

SSSI NOTES

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President's Statement

My process of reflecting on this past year is as bizarre as the year itself. I vacillate between frustration and disappointment, gratitude and appreciation, and just relief that we "made it."

I came into the year aiming to tackle a rather different set of organizational tasks than the ones that emerged. I'd wanted to focus on what I thought really mattered: a fuller racial reckoning and consequent changes for the organization, new efforts toward recruitment and expansion, the centralization and transparency of our records, practices and policies, stronger integration with EU SSSI, and conversations around changes I've long hoped to see in and around how we do our meetings.

I never got to those things. But as I was fortunate to be working with an absolutely extraordinary team of committed and dedicated folks at the helm, we did manage to put out some fires, fill some positions, keep most things afloat, and make a few small steps in some new directions. And although it was a difficult year, I've tried to remember that the tougher things are, the more important it is to celebrate the smaller wins. I look back on the year in that context, remembering and acknowledging the more everyday-life ways that the pandemic challenged and changed us.

Most people hoped that life would be returning to pre-pandemic states at least a bit sooner than this. Some of us (or perhaps all of us, some of the time) spent this year missing our people, our colleagues, our intellectual sparring partners, and also time alone in our homes. Alternatively, we relished in the freedom from obligations and appointments, postponing car maintenance

and medical appointments, asking ourselves what aspects of our everyday lives are and are not necessary. As crisis always requires of us, we've reassessed the meaning of "necessary" – but also of "social," "attendance," "attention," "education," and of course, "interaction."

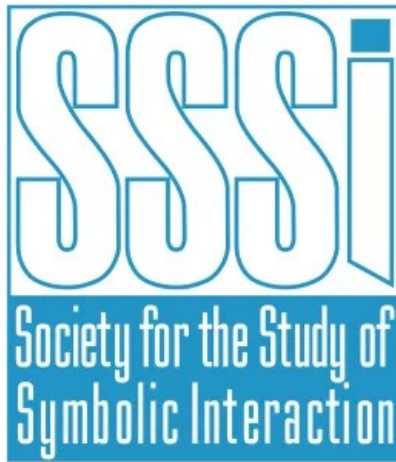
Whatever the platform, online interaction means seeing people's faces without being able to make direct, simultaneous eye contact. It was a long time to go without important aspects of social interaction: three-dimensionality, smells, body language, and the myriad sensory experiences and social cues that we read when we're in the same physical space as each other. For a while it was weird, and then people adjusted, and maybe it felt normal. In recent weeks, as things in many countries have opened back up and we've re-entered physical social spaces, face-to-face interaction might be feeling strange: perhaps a bit anomic, a little too "in the flesh," or unusually draining. We're out of practice, or we've changed, or some combination of the two.

We've also redrawn the boundaries between public and private. What's visible from that camera angle, and to whom? Cats on your lap, dogs in the background, screaming kids... okay for this meeting, but not for that one? Or a policy across the board? Is a drink okay during an evening Zoom? How about at lunch? Laptop in the cleanest room or the quietest... or desktop from the office, whatever it looks like? Do I really need my camera on for this meeting? Whether consciously or not, we evaluated the intimacy of our professional relationships, deciding what would remain backstage...

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2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

AUGUST 5-8, 2021

PROGRAM SCHEDULE [June 17 Draft]

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH: 10:00-11:30AM EASTERN U.S.

Paper Session #1: Socialization and Inequalities

Zoom Link: TBA

“Cognitive Reasons for Social Inequalities?” Eve Gardien, Rennes University.

“How The Legalization Of Marijuana May Effect Educational Attainment and Mass Incarceration,” Lillian Platten, Loyola University Chicago.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #2: Meaning Making through Media Representations

Zoom Link: TBA

“Skipping the Main Course: Depictions of Single Women in Film,” Kimberly Phillips, Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

“A Place for Contention: The Representation of The Places of Contention in Iranian Cinema During The Reform Era (1997-2005),” Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

“The Neighbours’ Relationships Transformation along with the Dwelling Pattern Shifts in Iran: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Iranian Movies (1969-2009),” Foroogh Mohammadi, Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

“Al-Hollywood: Narratives of Despair and Glorification of the Caliphate from ISIS Affiliated Women in the Al-Hol Camp,” Henriette Frees Esholdt, Lund University.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #3: Identities, Intersectionality, and Meaning Making in Total Institutions

Zoom Link: TBA

“Intersectionality and Military Identity,” Kenya Massey, University of Missouri - Columbia.

“U.S. Military Members’ Perceptions of Male Sexual Victimization,” Aspen Dyer, Cal State Fullerton.

Presider: TBD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5: 12:00-1:30PM EASTERN U.S.

Paper Session #4: Symbolic Interaction, Racism, and Anti-Racism

Zoom Link: TBA

“Anti-Black Biases in Jury Selection,” Elise DeCamp and Whitney DeCamp

“Growing Up with Racism in Southern Iran,” Nasim Basiri and Richard Mitchell, Oregon State University.

“James Baldwin and Symbolic Interaction,” Staci Newmahr, Buffalo State University.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #5: Interactionist Studies of Health Professions and Caregiving

Zoom Link: TBA

“An Interactionist Approach to the Professional Socialization of Work Devotion,” Alexandra Vinson, University of Michigan.

“Anomalous Bereavement Patterns in Caregivers of Terminally Ill Cancer Patients’ in Underserved Communities,” Lillian Platten, Loyola University Chicago.

“The Impossibly Good Doctor,” Tania M. Jenkins, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

“Maintaining Cisnormative Accountability: Medical Providers’ Negotiation of Transgender Healthcare,” William C. Stallings a,b , Nik M. Lampe c, e, and Emily S. Mann d,e
a South Carolina Honors College, University of South Carolina.

Presider: TBD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5: 1:45-3:15PM EASTERN

Paper Session #6: Interaction and Intimacy

Zoom Link: TBA

“I Just Don’t Feel Any Pride in It:’ The Politics of Identifying as Asexual,” Mary Underwood, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“Touch me if you can: Intimate bodies at Cuddle Parties,” Cornelia Mayr.

“AI and Sex Robots: An Examination of the History and Technologization of Sexuality,” Keif Godbout-Kinney, Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #7: Interactions, Organizations, and Institutions

Zoom Link: TBA

“‘I say I work at the University’. Norwegian Professors, Non-academic Encounters, and Passing as Interaction Ritual,” Anders Vassenden, University of Stavenger.

“Inhabited Institutions and Geographic Arbitrariness in Capital Prosecution,” Jeffery T. Ulmer and Gary Zajac, Penn State University.

“Emotional Work as an Element of Organizational Identification,” Beata Pawlowska, University of Lodz.

Presider: TBD

Special Session #1: Teaching Symbolic Interaction

Zoom Link: TBA

The underlying goal for symbolic interactionists is to produce theoretical accounts that promote mutual understanding in order to facilitate cross-group communication. Pioneers of the perspective saw promise in its potential to overcome social problems stemming from a problem in communicating between groups. Papers in this session will explore symbolic interaction to

show how the perspective can be utilized in the classroom to instill a greater sense of appreciation for diversity. These papers argue for continued use of the perspective towards overcoming ideological barriers to learning, or papers that introduce new pedagogical techniques taking a SI approach. These papers also examine the use of SI in promoting discussion on current political divides, sex and sexuality, race, gender, social theory, rural and urban issues, issues in online teaching, and other topics.

“Lynda Barry and Other Graphic Novelists in Teaching Social Problems,” Laurie Linhart, Des Moines Area Community College

“Pragmatism, Praxis, and Pedagogy,” Lukas Szrot, Bemidji State University

“Applying a Sociological Imagination towards Understanding the College Classroom,” Aimee Zoeller, Indiana University Columbus

“Roleplaying as Pedagogy,” Christopher T. Conner, University of Missouri Columbia

Presider/Organizer: Chris Conner, University of Missouri, Columbia and David R. Dickens University of Nevada, Las Vegas

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5: 3:30-5:00PM EASTERN

Paper Session #8: Police, Policing, and the Social Construction of “Danger”

Zoom Link: TBA

“Police(ing) Danger: Construction and Management of Risk by Law Enforcement when Responding to Intimate Partner Violence,” Devon Thacker Thomas, California State University, Fullerton.

“Police, Mental Illness and Stigma: The Unresolvable Contradiction of Othering,” Stacey Hannem, *Wilfrid Laurier University* and Christopher J. Schneider, *Brandon University*.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #9: Culture, Identities, and Interaction

Zoom Link: TBA

“Conventional Culture, Subcultural Institutions and Subcultural Careers as Backdrops to Identity Work in Singapore's Esports Scene,” J. Patrick Williams & Victoria Puay Ru Chua

“Music Across the Life Course,” Joseph Kotarba, Texas State University.

“Study of Simulacra in Adult Dolls Owners’ Communities of North America,” Ehsan Mohammadi, Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Presider: TBD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5: 5:00-6:00PM EASTERN U.S.

Cocktail Hour:

All are Welcome (BYO, obviously)

Zoom Link: TBA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6: 9:00-10:30AM EASTERN U.S.

Paper Session #10: Meaning Making and Politicalization

Zoom Link: TBA

“Mask Burning Protests as Disalignment Ceremonies,” Eric Silva, Georgia Southern University.

“Signifying Aggrieved White Selves: Trump Supporters’ Racial Identity Work,” Douglas Schrock, Shantel Gabrical Buggs, Bertan Buyukozturk, Kristen Erichsen, and Andre Ivey, Florida State University.

“The Less Agreeable Side of Charisma: Incredulous Onlooking and Anti-structural Power,” Paul Joosse, University of Hong Kong.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #11: Moralities and Identities

Zoom Link: TBA

“The Moral Economy in Homeless Communities,” Sarah Werman, Tulane University.

“‘I Didn’t Think it Could Ever Happen to Me’: Perceptions of Identity Theft Victims,” Dylan Reynolds, University of Guelph.

“Moralizing Reentry Work: How Ex-offender Reentry Workers Use Identity Talk to Present a Moral Self,” Andre Ivey, Florida State University.

Presider: TBD

Session #12: Professional Socialization and Life Course Transitions

Zoom Link: TBA

“‘Everybody thinks that I’m crazy’: Biographical Disruptions among Former Elite Athletes,” Deana Simonetto, University of British Columbia, Okanagan.

“Embodiment, Sensibility, and Anticipatory Socialization,” Jacqueline Low, University of New Brunswick.

“The Horizontal Call: Social Factors and Social Influences on the Call to Ministry,” Erin F. Johnston, Duke University.

Presider: TBD

Special Session #2: Gay Urban Place Making From The Gayborhood and Beyond

Zoom Link: TBA

This session examines gay urban enclaves known colloquially as gayborhoods.

“The Sociology of the Gayborhood: An Overview,” Christopher T. Conner, University of Missouri, Columbia, and David Dickens University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“The Whiteness of Queer Urban Placemaking,” Theo Green, Bowdoin College.

“Beyond the Homonormative Framework,” Magdalena Wojciechowska, Lodz University

Presider: Daniel Okamura, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Organizer: Christopher T. Conner, University of Missouri, Columbia

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6: 10:45AM-12:15PM EASTERN U.S.

SSSI Business Meeting

Zoom Link: TBA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6: 1:00-2:30PM EASTERN U.S.

Special Session #3: Honoring the Life and Career of Dr. Kathy Charmaz

Session Organizer: Adele Clark, University of California, San Francisco

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 9:00-10:00AM EASTERN U.S.

Coffee Hour

Zoom link: TBA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 10:30AM-12:00PM EASTERN U.S.

Special Session #4: Antiracism in Academia: Ideas and Applications

Zoom link: TBA

Panelists:

Stacey Hannem, Wilfrid Laurier University

Matthew Hughey, University of Connecticut

Staci Newmahr, SUNY Buffalo State

We invite everyone to join us for a discussion of doing antiracist work in the everyday academic life. This panel session has three aims and components. First, we will draw from three contemporary works, critically engaging with trends in antiracist literature and discourse. We encourage anyone interested to read these books in advance of the session: *How to Be Less Stupid about Race*, by Crystal Fleming, *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad, and *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Second, we will critique these works in conversation with classic and canonical antiracist works, including Du Bois' "The Souls of White Folk" and *Black Skin, White Masks* by Franz Fanon, and various works by James Baldwin. Finally, we will draw on these ideas and arguments to explore about how to do antiracist work in our classrooms and our scholarship, and offer suggestions for further reading.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 12:45-2:15PM EASTERN U.S.

Paper Session #13A: Theorizing Symbolic Interaction and Social Psychology

Zoom link: TBA

"Symbolic Interactionism and the Social Psychological Knowledge," Yolanda Zografova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

"Authenticity and agency: a qualitative study of university students," Ramón Menéndez, La Trobe University.

"Socialization of Witch-Believers in Early Modern Europe: In Relation to Episodic, Cultural Manifestations," Gordon Chang, Western Illinois University.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #13B: Theorizing Symbolic Interaction and Social Psychology

Zoom Link: TBA

"Culture in Situational Stratification: Social Inequality in Face-to-Face Encounters," Roscoe Scarborough, College of Coastal Georgia.

“Micropolitics of Interaction Ritual: Microaggression as Power and Disruption,” JL Johnson, Bethel University.

Presider: TBD

Paper Session #14: Interactionist Studies of Culture and Cultural Objects

Zoom Link: TBA

“I Spent Two Minutes Sightseeing, Three Hours Retouching My Photos”: The Shifted Tourist Gaze as Self-Examination,” Fangheyue (Amber) Ma, University of South Florida.

“How materials shape the interactions between architecture and its users?,” Piotr Pawłowski, Lodz University of Technology, Poland.

“Aesthetic Inspiration as a Micro Foundation for Action: Anticipation and Receptivity in Fashion Design,” Alexander Hoppe, University of Pennsylvania.

Presider: TBD

Special Session #5: Neglected Theorists of Color in Symbolic Interaction

Zoom Link: TBA

This session examines social theorists of color and other marginalized backgrounds, whose ideas have been forgotten, lost, or misrepresented. Papers presented here will address those theorists whose work has been undeservedly marginalized (i.e. Sojourner Truth, Web Du Bois, Anna Julia Cooper, Charles S. Johnson, E. Frankl Frzier, Audre Lorde, and others). While our focus here is on theorists marginalized based on their racial identity, in the spirit of togetherness we welcome papers from other marginalized backgrounds (queer scholars, women, and other minority groups). Our preference is for papers oriented towards interpretive social science (i.e. pragmatist philosophy, symbolic interaction, critical interactionism, queer interactionism, feminist interactionism, and many others). Papers will first provide a brief biographical sketch (including an explanation as to why they are a marginalized theorist), a summary of theoretical contribution(s), and a social problem or issue that can be explained by utilizing the theorists' work.

“The Importance and Marginalization of Theorists of Color in Sociology,” Jonathan Jiménez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

“Bridges or Boundaries? W.E.B. Du Bois and a Sociology Hesitant,” James M. Thomas, University of Mississippi

“Black Interactionists Matter: Black scholarly contributions on language, meaning, and interaction,” Jasmon Bailey, University of Maryland

“Pragmatism and Black Political Consciousness,” Julien C. Grayer Lecturer University of Missouri, Columbia

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 4:00-5:30PM EASTERN U.S.

2021 SSSI Distinguished Lecture

Zoom Link: *information forthcoming*

Ruby Mendenhall, Ph.D.

University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign

Title: “Racial Inequalities Across the Life Course: Meaning Making & Resilience”

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7: 5:30-7:00PM EASTERN U.S.

Awards Ceremony and Reception

Zoom Link: TBA

...and what would be shifted to the front. We've taken note of the items and decor we glimpsed in our colleagues' homes. We laughed at pets and kids and joked about who wasn't wearing pants.

And then there was the struggle, or the battle, or the balancing, of the "shoulds": to what performance standards were we still holding ourselves (and in which realms of our lives)? Higher or lower now? What were we expecting of others? How did we handle it when those standards weren't met? When were we committed to the show going on, and when did we manage to accept that some things just needed to be on indefinite pause? Motivation ebbed and flowed more than usual. Our energy was all over the map. Time constraints were real, and potent, but they worked differently and looked differently. We were so tired, but we hadn't moved. It was a different kind of tired. I didn't do a qualitative content analysis of the numerous "thanks, but I can't" emails I've received this year, but the array of emotional, psychological and professional spaces was quite clear. I hope it's an indicator that people were managing to set boundaries, go easy on themselves, and engage in at least a bit of self-care.

Like all of us, I've learned a lot over the past eighteen months. Serving as President during twelve of them accelerated and intensified those lessons. I'm grateful for that. I hope that this time will prove to have been useful, that we've put some things into place that will have value for SSSI down the road. SSSI is changing along with the rest of the world. I'm glad to be part of that, and excited to watch as we adapt and evolve.

To those who've spent the year thinking, reading and writing, I am so looking forward to what you have to say at next month's conference. I'm especially excited about more and new attention to whiteness, anti-racism and intersectional analysis, and eager to learn hear others' thoughts about everyday life, interaction, symbols, and meaning-making in the wake of COVID.

Whether you've spent this time on your research, or trying to teach effectively, or taking care of your families, or just putting one foot in front of the other: I'm glad you're with us, and I very much look forward to seeing you all in person in 2022.

-Staci Newmahr
SSSI President (2020-2021)

The EU SSSI Meeting is expected to be in Pisa, at the end of June or early July 2022. Details and dates to follow!

SSSI OFFICER UPDATES

As you know, Vice President-Elect **Lisa-Jo van den Scott** has accepted the position as editor of Symbolic Interaction. The Society would like to thank **Dr. Natalia Ruiz-Junco**, who has agreed to replace Dr. van den Scott as Vice-President, beginning at this year's meeting.

We would also like to thank **Dr. Jillian Crocker**, who has agreed to step in and serve as SSSI Treasurer for the 2021-2026 term (already underway).

I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Ruiz-Junco and Dr. Crocker. We are fortunate to have them on board.

The 2021-2022 Executive Officers are:

- ◆ President: **Michael Ian Borer**
- ◆ Vice President: **Natalia Ruiz-Junco**
- ◆ Secretary: **Stacey Hannem**
- ◆ Treasurer: **Jillian Crocker**

Election Results

We had a strong slate of candidates for the election, for all positions, in no small part due to the tremendous work of Chris Conner, Chair of the Nominations Committee; many thanks to Dr. Conner!

Congratulations to our incoming SSSI Officers, for the 2022-2023 term:

- ◆ President-Elect: **Tony Pudephatt**
- ◆ Vice President-Elect: **Susie Scott**

We were thrilled to have so many candidates for election to the Publications Committee, and it was a close vote. The newest members are:

- ◆ **Michael Dellwing**
- ◆ **Diane Rodgers**
- ◆ **Stacy Smith**

CALL FOR MEDIA MANAGER

SSSI is looking for one or two graduate students for managing digital publicity and outreach. We are working out the details of the service positions. Compensation is not yet finalized, but we hope to cover membership and provide a small stipend. Please spread the word to social-media savvy interactionist graduate students who might be interested.

The responsibilities of the Digital Media Manager/s would include:

- ◆ populating the sssiblog with content: writing and soliciting blog posts
- ◆ publicizing SSSI events, posts, announcements, publications, etc. on social media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.)
- ◆ pointing out/illustrating the relationship and relevance of SI to current events, topical conversations, and cultural narratives

THE QUALITATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH KATHY CHARMAZ AWARD

The editorial board of *Qualitative Health Research* requests nominations for the Kathy Charmaz Award. It will be awarded to the author(s) of the most innovative article that used a grounded theory method, appearing each year in the journal beginning with the 2020 volume year. Articles will be reviewed and selected each year by this award committee. No application for the award is necessary.

For more information, visit

https://journals.sagepub.com/page/QHR/QHR_Charmaz_Award or contact QHR Managing Editor, Vanessa Shannon, at the journal editorial office: vshannonqhr@gmail.com

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 2021. 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 25, 2021.