

## Join Us in Indianapolis in 2017! March 31<sup>st</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual NCSA Conference



# NCSA

North Central Sociological Association

*"I see people who talk about America, and then undermine it by not paying attention to its soul, to its poetry. I see polarization, reductionism, and superficiality."*

~Azar Nafisi

## NCSA 2017 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: PEACE IN A TIME OF POLARIZATION

The 2017 conference theme is *Peace in a Time of Polarization*. Given the current social and political climate, there are innumerable reasons to address how we can achieve peace given the seemingly fractured character of society. Polarization means more than politicians behaving badly or intensely disagreeing about social issues. Instead, David Lankenhorn, of the Institute for American Values, defines polarization as 'an intense commitment to a candidate, culture, or ideology' that divides people into rival groups. It is precisely this rivalry, fueled by a rhetoric of fear and hate, and strengthened by divisiveness, that stalls progress and peace.

As the current NCSA president, Dr. Swanson has argued that polarization thwarts empathy, compassion, understanding, and social change. How can we reverse these sentiments, so that we no longer experience the deeply polarizing and negative feelings that impact how we relate to others and how we choose to live? Sociology and sociologists are uniquely qualified to look at both the impact and future of polarization and peace. NCSA hopes you will join us as we explore the sociological connections between these ideas. We invite you to join us in Indianapolis as we address related concepts such as justice, violence, social movements, and social change.

We encourage you to present a paper, participate in a professional workshop, facilitate a teaching workshop, present a poster, or just come to be inspired and invigorated by what is certain to be a stimulating meeting. Help set the agenda for a less polarized nation, and a less fragmented understanding of the social world.

Individual presentations can be submitted to formal paper sessions, roundtables, or poster presentations. We also encourage complete, or closed sessions, where organizers have a fully developed topic and have identified presenters prior to submitting the proposal. These sessions can include research papers, panel discussions, author meets critic sessions, or workshops dedicated to teaching, academic writing, publishing, technology, or other professional development topics.

While we encourage proposals that advance the theme of the conference, submissions outside of the theme are also welcome. To submit a proposal please visit the online submission portal on the NCSA website, located at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2017-annual-meeting>. The online submission system is currently open. Please note that all submissions should be uploaded before **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis this spring!



### Student Presenters

NCSA welcomes undergraduate participants for the conference. Undergraduates wanting to participate in roundtables, poster sessions, or undergraduate paper sessions should contact Alan McEvoy, the Chair of the Undergraduate Student Division, at [amcevoy@nmu.edu](mailto:amcevoy@nmu.edu).

### 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 NCSA. More information is available at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/student-paper-competition>

### Butler A. Jones Award

A new NCSA award, the Butler A. Jones Award recognizes one promising African American student who honors the intellectual traditions of the work of Butler A. Jones. The award comes with a \$400 prize, plus one year's membership and annual meeting registration for NCSA. Interested students should visit the NCSA website <http://www.ncsanet.org/butler-a-jones-award> for more information.

## 2017 Award Nominations

### We Have Streamlined the 2017 Nominations Process! All You Need is a Name...

#### 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 their professional career.

When making nominations for the award, nominators are asked to simply provide the name and contact information for their nominee at <http://www.ncsanet.org/aida-tomeh-distinguished-service-award-nominations>.

The deadline for submissions is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Questions about the award can be sent to: Kathleen Piker-King, University of Mount Union [KINGKD@mountunion.edu](mailto:KINGKD@mountunion.edu).

#### Scholarly Achievement Award

The 2017 Scholarly Achievement Award Committee is accepting nominations from the NCSA membership for significant work in the discipline of sociology (book or journal article). The work should have been published in the recent past and not have been recognized by the Association already. Self-nominations are also welcome.

The committee evaluates the nominated books/articles using the following criterion:

- 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.

Nominations are due on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and can be submitted at NCSA's award website: <http://www.ncsanet.org/scholarly-achievement-nominations>. If you have

questions about the nomination process or the criteria, please contact Scott Desmond at: [Scott.desmond100@gmail.com](mailto:Scott.desmond100@gmail.com).

#### 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 simply provide the name and contact information of the nominee at <http://www.ncsanet.org/j-milton-yinger-lifetime-award-nominations>.

The deadline for submissions is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Questions about award nominations or criteria can be sent to: Lynn Ritchey, University of Cincinnati at Blue Ash [Lynn.ritchey@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto: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 2017 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 members 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 equally flexible to accommodate innovation and creativity in teaching.

A partial list of the types 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 simply submit the name and the contact information of their nominee to: <http://www.ncsanet.org/john-f-schnabel-distinguished-contributions-to-teaching-award-nominations>.

The deadline for submissions is December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Questions about nominations and the criteria can be sent to: Mellisa Holtzman [mkholtzman@bsu.edu](mailto:mkholtzman@bsu.edu).

## Visiting Indy



There are so many local attractions to explore in and around Indianapolis. We have included a few notable locales here, but Visit Indy (<http://www.visitindy.com/>) has far more options, including art/ cultural events, tours, discounts, shopping, restaurant suggestions, and information on notable Indianapolis neighborhoods. The conference hotel, the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Historic Union Station, is centrally located in the heart of the city. Although Indianapolis does not have a

massive public transit system, the bus system is easy to use, and many attractions are a short walk or drive away from the conference hotel.

### Children's Museum

If you plan to bring your family to Indy, check out the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Touted as the world's largest children's museum, children can interact with exhibits, visit the planetarium, view a dinosaur habitat, and learn about the history of the steam engine. So, if you have children traveling with you, you literally cannot skip this museum. We promise you will not be disappointed, nor will they. For more information about admission, traveling exhibits, and amenities, visit: <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/>.

### Indianapolis Museum of Art

The Indianapolis Museum of Art features modern art, African art, ancient art of the

Americas, Native American displays, Asian art, and a large exhibit on contemporary design. With modern art exhibits, the IMA boasts a broad collection of culturally diverse works guaranteed to inspire your creative side. Visit the museum's website at <http://www.imamuseum.org/> for information on traveling exhibits, admission prices, and hours.

### Indianapolis Motor Speedway

If you have never seen the speedway, it is worth the trip. If you don't make it out to the Brickyard, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum is relatively close to the conference hotel. You can visit the museum website <https://www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/at-the-track/museum> for ticket prices and information. Whether you are fascinated by racing, or even just remotely appreciative of the automobile more generally, it is worth a visit.

## Where to Eat...

Perhaps the most important question while you are in Indy is where to eat! We like to think of Indy as a big little city. It has amazing dining options, and world class cuisine, at affordable prices. We opted to highlight just a few here, but additional options can be found at: <https://www.visitindy.com/indianapolis-where-to-eat>.

### Breakfast

The most important meal of the day is often neglected in dining recommendations, so we have decided to remedy that. If you like to get out and about before you start your day, you can head over to **Milktooth** for a classy take on diner food. *Bon Appetit* listed it as one of the 50 best new restaurants in America. Described as playful and unique, the full-service brunch starts at 9:00 AM, and recent reviews suggest that the homemade donuts are known to cause tears of joy. Seriously, read the reviews. Or, if you are looking for a quick bite before a session, look no further than **Café Patachou** on Washington Street. With gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options, the modest café is known for its unique flavor combinations. Finally, if you are in the mood for home cooking, try **Maxine's Chicken and Waffles** for soul food offered in a casual, homey atmosphere. There are so many wonderful breakfast options downtown that you will find yourself torn over which one to try first.

### Lunch

If you have time to venture out for lunch, **Shapiro's Delicatessen** on Meridian is the epitome of a New York deli, right in the heart of Indy. Their famous Reuben is stacked high with delightful corned beef. **Goose the Market**, which is actually a butcher shop, takes a similar approach to stacking their sandwiches high, and with so many sandwich options to choose from, you will be hard pressed not to order a second for the road. For the lovers of Thai food, **Thai Paradise** is a favorite among locals. With an enormous menu and affordable dishes, you'll find the place packed with statehouse employees. Looking for the best burger in town? We think it can be found at **Black Market**. Considered a modern farmhouse, the restaurant has a casual and comfortably style. But, it may not be for the beef purist, as the signature Black Market Burger is a combination of the best beef and lamb, topped with goat cheese and green tomato pickles. Trust us when we say that you won't have any room for dessert. However, if you are looking for lighter fare, **Tiaolli** is an amazing downtown taco shack, with a charming back patio hidden amid the concrete jungle. Don't miss out on the carnitas if you decide to try it out. In addition to the handful of suggestions here, many of the breakfast places highlighted earlier also serve lunch.

### Dinner

Too many options...not enough time! One of our favorite Indianapolis restaurants is **The Rathskeller**, which also happens to be the oldest restaurant in the city. If you like Bavarian cuisine and are a beer snob, this is the place to go. Equally impressive for the beer connoisseur are **St. Joseph Brewery and Public House** and **Scotty's Brewhouse**. If you are a carnivore, try out **St. Elmo's Steak House**. You won't be disappointed. But, if you prefer that your food look like a work of art, **Mesh on Mass** (located on Massachusetts Avenue) has such artistic flair that you may find the food too pretty to eat. And, who doesn't like listening to live music while they dine? **The Jazz Kitchen** is a cross between a restaurant, a dance club, and a live music venue. With local artists performing, make sure to check their calendar to see who is on deck during your time in Indy.

There are countless other wonderful restaurants right around the corner from the conference hotel as well. And, many of them will deliver. Indy also has a number of notable culinary tours where you can sample some of the best the city has to offer, while touring some of the historic neighborhoods in the city. More information on tours can be found at: <http://www.indianapolisfoodtours.com/>.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the 2017 NCSA Conference, please contact us.

### General program questions:

Melinda Messineo, VP of NCSA  
[mmessine@bsu.edu](mailto:mmessine@bsu.edu)

### All research sessions:

Rachel Stein, Incoming VP of NCSA  
[Rachel.Stein@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Rachel.Stein@mail.wvu.edu)

### All teaching sessions:

Mellisa Holtzman, Teaching Section Chair  
[mkholtzman@bsu.edu](mailto:mkholtzman@bsu.edu)

### All undergraduate papers:

Alan McEvoy, Student Conference Chair  
[amcevoy@nmu.edu](mailto:amcevoy@nmu.edu)

### Hotel/Conference arrangements:

Joyce Lucke, NCSA Conference Coordinator  
[ncsa@paragonme.net](mailto:ncsa@paragonme.net)

### Public relations:

Danielle Lavin-Loucks, NCSA PR Coordinator  
[Danielle.lavin-loucks@valpo.edu](mailto: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.



# 2017 NCSA Conference Information

Deadline to submit: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Submission Guidelines at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2017-annual-meeting>

### INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS/POSTERS- RESEARCH

If you want to present a portion of a research project you are working on, then please 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 select the general topic category that most closely corresponds to your submission (see list at <http://www.ncsanet.org/pdfs/conference/2017%20NCSA%20Call%20for%20Proposals.pdf>). If your submission does not fit any of the general research topics, you can choose the "RESEARCH: other" option. For questions and more information please contact Melinda Messineo at [mmessine@bsu.edu](mailto:mmessine@bsu.edu).

### INDIVIDUAL PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS OR POSTER--TEACHING

If you want to give a presentation on a particular teaching-related topic, then please 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 below). If your submission does not fit any of the general teaching topics, you can choose the "TEACHING: other" option. For questions and more information please contact Mellisa Holtzman at [mkholtzman@bsu.edu](mailto:mkholtzman@bsu.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 the same 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 (no more than 150 words) as well as the names and email addresses of the session participants. For questions and more information contact Melinda Messineo at [mmessine@bsu.edu](mailto:mmessine@bsu.edu).

### COMPLETE SESSIONS - RESEARCH

Also referred to "closed" sessions, we accept complete panels on any research topic. These panels should have between 3 and 4 participants who present papers on a similar topic. All participants must have agreed to participate before the organizer submits the session. You will also 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 at Melinda Messineo at [mmessine@bsu.edu](mailto:mmessine@bsu.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 also 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 Mellisa Holtzman at [mkholtzman@bsu.edu](mailto:mkholtzman@bsu.edu).

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

For research or teaching papers, and special format sessions, please submit your information online at <http://bit.ly/2a6wQJZ>. For complete sessions, please have on hand all the author(s)' first and last names, institutional affiliations, most frequently checked email, and an abstract up to 150 words. Indicate the topic that best fits your submission. We do not collect finished papers, so papers or posters in progress may be submitted.

### A NOTE ON NCSA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUBMISSIONS...

The North Central Sociological Association welcomes the participation of undergraduate students in our annual conference. The submission guidelines and timeline for presentations can be found at: [http://www.ncsanet.org/undergrads\\_at\\_conference](http://www.ncsanet.org/undergrads_at_conference). If you have any additional questions about the undergraduate submission process, please contact Alan McEvoy at [amcevoy@nmu.edu](mailto:amcevoy@nmu.edu).

For more information, visit the NCSA website at: <http://www.ncsanet.org/2017-annual-meeting>.

## North Central Sociological Association Officers and Council Members

### 2016-2017 NCSA Council Members

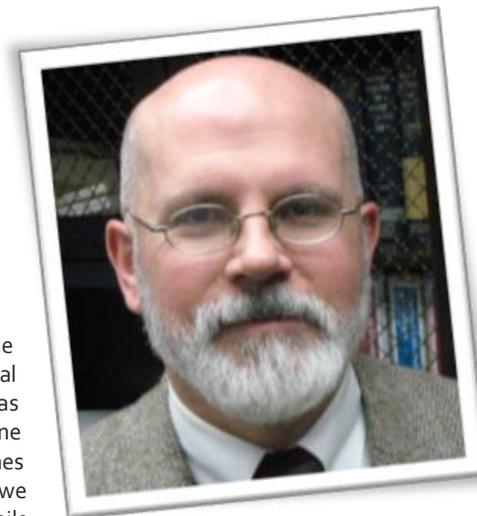
<b>Current President</b>	Debra Swanson, Hope College
<b>Current Vice-President</b>	Melinda Messineo, Ball State University
<b>President Elect</b>	Annulla Linders, University of Cincinnati
<b>Vice President Elect</b>	Rachel Stein, West Virginia University
<b>Past President</b>	Brendan Mullan, Michigan State University
<b>Treasurer/Finance</b>	Lisa Hickman, Grand Valley State University
<b>Secretary</b>	Rachel Kraus, Ball State University
<b>Student Section Chair</b>	Sam Mindes, Michigan State University
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Jeff Seymour, Carthage College
<b>Council Member at Large</b>	Monique Gregg, University of St. Francis
<b>Council Member at Large</b>	Michelle Bemiller, Walsh University

### 2016-2017 NCSA Committee Chairs

<b>Nominations</b>	Brendan Mullan, Michigan State University
<b>Equality &amp; Inclusion</b>	Wanda McCarthy, University of Cincinnati
<b>Sociological Focus, editor</b>	Annulla Linders, University of Cincinnati
<b>NCSA Student Conference</b>	Alan McEvoy, North Michigan University
<b>Aida Tomeh Award</b>	Kathleen Piker-King, University of Mount Union
<b>J. Milton Yinger Award</b>	Lynn Ritchey, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash
<b>Schnabel Teaching Award</b>	Mellisa Holtzman, Ball State University
<b>Scholarly Achievement Award</b>	Scott Desmond, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus
<b>Student Paper Awards</b>	Todd Callais, University of Cincinnati – Blue Ash
<b>Applied and Public Sociology</b>	Chadwick Mening, Ball State University
<b>Profession, Freedom &amp; Responsibility</b>	Fayyaz Hussain, Michigan State University
<b>Community College</b>	Michelle Smith, Lakeland Community College
<b>Publication Policy</b>	Robyn White, Cuyahoga Community College-West Kent Schwirian, Ohio State University
<b>Teaching Section</b>	Mellisa Holtzman, Ball State University
<b>Conference Coordinator</b>	Joyce Lucke, Paragon Meeting and Events
<b>Public Relations Coordinator</b>	Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Valparaiso University

## 2017 Useem Plenary Address

The 2017 NCSA Useem Plenary Address will be delivered by Dr. Bruce Keith. Dr. Keith is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Systems Engineering and the Director of Academic Enrichment and Global Partnerships in the Center for Nation Reconstruction and Capacity Development at the United States Military Academy. His primary focus is on the design and implementation of developmental models capable of building sustainable capacity in individuals, organizations, and countries.



### Sociology as the Study of Dynamic Systems

Lester Ward, the first president of the discipline, argued in 1883 for a “Dynamic Sociology,” one capable of informing decisions about the sustainable management of future-oriented social phenomena. And for much of the past century, mainstream sociology in the United States has routinely described itself as the scientific study of society. Yet during this time interval, the discipline has failed to produce anything resembling a scientific law capable of predicting future social outcomes with any degree of accuracy. Perhaps this “failure” is attributable to both theory (the perspectives we routinely use to frame problems) and methods (the tools we use to examine problems). While sociological theories do focus on the mutual interaction of individual and collective behavior with respect to various social structures, both the theories and methods of the discipline do not typically illustrate clearly how changes in exogenous disturbances trigger system behavior. Moreover, the tools we use (both quantitative and qualitative) are typically “backward oriented” and historically grounded in that they examine data collected in the recent or distant past. In this regard, almost all research generated within the discipline is best characterized as historical sociology. This presentation will focus on sociology as inherently the study of dynamic problems embedded within organizational, social, economic, and ecological systems (structures) characterized by feedback, mutual interaction, and circular causality. Insofar as the most interesting and challenging problems facing us as humans are future-oriented issues embedded within complex dynamic systems, the discipline of sociology is more likely to approximate a scientific study of society if it incorporates within it the tools associated with the study of system dynamics.

## Reflect - Regroup - Recharge: Pathways to Thriving Post-tenure

Sign up today for the NCSA Mid-Career Preconference Retreat on March 30<sup>th</sup>

Did you recently receive tenure and wonder...now what? Are you wanting to revise elements of your classes and would like some structure, inspiration, and motivation to get you started? Would you like to connect with faculty to share ideas and insights about the next phase of your academic career? Are you looking for ways to thrive post-tenure?

Join us for the NCSA Preconference Retreat – Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup> – 12– 5 pm. Retreat attendees will engage in reflection, exploration, and planning activities over the course of the afternoon. At the conclusion of the retreat, participants will leave with an action plan for how to implement their goals over the next 6-12 months. Registration fee: \$22. You can register online along with your general conference registration.

## Graduate Student/Early Career Professional Development Conference

This year, in partnership with Indiana University and Ball State University, NCSA presents—as an added feature to the Future Faculty (FF) and Professional Development (PD) Certificate Programs—a special ‘within conference experience.’ Participants who sign up for either certificate program in advance will be eligible for onsite mentoring and feedback sessions on resumes, cover letters, and teaching statements.