl at jacqueline.bergdahl@wright.edu.

North Central Undergraduate Student Sociological Conference (NCSSC)

The North Central Sociological Association welcomes the participation of undergraduate students. For the last several years, undergraduate students have been able to present their work in this "conference within the conference." All NCSSC sessions take place on Saturday of the NCSA conference. Presenters in NCSSC sessions must register for the conference and be paid members of NCSA. For more information on the NCSSC, please contact Alan McEvoy at amcevoy@nmu.edu.

For more information, visit the new NCSA website at <http://www.ncsanet.org> or for submission information, visit: http://www.ncsanet.org/pdfs/2015_NCSA_Call%20for%20Proposals.pdf.

North Central Sociological Association Officers and Council Members

2014-2015 NCSA Council Members

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Current President | Matthew Lee, University of Akron |
| Current Vice-President | Annulla Linders, University of Cincinnati |
| President Elect | Brendan Mullan, Michigan State University |
| Vice President Elect | Robert Carrothers, Ohio Northern University |
| Past President | Lissa Yogan, Valparaiso University |
| Secretary | Barbara J. Denison, Shippensburg University |
| Student Section Chair | Alan Grigsby, University of Cincinnati |
| Membership Chair | Jeff Seymour, Carthage College |
| Council Member at Large | Rachel Stein, West Virginia University |
| Council Member at Large | Scott Desmond, IUPUI |

2014-2015 NCSA Committee Chairs

| | |
|---|---|
| Nominations | Lissa Yogan, Valparaiso University |
| Finance | Lisa Hickman, Grand Valley State University |
| Equality & Inclusion | Dina Banerjee, Shippensburg University |
| Sociological Focus, editor | Annulla Linders, University of Cincinnati |
| NCSA Student Conference | Alan McEvoy, North Michigan University |
| Aida Tomeh Award | Kathleen Piker-King, University of Mount Union |
| J. Milton Yinger Award | Lynn Ritchey, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash |
| Schnabel Teaching Award | Jacqueline Bergdahl, Wright State University |
| Scholarly Achievement Award | Larry Nichols, West Virginia University |
| Student Paper Awards | Todd Callais, University of Cincinnati – Blue Ash |
| Applied and Public Sociology | Natalie Haber-Barker, Lurie Children's Hospital |
| Profession, Freedom & Responsibility | Fayyaz Hussain, Michigan State University |
| Community College | Donna Giuliani, Delta College |
| Publication Policy | Steve Carlton-Ford, University of Cincinnati |
| Teaching Section | Jacqueline Bergdahl, Wright State University |
| Conference Coordinator | Joyce Lucke, Paragon Meeting and Events |
| Public Relations Coordinator | Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Valparaiso University |



Butler A. Jones Award

The NCSA is proud to announce a new award available for students. The Butler A. Jones Award is decided by NCSA's Equality and Inclusion committee. Butler A. Jones dedicated his scholarship and service to social justice, with an emphasis toward advancing the status of the African American population. As such, the award honors this tradition by recognizing a promising African American student who honors the intellectual traditions of the work of Butler A. Jones. His scholarly contributions were not only focused on raising awareness regarding marginalization of minority groups, but also attempted to improve the well-being of racially subjugated groups of the United States. Further, his work compelled policy makers to think earnestly about racial equality. In the spirit of the lifetime efforts of Butler A. Jones, the Equity and Inclusion committee of NCSA invites award applications from eligible applicants. The award comes with a \$400 prize, plus one year's membership and annual meeting registration for NCSA. The award is intended to facilitate a student's attendance and participation in the upcoming NCSA annual meeting.

Eligibility to receive the award:

- The applicant must be a student, undergraduate or graduate with a major or work that is relevant to the award.
- The applicant has to be a member of the African American community.
- The applicant must attend the 2015 NCSA annual meeting in order to receive the award.

Application process:

- Please submit a letter of purpose (2 pages maximum, in Times New Roman 12, double spaced, with standard margin) detailing why do you think you should receive this award. Address in the 2 pages how your participation at the meeting carries forward the tradition set by Butler A. Jones, and how winning this award would impact your success as a student of sociology or a related discipline.
- Please have one letter of recommendation submitted from your academic advisor or a faculty member. The person you select should address your qualifications for this award and the significance that winning this award would have on your study at your institution.

Deadline: January 31, 2015

Please email the documents to: Dr. Dina Banerjee (dbanerjee@ship.edu)

Sociological Focus

Sociological Focus is the official publication of the *North Central Sociological Association (NCSA)*. Published continuously since 1968, the quarterly journal is international in scope, covering a full range of topics of current interest to sociology and related social science disciplines. ***Sociological Focus*** is peer reviewed and committed to publishing high quality research on substantive issues of importance to the study of society. The journal's mission is broad in scope, encompassing empirical works (both quantitative and qualitative in nature), as well as manuscripts presenting up to date literature review of any field of sociology. See author and submissions guidelines at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/usfo20#.VE-6zfldWTM>

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