



## **2021 Annual Conference**

October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

Location: Exclusively Online

Hosted by St. Cloud State University

**Theme:** Finding Connections in an Uncertain World

### **Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

---

11:00 – 12:15

#### **Presidential Address**

Sarah Epplen, Minnesota State, Mankato

**Theme: Friendship**

#### **Distinguished Service to Sociologists of Minnesota:**

Awardee: Sadie Pendaz-Foster,  
Inver Hills Community College

12:30 – 1:45

Option A

#### **Paper Session: Youth and Social Institutions**

- Hartman et al. "How Kids Understand and Experience Meritocracy in American Youth Sports"
- Aaron Hoy Jori Nkwenti and Sachita Pokhrel "Who's Afraid of Divorce? Sexual Minority Young Adults and Their Willingness to Divorce,"
- Audrey Devine Eller, College of St. Scholastica

Presider: Timothy J. Loney, Vermilion Community College

Option B

#### **Sociology Clubs During COVID**

Presider: Saiful Islam, Minnesota State, Mankato

2:00 – 3:15

Option A

**Panel: Engaging our Sociological Imaginations at Different Career-Points**

- Sana Illahe - South Dakota State University
- Aaron Hoy - Minnesota State, Mankato
- Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Inver Hills Community College
- Vicky Knickerbocker, (Retired from) Inver Hills Community College
- Silvia Espinoza, affiliation TBA

Presider: Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Inver Hills Community College

3:30 – 4:45

Option A

**Panel: Online Activism**

- Milena Bates
- Jules Edwards
- Tiffany Tully
- Paul Kaefer, Senior Analytics Engineer, Carrot Health

Presider: Elizabeth Scheel-Keita, St. Cloud State University

Option B

**Paper Session: Health, Society, and Public Policy**

- Jacob Huang, "The Impact of Social Determinants on Perceptions of COVID-19 for Elderly: A Conceptual Framework," St. Cloud State University
- Steve Buechler, "How Cancer Prepared Me for a COVID-19 World," Minnesota State, Mankato
- TBA

Presider: Saiful Islam, Minnesota State, Mankato

4:45 – 7:15

**Film and Discussion**

*Driving While Black: Race, Space, and Mobility in America*

This compelling documentary explores the role of the automobile in experiences of freedom, and racism, and violence in Black people's lives. Using interviews and striking historical images, the film challenges viewers to recognize the historical basis for current social realities. It is a reminder that racial violence was present far before we were able to record it on phones. The emphasis on lived experience reminds us of the importance of listening to voices that have been ignored in the past. Inspired by the work of Gretchen Sorin, the documentary brings scholarly

---

research to life and encourages us to see the background and relevance of “Driving While Black.”

Discussant: Jennifer Kraipowich at Anoka Ramsey Community College

---

7:15 - ?

**Sociologists’ Social –**

**Co-hosts Jacob Huang, St. Cloud State and Lisa Waldner, St. Thomas University**

Stick around and get to know other attendees. Meet new colleagues, build social networks, and have an informal chat with fellow sociologists. Family, friends, and pets are all welcome!

---

**Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**

---

9:30 – 10:45

Option A

**Panel: Teaching and Learning During COVID Times**

- Jori Nkwenti - Graduate Student Minnesota State University Mankato
- Nabil Mohamed
- Emily Gunderson

Presider: Sarah Epplen, Minnesota State, Mankato

Option B

**Sociology Clubs During COVID \*\* alternate time**

Presider: Saiful Islam, Minnesota State, Mankato

**11:00 – 12:15**

**Keynote ~ Dr. Alyasah A. Sewell**

**“All It Takes Is One Block: The Legacy of Redlining in Lethally Surveilled Neighborhoods”**

12:15 – 1:00

Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:15

Option A

**Panel: SCSU Alums Share Their Wisdom**

- Courtney Schmidt, Wright County Community Action
- Madilyne Wegener, Disability Hub, MN
- Ellen So, Creighton University

Presider: Bridget Conlon Mayfield, St. Cloud State University

Option B

**Film: Jim Crow of the North**

Discussant: Audrey Devine Eller, College of St. Scholastica

2:30 – 3:45

**Special Session**

**Student Paper Competition Presentations and Awards**

Presider: Audrey Devine Eller, College of St. Scholastica

4:00 – 5:00

Business Meeting followed by Board Meeting

---