From the President

I vaguely remember a time when I was looking forward to the summer of 2020 with anticipation. The SSSI and EUSSSI were planning a joint conference in Pisa, Italy. I had a plan to catch-up on my writing projects – and had committed myself to not fail behind on future endeavors. Plus, I was working with my faculty union in an effort to increase our organizing capacity. As spring has passed to summer I now find myself embroiled in my union’s efforts to bargain the impacts of changes in work conditions associated with my employer’s reopening plans for Fall 2020. I’ve also found that kids, dogs, cats, gardens, raccoons, fences, fickle internet connections, and a whole host of previously unrecognized factors make for excellent distractions from my writing. Of course too, the Italy conference plans have been pushed off a year. Nonetheless, the distractions, the frustrations, the perpetual video conference meetings, and even the seemingly intractable bargaining position of my employer have all served to remind me of the significance of a processual understanding of the concept of change.

Whether it was Sars-CoV-2 or COVID-19 in the late winter or early spring, or the unfortunate circumstances that have served to reinvigorate attention to Black Lives Matter, or even the experience of observing one’s own children grapple with the moral, ethical, and social implications of race and racism in deeply personal and meaningful ways, recent events demonstrate the power and capacity available as we focus on change over time. This is no less the case as members of the SSSI who, alongside friends, colleagues, and fellow world-citizens have taken to the streets and to the media to speak truth to power. These efforts continue to highlight institutionalized forms of inequality, unearned privilege, systemic racism, and the manner in which power-laden processes are consequential for the very maintenance of life, the expression of liberties, and freedom from oppression that far too many unreflectively take for granted and assume to be equally accessible to all.

The SSSI too continues to change over time. Accordingly, I draw your attention to the other pieces included in this issue of SSSI Notes. First, there is the official announcement of the results of our spring election and proposed adjustments to the constitution of the society – our annual expression of ordered organizational change. Second, you will find the Statement on Racism recently adopted by the Executive Council of the society – which expresses an institutional desire to change and grow into a stronger and representative academic society. Lastly, you will find an invitation to join us for the annual business meeting of the society. Despite the cancellation of the meetings in Pisa and needing to walk back from our efforts to conduct a small virtual conference and opportunity for professional exchange, we still need to conduct the business meeting of the society.

Although short, this issue of the newsletter represents (in multiple ways) the very real mechanisms through which change alters the social, cultural, temporal and interactional orders that are both enabling and constraining of future actions and activities. I am hopeful we can – individually and collectively – make the most of the enabling opportunities as they emerge.

- Patrick McGinty
SSI President (2019-2020)
INVITATION TO THE SSSI ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

All members of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI) are invited to attend the annual business meeting of the society. This meeting is a requirement of the constitution of our society and would normally be held during the Annual Conference or Couch-Stone Meeting (when it serves as our annual conference). However, in the absence of those physical gatherings this year, the business meeting will be held virtually.

The annual business meeting will convene on Thursday, July 30th @ 12:00PM CDT (UTC -5). A virtual meeting link will be sent to all current members and invited guests in the days immediately preceding the meeting.

The annual business meeting will include:

♦ reports from the Executive Council, standing committees, and Treasurer
♦ the introduction of new officers of the Society for 2020-2021
♦ the presentation of the annual awards of the Society for 2020.

As an open business meeting for all members of the society, attendees will also be able to introduce agenda items they would like to present before the society.

On behalf of the entire Executive Council, we hope you will be able to join us for this event.

- Patrick McGinty
SSSI President (2019-2020)

Elected to the role of Vice President-elect in 2020-2021, Vice President in 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 as Past Vice President is Lisa-Jo van den Scott (Memorial University of Newfoundland).

Elected to serve as President-elect in 2020-2021, with their presidential year in office being 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 as Past President is Michael Borer (UNLV).

For the information of the membership of the society, all of the proposed changes to the Constitution of the SSSI passed by wide margins. The proposed changes in Article II passed with 95% of returned ballots voting in the affirmative. The proposed changes in Article VI passed with 95% of returned ballots voting in the affirmative. The proposed changes in Appendix A passed with 97% of returned ballots voting in the affirmative. The proposed changes in Appendix B passed with 99% of returned ballots voting in the affirmative.

Many thanks to all who participated in the election process.

Finally, congratulations to those individuals who will be serving the society for the next few years. On behalf of the entire membership of the SSSI, we look forward to your service and the manner in which your contributions will continue to make SSSI the dynamic, engaged, and engaging professional society we know it to be.

- Patrick McGinty
SSSI President (2019-2020)

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR EDITORS OF SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction seeks applications for editor(s) of the journal Symbolic interaction for a five-year term commencing January 1, 2022. The journal is published by Wiley and supports the journal office with substantial funds. Details available upon request. The journal is recognized internationally as the central outlet for the perspective. Symbolic Interaction receives over 100 articles submissions per year and is available in over 6,000 institutions. Applicants should have a record of scholarly publications, a broad understanding of the perspective, and recognition of the international scholars and audience for interactionism. Those interested in the position should be describe their commitment to proactively advancing the journal, by seeking out submissions and special issue proposals, recruiting a diverse editorial board, representing the journal at conferences (particularly SSSI and SI-EU), and other strategies. Applicants should be able to work well with publishers, authors, reviewers, and SSSI officers. Submit a CV and a letter outlining fit for the position, including journal experience, publication highlights, conception of the perspective, and prospective ideas for the journal and organizing their editorial responsibilities by December 31, 2020 to Eric Silva, eosilva@georgiasouthern.edu, Chair, Publications Committee, SSSI. Potential applicants should contact Silva to apprise him of their interest and to request additional information.

2020 RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OFFICERS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SSSI CONSTITUTION

The results of the recent election ballot have been reviewed by the Executive Council and the Council thanks the Nominations Committee for their tireless work to create the slate of nominees whose names were put before the society for consideration. Additionally, we thank all who were nominated or self-nominated to serve the society. The depth of commitment to the SSSI by its members is unparalleled and is an excellent measure of the vitality of the society. As we look forward to the future with hope and optimism, it is clear that both the immediate and long-term futures of the society is secure in its active, dynamic membership.

Elected to three-year terms on the Publications, Membership and Communications Committee, from 2020-2023 are Jasmón Bailey (Maryland), Christopher Conner (Missouri), and Nicholas Baxter (Indiana-Kokomo).

The aim of the paper is to analyze the experience of the body of a person suspended by the skin from hooks, adopting the perspective of the subject as an embodied entity. The empirical basis for the paper is the author’s own sociological research conducted in the group of 30 people practicing body suspension, the selection of whom had the character of purposive sampling, determined by at least two-time participation in this corporeal practice. Gathering and analyzing of the research material were subordinated to the procedures of grounded theory methodology, within the framework of which the technique of free-form guided interview was used. As the practice of body suspension takes place according to the specific order, the analysis of the empirical material has the form of discussion of the body experience at its six consecutive stages; four of which are strictly related to the act of body suspension itself, while the last two refer to body experience after the act of body suspension. In the practice of body suspension by the skin from hooks, the human body is experienced primarily as a source of pleasure, the achievement of which is determined by the prior experience of the body as a source of pain. Pain is an indispensable sensation here because it determines the dynamics of this corporeal practice. The suspended body is also regarded as an object of ownership, controlled by the subjects to a different extent, as a place of contact with one’s own “ego,” a tool of expression and communication, and, finally, as an object of aesthetic and hygienic care. In the analysis of the suspended body experience, consideration was given to the phenomenological perspective where the body is treated as a physical object, which is a body alive, sensitive, and emotional.


The book constitutes an explorative study of love emotions in the practice of flirts and pick-ups. The subject of analysis are affective phenomena in direct, intimate male-female interactions of romantic and erotic nature, taking place in social contexts. The work’s empirical objective was to characterize the emotional dimension of love-related practices which occur in the ludic environment of club parties and sanatoriums. The work’s theoretical goal assumed a development of research on the basics of interaction in the humanistic paradigm of sociology, by including into the field of symbolic communication analysis — along with reflexive and routine processes — also actions resulting from bodily reactions, physiological excitations, and active mimicking. The work’s methodological goal was devising a research strategy which would define the rules of field conduct in socio-anthropological studies of emotions.

The work’s empirical basis are field studies conducted in two types of social environments – in sanatoriums, among their patients, and during club parties, among the young people entertaining themselves. The study made use of such instruments as: ethnographic field stay, participant observation in the research model by shared experience, autoethnography, sociography, and a comprehensive interview with elements of a narrative thematic interview.

The part of the book which is devoted to methodological issues presents the research strategy which is sensitive to affection. It is profiled in a manner meant to grasp and define emotional phenomena in an ethical and effective way, grounding them in the theoretical language and describe in a form which would be close to everyday language. In the empirical field, the result of conducted studies is the description of constructing a framework and synchronizing flirting tactics in ludic contexts. The processes of synchronizing the subject’s actions with the flirt’s framework take place along four models. Two of them involve inclusion of practices into the climate of a club or a sanatorium. They are pick-up strategies and affection transfer. The two remaining ones – untamed perception and “true” relations – are based on balancing on the borders set by the framing process. The further part of the book presents the typology of emotional actions, which organizes various manners of emotions functioning in interactions. It entails four main ways of communicating by means of emotions: reactive behaviors, affective facts, emotional work, ritual behaviors.
Recent Publications

*Time Work: Studies of Temporal Agency*
edited by Michael G. Flaherty, Lotte Meinert, and Anne Line Dalsgård

Examining how people alter or customize various dimensions of their temporal experience, this volume reveals how we resist external sources of temporal constraint or structure. Is the theory of time work applicable to people across different societies and cultural arrangements? This book is an edited collection of ethnographic studies by anthropologists and sociologists. Their vivid and insightful research is international in scope, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Russia, Uganda, and the United States.
*Available now through Berghahn Books.*

*Violence in Everyday Life*
by Aliraza Javaid

*Violence in Everyday Life* explores how identity markers such as gender and sexuality intersect with violence, synthesizing the themes of gender, sexuality and violence to offering a crucial and coherent framework for understanding the interrelationship between these concepts. Dr Aliraza Javaid explores how violence is experienced at a local, regional and global level, and considers the ways in which hegemonic masculinities are reproduced through violence. Attention is given to the particular ways in which these constructions of masculinity are reflected in areas such as homophobic violence, transphobic violence, and violence against intimate partners. Drawing on new empirical data and my own personal experiences of violence, as well as identifying new areas for further research, the book represents a unique study of the interconnectedness of violence, gender and sexuality, and of how violence is fuelled by society’s attitudes towards masculinity. The book adopts a symbolic interactionist framework and offers an important contribution to the field in thinking about the ways in which symbolic constructs of gender and sexuality interconnect with a vast array of violence.
*Out now on Zed Books.*
SSSI Statement on Racism

The SSSI recognizes and abhors racism of all varieties—interactional, symbolic, structural, material, and more. As we work towards a better society, we also recognize our own shortcomings as an academic society and we strive to create a better intellectual and academic home for scholars and a better world for all. As an intellectual community we are committed to promoting anti-racist practices in scholarship, service, teaching, and program planning. Accordingly, we support our friends, neighbors, colleagues, and fellow world-citizens as they seek redress and call for justice, raise awareness in their communities, and work to unpack and eliminate the racist ideologies, practices, and processes that have for so long been unaddressed in American society and in which America remains mired.

As painful as recent events have been, none of this is new. Yet, we believe that individuals, organizations, and institutions can—and should—reflectively address the manner in which race, power, racism, and unchecked privilege produce and reproduce organizational and institutional barriers to living an unencumbered, free, fully participatory life in contemporary society. Whether those impediments are the elimination of polling stations in city centers, disparate funding for K-12 education based on place, a digital divide, differentially enacted family rights policies, racial or ethnic profiling, or quasi-militarized local police forces, each and every barrier to individual and collective freedom from oppression and suppression must be addressed.

Even before the most recent events have occupied our collective attention, the SSSI has been taking proactive steps to address its perceived legacy of vigorously defending the sociology of dead white men. Foremost in that effort has been the creation of a standing committee on diversity and representation in the society. The charge of that committee is to produce and promote programming within the society that will not only highlight the minority voices of the society and the larger discipline, but it will also provide a platform on which the society can better promote and support the pursuit of all forms of equality in the intellectual enterprise. Additionally, as the society prepares to organize a limited engagement virtual conference opportunity later this summer (since we had to walk back from our grand plans for a joint international meeting in Pisa, Italy), that virtual conference will feature several sessions for thinking and talking about the various intersections and dynamics at work in current events.

As individuals, and as a scholarly society, we aren’t perfect. However, we know that our collective efforts can promote positive, systemic change— if we are committed to that end. Let there be no doubt, we are committed to that end.

- Executive Council of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction
June 18, 2020

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 November 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 or Jacob Crawford at jacob.crawford@wne.edu by October 24, 2020.