

Sociologists of Minnesota Annual Conference, 2018, St Cloud, MN, October 25-26, 2018

Conference Schedule

Thursday: October 25, 2018; Atwood Memorial Center (AMC), St Cloud State University

Voyagers North (AMC): 12.30-1.45pm

Title: "Findings from Survey on Perceptions and Attitudes Minnesotans have on Mexican and Somali Immigrants"

Presenters: Jack Spaeth, Survey Center, SCSU; Sam Shoebe, Survey Center, SCSU; Holly Goodwin, Survey Center, SCSU; Hansen, Survey Center, SCSU; Regina Lighthall, Survey Center, SCSU; Sagar Shahi, Survey Center, SCSU; Curran Jonathan Wong, Survey Center, SCSU.

Presider: Ann Finan, Sociology, SCSU

Abstract: Utilizing data from the SCSU Survey Research Center's Fall 2017 Survey of Minnesota Residents, we will present the perceptions and attitudes Minnesotans have of Somali and Mexican immigrants. As two of the largest immigrant groups in Minnesota, Minnesotans' are conscious of these groups' presence and their possible effects on our society. Our analysis looks at how these perceptions vary with demographic factors like education level, community type (place), age, and race.

Voyagers North (AMC): 2-3.15pm

Title: "Globalization and Work"

Presenters/Panelists: Peter Rachleff, East Side Freedom Library, St Paul; Stephen Phillion, Department of Sociology, SCSU; Ajay Panicker, Department of Sociology, SCSU (Presider)

Abstract: This panel will discuss the processes of neoliberal capitalism, globalized. The discussion will focus on how this trend started in the 1970s, accelerated in the 1980s and 1990s, and became challenged in the 2000s. The panel will discuss how labor unions have been adversely affected by neoliberal globalization, resulting in dramatic changes to the landscape of work in many societies around the world. The panel will focus on new forms of work emerging from methods such as Just-in-time production, as well as the resultant emergence of new categories of workers, such as the precariat. Finally, the panel will examine the emerging challenges to neoliberalism.

Voyagers North (AMC): 3.30-4.45pm

Title: Sabbatical Panel

Presenters/Panelists:

Voyagers South (AMC): 12.30-1.45pm

Title: Sociology of Work

Presenters/Panelists:

Presider: Steve Phillion

“Migrant Workers in Poultry Industry: The Case of West African Francophones at Poultry Processing Factory” by Adama Bako.

“Serving America: An Analysis of how Systemic Sexism Shapes the Food Industry” by Katrina Ness

“Alienation among East African Temporary Workers at a Warehouse” by Saida Omar.

Voyagers South (AMC): 2-3.15pm

Title: Professionalization Opportunities for Sociology Students

Presenters/Panelists: Barbara Keating, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Deborah White, Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Voyagers South (AMC): 3.30-4.45pm

Title: Sociology of Health, Aging, and Medicine

Session Summary: Social factors in understanding health, aging, and medicine. Discuss social determinants of health inequalities; social construction of health and institution of medicine; and issues related to gender, class, race, and ethnicity.

Presenters/Panelists:

1. “Social Determinants of Health in the U.S.: Global Actions and the Role of Local Actors”, Saiful Islam, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Abstract: This study examines the social determinants of health (SDOH) and why they remain important from global campaign to local implementation issues. It explores the question of how various actors in the U.S. from federal, state, and local levels and the general public are understanding and expressing desire to tackle these. The traditional focus on lifestyle interventions that individuals and their health problems, for example, whether it is obesity, growing stress, and/or mental ill-health, need to be understood in terms of more complexity and intractability as they demand new approaches in respect of dealing with them. This study examines the critical role that the state authorities and the communities in Minnesota have in impacting upon these social determinants which goes far beyond their traditional concern with health and wellbeing of the people. There is a great deal more that the state and local governments could, and must, do if we are serious about tackling health inequalities and improving the health status of our most disadvantaged communities in Minnesota.

2. “Social Assistance for Disability: A Sociological Analysis of Current Programs and Issues in the United States”, Steven Michael Ellis, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Abstract:

It is currently being debated in politics if Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit payments should be reduced. If this aid is cut there needs to be an analysis of other ways established that help to provide support for the disabled of this Nation. The higher costs for both health insurance and healthcare today is coinciding with less funding to many governmental assistance programs. Changes took place in the 20th century to aid those with a disability gain education, successful employment and status in our society. Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) and the help they provide are at the core of many of these changes being allowed to occur. Their primary focus is on employment but, the economic conditions of our Nation will always impact the aid allotted to and the employment outcomes of those with disabilities. It has been found that there are inequalities occurring within these services. When the changes needed to be made are found and take place it will greatly lessen them from continuing. I find that VRS are an important part of our country and funding of them needs to be an ongoing occurrence. They help those with disabilities find meaningful employment, improves their chances to be self-sufficient and helps them to gain a better sense of self-worth in life.

3. "Health Benefit Among Pre-Retiree Employees in University Settings", Neha Bista, Graduate Assistant, Aging Studies, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Abstract: This study examines the health concern of pre-retiree employees at University settings. Retirement has been an important area of research in the field of aging society. The University employee are provided with benefit plans to ensure the health security when retired. The retirees at state structured institutions, rely on employer provided retirement benefit plans, which mostly come as pre-defined and financial contribution required to ensure their health security when retired. Furthermore, the definitions, costs, benefits offerings, and eligibility requirements in retirement health benefits plans are subject to change from time to time depending on the institutional and state policy changes.

Glacier North (AMC): 12.30-1.45pm:

Title: Sociology Clubs

Presenters/Panelists: Sarah Epplen, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato (organizer)

Glacier North (AMC): 2-3.15pm:

Title: Sociology of Sexuality

Presenters/Panelists:

1. "Intimate Triangulation of Sexual Knowledge Production in the United States" by Allison Nobles, Sociology, University of Minnesota.

Glacier North (AMC): 3.30-4.45pm

Title: Research Papers by Social Responsibility Students

Presenters/Panelists: "Post-Conflict Nation Building in South Sudan", James Khat, SCSU;
"Work Place Bullying and Women of Color," Deanna Murphy, SCSU.

Glacier South (AMC): 12.30-1.45pm

Poster Session (Posters that participated in the Student Poster Competition)

Glacier South (AMC): 2-3.15pm

Title: Public Policy and Organizations

Presenters/Panelists:

1. "States as Actors in the Health Policy Reforms in the United States: The Case of Obamacare Implementation and Repeal Attempts", Saiful Islam, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Abstract: The states, as the primary actors in the implementation of the Obamacare, a.k.a. Affordable Care Act (ACA), are faced with great uncertainties due to continued repeal attempts by the federal government to this well-established health care legislative policy in the United States (U.S.). The states are being affected by the federal change management process, which included pressure for changing the state health policies and reduction or alteration of federal grants and funds allocated to the states under the ACA. In addition, there are urgencies for the states to finding solutions to affordable health care for their citizens. This study explores the state policies during the ACA implementation and what would be the impacts of changes in the federal policies. This study addresses the question of how the Obamacare repeal processes affect the state level health care policies.

2. "The political crisis in Somalia and the clan system: An International Media Analysis", Hirat Musa, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Saiful Islam, Sociology, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Abstract: Somalia has undergone continued political crisis since the escalation of the civil war in early 1988 and faced engagement with many different armed rebellious groups such as the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF) and the United Somali Congress, etc. The Somalian people have always lived under a strong clan or tribe-based system that dominated every aspects of the country's inhabitants including their social-political, cultural, economic, and symbolic life and wellbeing. The contemporary investigations on the Somalian civil war, while highlighted the economic and political causes, did not consider the clan systems and differences in exploring the hidden causes of this incessant crisis. An examination of the role of clans in the Somalian political crisis would help understanding the deep-rooted causes of the incessant conflict.

In this research explores the roles and patterns of the clan conflicts as underlying causes and outcomes of political crises in Somalia. The link between clan system and political crises will explain the deep-rooted causes of the Somalian crises. We argue that Somalia has fallen victim of civil war due to an established effort to eradicate traditional Somali culture and customary fidelities based on clanship and ancestry system.

Glacier South (AMC): 3.30-4.45pm

Title: Internship Opportunities in Sociology
Presenters/Panelists: Clarissa Kotska, SCSU

Ball Room, Atwood Memorial Center: 5.30-7.30pm (Dinner and Keynote Address)

Dinner: 5.30pm

Keynote Address: “What Labor History Can Teach Us About Responding to Neoliberal Globalization”, Peter Rachleff, Executive Director, East Side Freedom Library.

Abstract: Peter Rachleff will draw on his decades of research and teaching in the field of labor history to provide perspectives and angles from which we can understand how workers are responding to the challenges posed by neoliberal globalization. While the emergence of this system is the greatest challenge working people have faced in half a century, history suggests that this is but the latest chapter in a long sweep of the making and re making of the working class. The better we understand this new chapter in its historical context, the more effective we all can be, not just as scholars but also as citizens and activists.

Peter Rachleff is the founding co executive director of the East Side Freedom Library (<http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org>) in St. Paul. From 1982 to 2014 he taught labor, immigration, and African American history at Macalester College, and he was also a community faculty member at Metropolitan State University. He has also taught at the University of Minnesota, in the Labor Education Service and in the African and African American Studies department. Rachleff has served on the executive board of the Labor and Working Class History Association and as national president of the Working Class Studies Association. He served as co chair of the solidarity committees for the Hormel strikers in 1985 1986 and the Northwest Airlines mechanics in 2005 2006. Rachleff has authored two books, Black Labor in Richmond, 1865 1890 (University of Illinois Press, 1989) and Hard Pressed in the Heartland: The Hormel Strike and the Future of the Labor Movement (South End Press, 1993). His essays have appeared in a number of collections, and his articles have appeared in The Nation, Z Magazine, New Labor Forum, Working USA, Monthly Review, and more.

Friday: October 26, 2018: Northway Building, St Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC)

Room 432, Northway Building (First Floor), SCTCC: 8.30-9.45am

Title: Curriculum Mapping Tool for Sociology

Presenters/Panelists: Erik Larson, Sociology, Macalester College

Room 432, Northway Building (First Floor), SCTCC: 10-11.15am:

Title: Teaching Sociology

Presenters/Panelists:

1. "How Preschool Teachers Manage the Classroom Economy of Attention" by Amy August, Sociology, University of Minnesota.
2. "Teaching Sexuality: Social Construction Versus the Gay Gene: Can Sociology Bridge the Divide?" by Monica Jarvi, Sociology, University of Minnesota, and Allison Nobles, Sociology, University of Minnesota.
3. "Debunking Immigration Myths in Sociology Classrooms in Rural Settings", Rucha Ambikar, Sociology, Bemidji State University

403, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 8.30-9.45am

Title: Student Paper Competition Presentations

Presenters/Panelists: Students who participated in Paper Competitions

403, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 10-11.15am

Title: "Careers in Sociology: An Informational Workshop for Students and Faculty,"

Presenter/Panelist: Barbara Keating

Abstract: This dual-purpose workshop will share information from the ASA and my curricular work on facilitating "Career Connections for Sociology Majors." It will also help students apply the information for their own professional development. The workshop provides important information on the usefulness of sociological knowledge and skills in obtaining career-oriented professional jobs across organizations and industries. It will address the marketability of sociological skills for a range of careers in Human Services, Business, Government, Nonprofits, Social Research, and Social Activism. Participants will learn how to articulate the sociological advantage for jobs in their cover letters, resumes, and interviews. We will also discuss the characteristics of effective career building service-learning projects, internships, volunteer work and para-professional jobs.

401, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 8.30-9.45am

Title: Globalization and Identity

Presenters/Panelists: Rucha Ambikar, Sociology, Bemidji State University; Sangeeta Jha, Sociology, St Cloud Technical and Community College, St Cloud.

401, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 10-11.15am

Title: State of Sociology Departments

Presenters/Panelists: Erik Larson, Macalester College

419, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 8.30-9.45am

Title: Post-Janus Union Organizing

Presenters/Panelists: Sadie Pendaz-Foster, Normandale Community College; Brent Jeffers, Southwest Minnesota State University & Inter-Faculty Organization; Robert Kapitzke, St Cloud Technical and Community College, St Cloud.

419, Northway Building (Second Floor), SCTCC: 10-11.15am

Title: "Gateway to Globalization: Revisiting the Great Silk Road"

Presenters/Panelists: Sangeeta Jha, St Cloud Technical and Community College, St Cloud; Soheyl Missaghi, St Cloud Technical and Community College, St Cloud; Tai Jen Liu, St Cloud Technical and Community College, St Cloud.

11.30-1pm: Lunch and Award Ceremony in Northway Commons, SCTCC

Distinguished Sociologist Award to be presented Dr. Deborah White, Professor and Department Chair, Sociology, MSU-Moorhead.

To be followed by General Body Meeting and Business Meeting of the Board thereafter.