

THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology
Fall 2020



AHS 2020 President, Johnny Williams, PhD
Photo Courtesy of Trinity College



A Note from the President

Dear AHS members:

The COVID-19 crisis and many other 2020 afflictions made it necessary to postpone our in-person November meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. Despite this, you all continue to do the important and frequently public work of illuminating the roots and mechanisms of oppression and anti-Black racism, as well as chronicling the life-sustaining resistance, community-building, creativity, and joy we practice every day. In and outside of the organization, we witness your valuable contribution to creating the beloved community, and we are so grateful for your work!

You all know our organization thrives on the rich, collaborative exchanges that happen at our annual conference. Every panel, individual paper, and session is a part of our collective record and effort to fulfill our mission of working to transform society in the interest of all humanity. The Board and I are committed to fulfilling our organization's social responsibility so we are currently planning convening our annual meeting in November 2021 in Jackson. We are hoping the COVID-19 crisis is well behind us by the time we meet next year. However, given the way 2020 is going I think it wise we have a virtual contingency plan in place in case COVID is still ravaging in 2021. We want to ensure we can meet no matter the COVID circumstance.

The meeting theme for the 2021 meeting is "Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge." My hope is that the theme encourages us to reflect upon people as historical and social actors, and for us to be resolute in the face of an ever-changing world that is also the outcome of people's actions. We will think deeply and dialogue about this dynamic over the three days we meet in November to provide

us with much needed guidance in creating strong, caring, and loving institutions. I ask that you gather your thoughts and contribute your insights to the meeting's theme. For it is imperative to direct our attention to the great struggles and issues of our time.

As a humanist association, we are committed to propelling social change through our research, teaching, and action. We seek to work in partnership with local social and economic justice organizations. We also strive to lead in helping higher education and the United States as a whole become social agents for people-centered structural, institutional, cultural, economic and political change. In support of our mission, we have received commitment from two great speakers so far: Chokwe Antar Lumumba (Mayor of Jackson) and Rukia Lumumba (Executive Director of the People's Advocacy Institute). We have also secured the help of Jackson State University colleagues in generating local participation in our meeting and are working with our JSU colleagues and others in Jackson, Mississippi contacts to help provide provide space for off-site receptions. We are currently working to onboard members of Cooperative Jackson and Choctaw nation as well. I share these horizons in the spirit of keeping our collective eyes-up and looking forward.

It is my hope that our meeting in Jackson enables us to lean on and support each other in the rejuvenation of our activism, so we can continue to do the hard but loving work of creating the beloved community.

Johnny E. Williams

AHS President

A graphic consisting of a white rectangle on top and an orange rectangle on the bottom. The text "RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. "RENEW YOUR" is in white and positioned on the white background, while "MEMBERSHIP" is in white and positioned on the orange background.

Remember renewing your membership with AHS sustains our organization and fuels the radicalism we need to help continue our progressive community.

Link to join or renew your membership below:

<https://www.humanist-sociology.org/membership.html>

Call for Participation

Dear AHS Member:

The Association for Humanist Sociology provides a venue for sociologists, educators, artists, scholars, and activists who share a commitment to using their skills and knowledge to promote peace, equality, and economic and political justice to come together to affirm, challenge and support one another in creating a people-centered world. We invite all AHS members to participate in our annual meeting.

Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge
November 2021
Jackson, Mississippi



AHS Annual Conference Paper and Presentation Formats

SUBMIT BY JULY 2021

We encourage following types of submissions for sessions and presentations:

- Paper presentations (15-20-minute presentations, 3-4 speakers per session)
- Critical dialogues (5-8-minute presentations, 4-8 panelists per session)
- Panel and Author-Meets-Critics sessions (3-4 panelists per session)
- Workshops and Film Screenings
- Poster presentations

Please visit the Association for Humanist Sociology website to propose sessions and complete abstracts for papers or sessions related to the conference theme or to the AHS mission of equality and social justice: www.humanist-sociology.org

Congratulations!

Winner of the AHS 2020 Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award

Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes, author of *Remaking a Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality*.



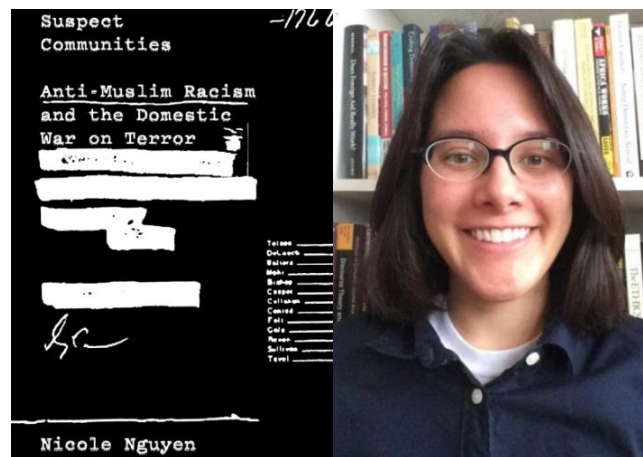
Synopsis: With an eye towards improving the lives of women, *Remaking a Life* provides techniques to encourage private, nonprofit, and government agencies to successfully collaborate, and shares policy ideas with the hope of alleviating the injuries of inequality faced by those living with HIV/AIDS everyday.

From Emily Brissette on the AHS award committee: In this moving and humanistic book based on a 10-year ethnographic study, Dr. Watkins-Hayes examines the injuries of inequality that women living with HIV/AIDS experience, the transformative projects they undertake to remake their lives, and how a robust HIV safety net provides critical support to this process. Rigorously sociological yet accessibly written, the book is especially poignant and instructive reading in the midst of the current pandemic, offering as it does a vision and example of what's possible when impacted communities leverage their diverse experiences and resources to demand and create public health and other supportive structures.

Honorable Mention

Suspect Communities: Anti-Muslim Racism and the Domestic War on Terror by Dr. Nicole Nguyen

Synopsis: Using multi-sited ethnographic methods and a strategy of “studying up,” Dr. Nguyen examines the way that antiterrorism policies criminalize Muslim communities in the US and institutionalize anti-Muslim racism. The book deconstructs the logic underlying Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programs, traces how these programs transform community spaces into sites of surveillance and suspicion, and shows how targeted youth contest these practices. Animated by an abolitionist vision, the book challenges all of us to reimagine community safety and well-being.



From Emily Brissette on the AHS award committee: Suspect Communities is a powerful reassessment of the U.S. government’s “countering violent extremism” (CVE) program that has arisen in major cities across the United States since 2011. By undertaking this analysis, Nicole Nguyen offers a vital window into the inner workings of the U.S. security state and the devastating impact of the CVE program on local communities.

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Association for Humanist Sociology

<https://www.facebook.com/HumanistSociology/>



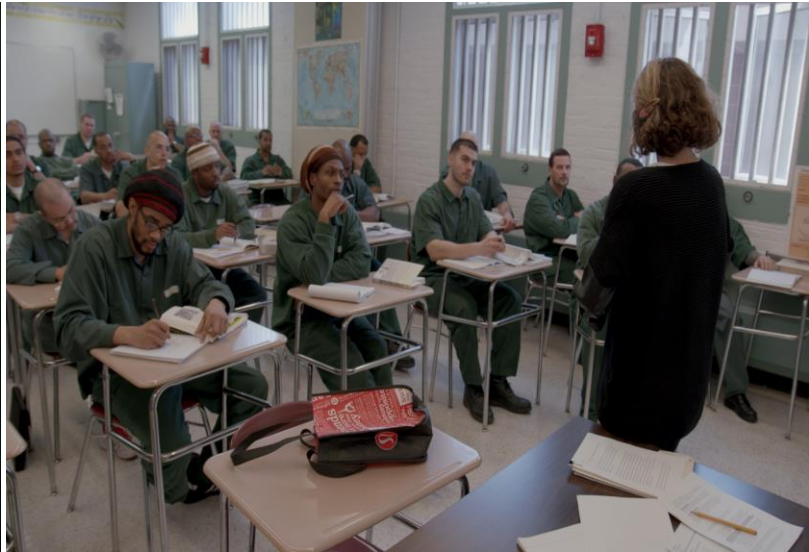
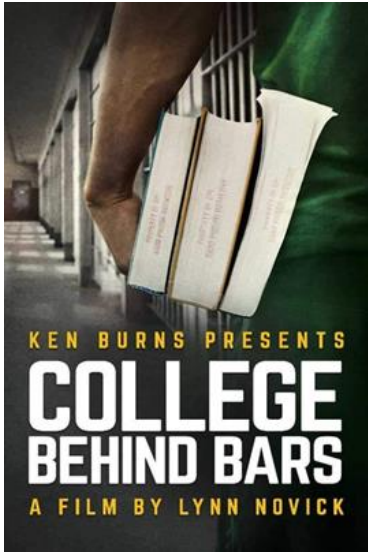
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Documentary Corner

Documentary Corner



College Behind Bars, a four-part documentary film series directed by award-winning filmmaker Lynn Novick, produced by Sarah Botstein, and executive produced by Ken Burns, tells the story of a small group of incarcerated men and women struggling to earn college degrees and turn their lives around in one of the most rigorous and effective prison education programs in the United States – the Bard Prison Initiative.

Link to series: <https://www.pbs.org/show/college-behind-bars/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April AHS Officer nominations
May Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award nominations due
June AHS Spring AHS Executive Board meeting
July Proposals for AHS annual meeting
November AHS annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi
**Dates TBD



AHS Member News

In Remembrance

Rebecca Hensley passed away November 27th, 2020 from advanced multiple myeloma. She was our 2017 AHS president, who was from Southeastern Louisiana University. Rebecca was a tireless criminal and social justice warrior whose lifework challenged systems of oppression. Her latest position was the Executive Director of the Louisiana Network for Criminal Justice Transformation, a not-for-profit community organization that provides case management services to incarcerated citizens and their families.

Her daughter, Morgan, asked that members who wish to express their condolences and to honor Rebecca upload pics of her Mom to a PostHope site <https://posthope.org/rebecca-hensley> The memorial will be held on Sunday at 4pm in Hammond, LA (location is TBA).



Special Announcements by Our AHS Members

Greetings,

In August 2020, the University of Alaska Fairbanks deleted its Department of Sociology, cut all of its Sociology degree programs, and terminated its last remaining tenured faculty member, Sine Anahita. In June, the University of Alaska Board of Regents also voted to delete the Department of Sociology and its degree programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2021. These actions will make Alaska the only US state that does not have a sociology degree program.

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Sine Anahita

Art MFA student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

AHS A Note about Disaster Preparedness

Please check out Lori Peak's feature about preparedness and evacuation planning! It is timely and important information.

See this link to learn how to prepare for an evacuation:

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/news/director/the-time-is-now>



Honors, Awards, and Promotions

Marc Settembrino (he/him or they/them) has been named the Women's Hospital Endowed Professor of the Humanities at Southeastern Louisiana University. As part of this professorship, Marc is developing university wide programming related to Yoga, Inequality, and Social Justice. They are in the process of developing a new undergraduate course that will integrate yoga philosophy and sociological theory to examine social problems and how yoga teachings can be applied to social activism. Marc is also planning a speaker series that highlights how yoga teachers and practitioners' activism is informed by their yoga practice. They also hope to develop a study abroad program that integrates seva (selfless service) and svadhyaya (self-reflection).

AHS Members Scholarly Publications



Peek, Lori, Jennifer Tobin, Rachel Adams, Haorui Wu, and Mason Mathews. 2020. "A Framework for Convergence Research in the Hazards and Disaster Field." *Frontiers in Built Environment*, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fbuil.2020.00110/full>.

Womack, Veronica Y., Bhoomi K. Thakore, Christine V. Wood, David C. Jewett, Remi F. Jones, Susan L. Ingram, Janet A. Clark, Catherine L. Fry, Lynn Wecker, Richard McGee. 2020. "The ASPET Mentoring Network: Enhancing Diversity and Inclusion through Career Mentoring Groups within a Scientific Society." *CBE-Life Sciences Education*, 19(3): <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.19-10-0195>.

Embrick, David G., J. Scott Carter, Cameron Lippard, and Bhoomi K. Thakore. 2020. "Capitalism, Racism, and Trumpism: Whitelash and the Politics of Oppression." *Fast Capitalism*, 17(1): 203-224.

Carter, Shannon K. and Bhoomi K. Thakore. 2020. "Birth in the U.S. amid COVID-19." In *Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19: Volume 1 – U.S. Perspectives*, G. Muschert et al., Eds. Bristol, UK: Policy Press (Publication of the SSSP Justice 21 Committee)

Thakore, Bhoomi K. 2020. "Hopes for My Daughter." In *Whiter: Stories of Colorism by Asian American Women*. N. Khanna, Ed. New York: New York University Press.

Shor, Fran. "The Long Life of US Institutionalized White Supremacist Terror." *Critical Sociology* 46, no. 1 (2020): 5-18. <http://www.thecyberhood.net/documents/papers/cs2020.pdf>

2.) the paperback edition of my book, "Weaponized Whiteness," from which the above article was drawn. <https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1581-weaponized-whiteness>

Weaponized Whiteness by Fran Shor interrogates the meanings and implications of white supremacy and, more specifically, white identity politics from historical and sociological perspectives. By analyzing the constructions and deconstructions of white identity politics throughout U.S. history and up through the present, these collected essays provide insight into the deep roots and resonances...www.haymarketbooks.org

SUBMIT to AHS's Journal *Humanity and Society*

<http://has.sagepub.com/>

Humanity & Society, the official journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology, was first published in 1977 and has been published quarterly since 1978. *Humanity & Society* is a peer-reviewed Sage journal with abstracts of published articles appearing in *Sociological Abstracts*. It features "humanist sociology," which is broadly defined as a sociology that views people not only as products of social forces but also as agents in their lives and the world. We are committed to a sociology that contributes to a more humane, equal, and just society.



Who Are We The Association for Humanist Sociology

Our Past: The Association arose out of growing disenchantment with conventional sociology and a need for a more clearly value committed emphasis in sociological work. We came together in 1976, not out of shared politics or similar "schools" of sociology, which were, and still are, richly varied, but out of a common concern for "real life" problems of peace, equality, and social justice.

Our Philosophy: Humanists view people not merely as products of social forces but also as shapers of social life, capable of creating social orders in which everyone's potential can unfold.

Our Purpose: Accordingly, humanist sociologists study life with a value commitment to advance that possibility through scholarship and practice. We intend to be an active support network for sociologists committed to humanist values, as they practice sociology in institutions often hostile to such an approach. To this end, we produce a quarterly journal, *Humanity & Society*, as well as a newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*; we organize national meetings and have sessions at regional sociology conferences