

# SSSI NOTES

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## From the President

On Friday, March 20th, 2020 when the World Health Organization (WHO) began advocating the use of the phrase “physical distancing” as opposed to “social distancing”, it was a minor triumph for the social sciences and for me a simple reminder that our interactionist corner of the social sciences has a great deal to offer the explanation and analysis of the meanings, experiences, and social organizational responses of networks, systems, and institutions to the emergence of a novel biological/environmental development. If ever there was an opportunity to explore the processual, action-centric, emergent nature of human interactions across space and time, it is now – even as people all over the world are learning to attend to vary degrees of physical distancing, quarantine, and an emergent uncertain future. I am sure there will be no shortage of sociological and social psychological analyses of the situation(s) we are muddling through and I am hopeful that the symbolic interactionist perspective will be at the forefront of the development of such meaningful work. In the meantime, while there is always room for optimism about what the future holds, we cannot overlook the very real conditions being experienced by friends, neighbors, colleagues, family members, and in a very real way every single one of us, some more than others. The disparities and inequities of experience are equally real, and equally social organizational in scope. As we move forward producing our analyses, we must not lose track of the critical analysis those disparities of experience.

Nonetheless as we collectively turn an eye toward the future and making sense

of the COVID-19 experience, the leadership of the society continues to move forward planning for the future of the society and developing ways in which we can provide professional support to the membership of the society. On behalf of the executive council of the society, I share with you our collective concern for your social, emotional, and physical health and that of your families, loved ones and partners. We are with you, if only in spirit at this time and look forward to our future opportunities to gather together as a society.

In terms of the society, despite the recent abrupt changes in work conditions for most of us, the work of the society continues to roll on. In the last issue Beverly Yuen Thompson was introduced as the new web manager for the society. If you haven't yet taken the opportunity to check out the revamped symbolicinteraction.org site, you should do so. Additionally, the executive council has appointed Stephanie Peña-Alves as Treasurer effective Summer 2020, replacing Lisa-Jo van den Scott who has come to the end of her term of office. Lisa-Jo has served the society with distinction during her time as Treasurer, and has agreed to mentor Stephanie during the coming year to ensure a smooth transition.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT.)

Meanwhile, Leslie Irvine's committee on by-laws and the constitution of the society has recently made some recommendations to the executive council for language changes to help clarify roles and expectations of officers, committees, and other organizational concerns. In my estimation there are still items that the committee will undoubtedly still need to attend to during the coming year, and when appropriate those items will also be brought to the membership for consideration. The recommended changes are included elsewhere in this newsletter so that you have the opportunity to review the proposals prior to their inclusion on the spring election ballot.

One of the most significant initiatives that the executive council has sought to address has been the representative nature (or lack thereof) of the society with the hope of addressing how the society might better attend to issues of being more reflective of the diversity within the discipline and the perspective more generally. Accordingly, the executive council has approved the appointment of Stacey Hannem, who will transition from her current role as Past Vice President to a three-year stint as chair of the Committee on Representation in the Society. I know that meaningful sustained change will not happen quickly, so I am very excited to see the long-term commitment to Stacey's leadership and the work of the still developing committee.

Organizationally, the executive council continues to seek opportunities for the society to grow and develop in conditioned yet intentional ways. You'll find the collective commitment to the growth of the society reflected throughout this issue of the newsletter. However, if you have suggestions beyond those initiatives already underway, please do not hesitate to reach out and share your ideas and concerns. On behalf of the entire executive council, I know that we look forward to hearing from you and developing that opportunities that our members are interested in and will benefit from.

Until we meet again, I hope you remain safe and well.

Sincerely,

**Patrick McGinty, President SSSI**  
Western Illinois University

## PISA MEETINGS TO BE RESCHEDULED

The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction regrets that it must announce the cancellation of the 2020 EUSSSI/Couch-Stone meeting in Pisa, Italy (June 29-July 3). As we feel it is important that we not fuel any irrational fears about the virus or overlook its very real impacts, we recognize that this is the best course of action in promoting the social, emotional, and physical health of our members as well as our global community.

While it is unfortunate that the society will be foregoing this joint meeting in 2020, the SSSI executive council is committed to seeing the joint meeting develop to its fullest extent. Accordingly, the council has decided that Pisa, Italy – in conjunction with the EUSSSI – will host the 2021 Couch-Stone meetings. While firm dates have not yet been set, we anticipate the joint meeting to occur in early July 2021.

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## ONLINE VERSION OF THE CONFERENCE

In light of the situation and the cancellation of our 2020 EUSSSI/Couch-Stone joint meeting, the SSSI is working to create new opportunities for intellectual and social exchange during this challenging time. We are exploring a range of online spaces and various modes of interaction. Please stay tuned as we develop what we hope will be an exciting approach to an online alternative to our annual conference.

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## SSSI BUSINESS MEETING ONLINE

The Constitution of the SSSI requires an annual member business meeting. Normally, this meeting is held at the latest of the SSSI-sponsored meetings occurring in the summer. In 2020, that was to be the EUSSSI/Couch-Stone meeting in Pisa, Italy. With the cancellation of that meeting, the SSSI executive council is developing plans for a virtual business meeting to be held mid-summer, likely flanked by the virtual interactive exchanges being created. At this time, it is likely that this business meeting will also serve as the venue in which we announce and recognize the award winners of the 2020 SSSI awards, transition the officers of the society, introduce the theme of the 2021 annual meeting in Chicago, and address any and all business the membership of the society desires to bring forth.

Additional details will be provided as they are available, in the meantime we ask that you stay tuned for those details and plan in advance to participate in the event to the fullest extent possible.

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

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## Proposed revisions to Article II: Statement of Purpose

- ◆ Add diversity/inclusion statement (as Section 3)

Proposed statement: To establish a collaborative, supportive, and respectful environment that accepts and values differences between people, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation, and to identify, challenge, and remove barriers to inclusion.

- ◆ Correct numbering. Since 2014, Article II of the Constitution has included two sections numbered "6." With the correction and the addition of the diversity/inclusion statement as Section 3, the numbering will now comprise 1 through 8.

## Proposed revisions to Article VI: Executive Council

- ◆ Include representative from the European SSSI.

Current version:

Section 1: The Executive Council shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, Past President, Past Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairperson of the Publications Committee. The Editors of *Symbolic Interaction* and the Newsletter will also sit with the Executive Council as ex officio members.

Proposed version:

Section 1: The Executive Council shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Vice President-Elect, Past President, Past Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Publications Committee, and a representative from the European Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. The Editors of *Symbolic Interaction* and the Newsletter will also sit with the Executive Council as ex officio members.

## Proposed revisions to Appendix A: Duties of Officers of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

- ◆ Section 1: President

Include procedure for Presidential resignation. The proposed additions follow Robert's Rules:

6. If a President is unable or unwilling to complete his or her term, s/he should tender a resignation to the Executive Council, orally or in writing, at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.1 If a President appears unable or unwilling to complete his or her term and to fulfill the duties of president but has not tendered a resignation, the Executive Council may request such a resignation in writing via the President's official channel of communication (email or post). Failure to respond to this request or to communicate with the Executive Council within 21 days will be interpreted as a de facto resignation.

6.2 In the case of the resignation of the President, the Vice-President becomes President for the unexpired term

- ◆ Section 6: Secretary

Revise Secretary's duties to reflect the reality that we no longer maintain our own membership and dues lists (it comes from Wiley).

Current version:

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping the membership lists up to date, ensuring that membership renewal notices are completed in October and that appropriate actions are taken to collect dues. IRS or bank related correspondence will be forwarded to the Treasurer for auditing and record keeping.

Proposed version:

The Secretary shall be responsible for reviewing the membership lists maintained by the journal publisher. IRS or bank related correspondence will be forwarded to the Treasurer for auditing and record keeping.

## Proposed revisions to Appendix B: Election Procedures.

Revise procedures detailed in #4 and #5 to reflect the use of electronic ballot and email. Revisions were approved by secretary in office.

Current version:

4. The Secretary shall organize an election to be held no later than May 1. The election process must be accessible to all members of the Society via Newsletter, Website, and other affiliated domains. Voting ballots will be returned to the Secretary through mail or E-mail. Each member may cast one vote for President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, and one vote each for three candidates for the Publications Committee. The Secretary will tabulate the election results and inform the Executive Council of the outcome.

5. The President will announce the election outcome to members via the newsletter and/or other means.

Proposed version:

4. The Secretary shall organize an election to be held no later than May 1. Voting is fully online. The Secretary sends a link to voting members using the email address they provided when subscribing to Symbolic Interaction. Voting members are those who have paid dues through subscription. Each member may cast one vote for President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, and one vote each for three candidates for the Publications Committee. The Secretary will tabulate the election results and inform the Executive Council of the outcome.

5. The President will announce the election outcome to members via email, the newsletter and/or other means.

# FORTHCOMING ISSUE OF SI

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Foreclosing Fluidity at the Intersection of Gender and Sexual Normativities

**J. E. Sumerau, Lain A. B. Mathers, and Dawne Moon**

Emotions into Disorder: Anxiety Disorders and the Social Meaning of Fear

**Jennifer J. Esala and Jared Del Rosso**

Childhood-Grounded Explanations for Personal Troubles: Social Problems Work in Radio Counseling

**Nataliya Thell**

Broken Interaction Rituals, Struggles for Membership, and Violence among Young Children in Two Danish Schools

**Sidsel Vive Jensen and Kathrine Vitus**

Turning Points to Becoming a Tobacco Smoker: Smoking Initiation and Identity Change among Chinese Youth

**Gareth Davey and Xiang Zhao**

A Year then Forever: Personal Resolution Making and the Temporal Bridge of the Near Future

**Jamie L. Mullaney**

## BOOK REVIEWS

Signing the Drama of Dialogue

**Robert Wade Kenny**

Tales from the Lost and Found

**Jennifer E. Melvin**

Bourdieu's Lingering Aftertaste

**Saul Albert**

Elementary Forms and Ancestral Voices: Status, Power, and Control Theory

**Leonard A. Steverson**

Fluid Politics: Reclaiming Critical Studies in Psychiatry as a Progressive Issue

**Martin Harbusch Michael Dellwing**

Please Mind the Gap, Between Halal and Haram

**Christopher T. Conner**

Standing up for Community through Thick and Thin

**Casey Scheibling**

Beyond the Struggle for Lesbian and Gay Acceptance: Religion and the Construction of Cisgender, Monosexual, and Religious Normativities

**Eric O. Silva**

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## FUTURE ISSUES

Don't forget to support the SSSI by [joining the organization!](#) Memberships include a year's subscription to the flagship journal—*Symbolic Interaction*—and start as low as \$33.

The next issue of Notes will be in June 2020. Please direct any future announcements, updates, or additional content you would like to see in the next issue of *Notes* to William Force at [wforce@wne.edu](mailto:wforce@wne.edu) or Jacob Crawford at [jacob.crawford@wne.edu](mailto:jacob.crawford@wne.edu) by June 1, 2020.