

# THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Spring/Summer, 2021

Editor: Anastacia Schulhoff

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Dr. Johnny E. Williams specializes in social movements, political sociology, cultural sociology, white supremacy, science, and religion. He is the author of *African American Religion and the Civil Rights Movement in Arkansas* (University of Mississippi Press 2003) and *Decoding Racial Ideology in Genomics* (Lexington Books 2016).

## **A Message from our AHS President**

Dear AHS Colleagues:

It has been a long time since we met in person – certainly over a year, and, for some of us, almost two years. The ongoing global pandemic, anti-black racism, white supremacy, and insurrection are testing our resolve to eliminate systemic oppressions. We have grieved deep loss as a grand collective and as neighbors and families. We have felt the red-hot rage that whiteness and its instruments of oppression

manifested as racism, classism, heteropatriarchy, and imperialism. We are definitely sick and tired of being tired and weary. To rejuvenate our spirits and connectedness, we will hold our annual meeting in person in Jackson, Mississippi, November 4-6 at the Jackson Convention Complex. Please visit our organization website to secure conference lodging at the Westin Jackson, which is within walking distance of the convention complex. I think meeting in person is the right and healthy thing to do given that the nation will be near or over 75% of the population vaccinated by the time our meeting is held. If some safety precautions are still in place when we meet, we will of course follow them. I anticipate that attendees will be fully vaccinated and ready to participate. Given the expectation fueled by the optimism around vaccinations, I am sure universities and colleges will lift their ban on traveling to professional conferences, if they have not done so already.

The Association for Humanist Sociology is for and about people doing various kinds of work towards global liberation. We support each other within and beyond the academy. What AHS means to each of us is different, and, of course like all organizations, AHS is mutable because it is comprised of people. I recall what it meant to me when I joined our association. It was a beacon and constant source of support in the struggle to re-imagine the nation and academy not as traffickers of inhuman anti-black imperial capitalism. As I have said in previous communiques, AHS

members do the important public work of illuminating the roots and mechanisms of systemic oppressions while creating the life-sustaining resistance, community-building, creativity, and joy that we need to carry on. You all know that our organization thrives on the rich, collaborative exchanges that happen at our annual conference. Every panel, workshop, and session are a part of our collective record and effort to fulfill our mission of working to transform society in the interest of all humanity. 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 that we meet 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. Thank you for electing me as President. I am deeply grateful to be of small service to a mighty cause. I look forward to seeing many of you in Jackson.

In Gratitude, Solidarity, and Power,  
Johnny E. Williams



Social Movement Activists in Jackson, Mississippi.  
Photos courtesy of David G. Embrick, University of Connecticut

## Call for Participation

Dear AHS Member:

We invite all AHS members to participate in our Annual Meeting: Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge, November 4-6, 2021 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Jackson Downtown Convention Center Hotel.

**Submission Deadline is July 23, 2021**

Submit paper abstracts and session proposals of 200 words or less to James M. Thomas (JT),  
University of Mississippi: [jmthoma4@olemiss.edu](mailto:jmthoma4@olemiss.edu)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

# Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge

Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology

**November 4-6, 2021**

Jackson, Mississippi

President: Johnny E. Williams, Trinity College  
Program Chair: James M. Thomas, University of Mississippi

### THEME

*How to transform our world into a beloved community?*

The 2021 meeting theme is “Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge.” In an age when many college professors, politicians, and activists are cautious about their political views and lifestyles, it is important to reflect upon people as historical and social actors. We must be resolute in the face of a changing world and generous enough to recognize change is an outcome of people’s actions. We most certainly can unmake what people create. Therefore, it is essential for social scientists, activists, and artists to direct our attention to the great struggles and issues of our time. “It is” as C. Wright Mills’s once said, “one thing to talk about general problems . . . , and quite another to tell an individual what to do. Most ‘experts’ dodge that question. I do not want to.” The aim of the meeting is to ask how sociology and other academic disciplines are following Mills lead to help transform our world into a beloved community. What are the contributions of actors and epistemologies of regions in the nation and around the world? What are the main obstacles we face to tackle the struggles and issues of today? How can innovative sociological analyses contribute to grasping and to facing our common global problems?

**Submission Deadline:** July 23, 2021

Submit paper abstracts and session proposals of 200 words or less to James M. Thomas, [jmthoma4@olemiss.edu](mailto:jmthoma4@olemiss.edu)

## AHS Annual Conference Paper and Presentation Formats

**SUBMIT BY JULY 23, 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

Submit paper abstracts and session proposals of 200 words or less to James M. Thomas (JT): [jmthoma4@olemiss.edu](mailto:jmthoma4@olemiss.edu)

### AHS 2021 Conference Session Participation Request

In Memory of John C.

Leggett

By Jim Pennell

Those of you who have been AHS members for some time will remember John Leggett's big smile and the twinkle in his eye, as well as the many times he stood up at the business meeting to speak his mind on the topic at hand or one that was being overlooked. John died December 14, 2020, in Seattle, WA. He was 90. John recruited Greta and me to AHS in 1993, probably while we were playing softball on the Wobblies, the intramural team John organized at Rutgers, or it may have been after a game at Doll's Place in New Brunswick. John would always buy the first pitcher of beer and a plate or two of mussels

marinara to share and told us when we had graduate students, we should do the same.

John served as AHS President in 1997, and as Program Chair the year before for Frank Lindenfeld, who then served as John's program chair. One of the many memorable things about the Pittsburgh meeting is that the hotel was under renovation (which sort of became a running joke in AHS, since it happened enough to seem like a tradition). The power went out while many of us were down in the basement bar (the bar gatherings being another AHS tradition), so the bar staff put out candles so we could see, and the beer was free since the registers and card readers would not work. If a meeting event had food left over, John packed it up and took it out on the street to give away to the hungry.

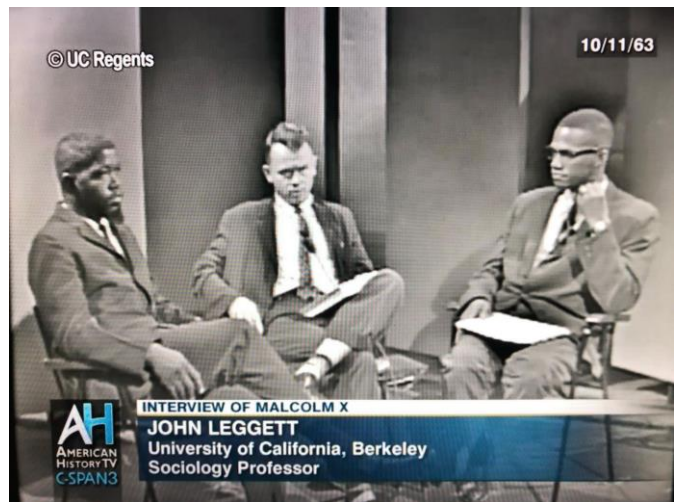
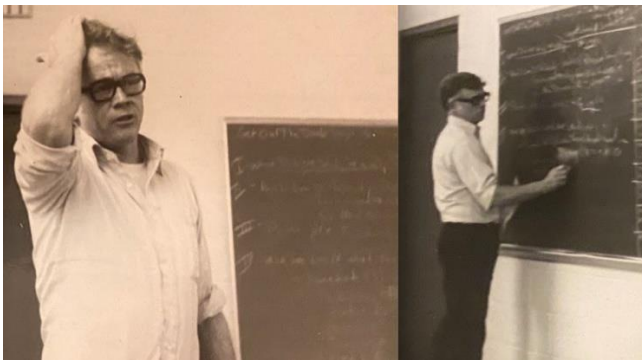
We graduate students at Rutgers thought John was mostly a mischief maker because, well, he was! He talked some about his work on the lawsuit against Johns Manville that got workers or their families compensation

for asbestosis and mesothelioma caused by the use of asbestos at the Manville, NJ, plant. He probably mentioned interviewing Malcom X. But it took a session at an AHS meeting (I do not recall which one) that honored John and his work before I fully understood the extent of John's accomplishments. Hardy Frye and several other people from John's past stood up and told us about all the things John had done as an activist sociologist. Many of his accomplishments are spelled out in his obituary:

<https://whatcomcremationandfuneral.com/obituary/john-c-leggett>.

Unfortunately, there is no mention of John's long involvement with AHS. We should correct that with at least a session in his memory, so if you are interested in participating in that at the Jackson meeting, please let me know at [jpennell@uindy.edu](mailto:jpennell@uindy.edu)

**John C. Leggett, AHS President-1997**



Malcolm X being interviewed by Professor John Leggett in 1963. Watch it on YouTube at this link:

<https://youtu.be/FZMrti8QcPA>

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.



## Recent Publications in Humanity and Society

- [Book Review: The Morals of the Market: Human Rights and the Rise of Neoliberalism](#)

Soumik Sarkar

- [Book Review: Dying for an iPhone: Apple, Foxconn, and the Lives of China's Workers; Stra...](#)

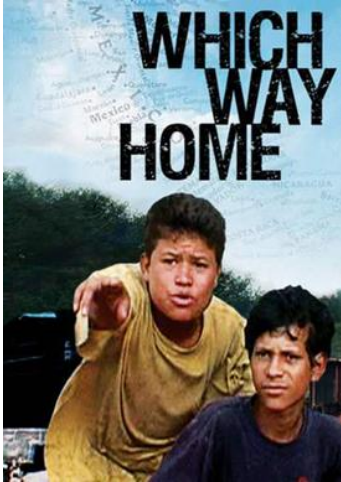
Chris Tilly

- [A Question of Human Rights: Transnational Targeting of Environmental Justice Communities](#)

Beverly Wright, Earthea Nance, Denae King, Joy Semien

## Documentary Corner

Which Way Home Helps Us Understand Migrant Children's Experiences Crossing the U.S. Border



**Synopsis:** "Which Way Home" is a feature documentary film that follows unaccompanied child migrants, on their journey through Mexico, as they try to reach the United States. We follow children like Olga and Freddy, nine-year old Hondurans, who are desperately trying to reach their parents in the US.; children like Jose, a ten-year old El Salvadoran, who has been abandoned by smugglers and ends up alone in a Mexican detention center; and Kevin, a canny, streetwise fourteen-year-old Honduran, whose mother hopes that he will reach the U.S. and send money back to her. These are stories of hope and courage, disappointment, and sorrow. They are the children you never hear about, the invisible ones. You can watch it for free at this link:

<https://youtu.be/VmkNkeiSfBE> (90

## Find us on Facebook and Twitter



Association for Humanist Sociology

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



Humanist Sociology

@AHSsoci

<https://twitter.com/AHSsoci>

## Calendar of Events

*July 23 Conference Proposals* for AHS annual meeting **DUE**

*Nov. 4-6* AHS Annual Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi



## AHS Member News

### Appointments, Promotions, Retirements, Publications, & Awards

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#### **Greta and Jim Pennell Announce Their Retirement**

Greta Pennell, Professor of Teacher Education at the University of Indianapolis, and Jim Pennell, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Community Research Center at the University of Indianapolis, retired in May 2021. Greta has been at UIndy for 24 years, and Jim for 23 after one year at Auburn University. They both earned their PhDs at Rutgers University (Greta in social and developmental psychology, Jim in sociology). They joined AHS in 1993 and attended their first meeting that year in New Orleans. They served together as Co-Vice Presidents of Membership for two terms and each served as President. Greta also served as Treasurer as well as Program Chair for two meetings. She also filled in at a third meeting for the program chair who had to attend to other matters. Jim served two short stints as newsletter editor. Greta continues to serve as a deputy editor and Jim as an associate editor for *Humanity & Society*. Both plan to continue to do scholarly work and stay active with AHS, while spending more time engaging in artistic pursuits, community activism, gardening, sailing, and travel. AHS has been their primary scholarly home during their academic careers and they are thankful for the many friends they have made over the years and hope to continue to make.

### Congratulations to you both!





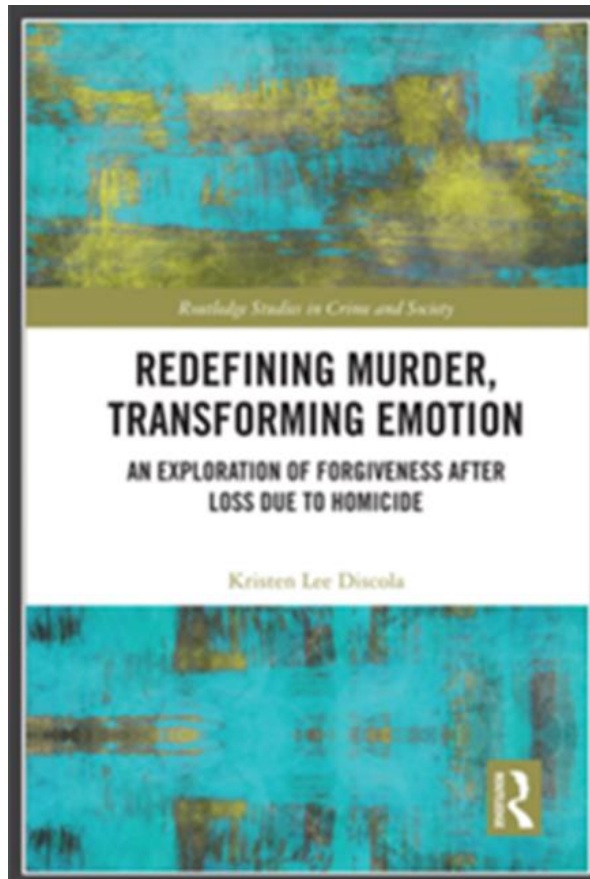
# AHS Members Scholarly Publications

Kristen Discola (formerly Hourigan) at California State University, Los Angeles published her book *“Redefining Murder, Transforming Emotion: An Exploration of Forgiveness after Loss Due to Homicide.”* <https://www.routledge.com/Redefining-Murder-Transforming-Emotion-An-Exploration-of-Forgiveness-after/Discola/p/book/9781138061279>

Offering insights based on years of original research, *Redefining Murder, Transforming Emotion: An Exploration of Forgiveness after Loss Due to Homicide* investigates the ideas and experiences of individuals who have lost loved ones to homicide (co-victims) in order to advance our understanding of the emotional transformation of forgiveness. It stands at the crux of two vibrant, growing fields: criminal victimology and the sociology of emotion. Analysis of 36 intensive interviews with co-victims and three years of participant observation of self-help groups and other victim-centered events offers a multidimensional understanding of forgiveness.

Specifically, this book answers the questions of "What?," "When?," "How?," and "Why?" forgiveness occurs by exploring co-victims' ideas about forgiveness, the differential experiences of various groups of people, the which forgiveness occurs in circumstances of homicide, motivations toward book concludes with overarching conclusions theoretical and practical suggestions for directions and an in-depth account of strategies employed to nuanced data.

This book will appeal to students alike, within including sociology, restorative justice, victim psychology, and social individuals seeking a better their own experiences, or others whose lives have extreme forms of violence detailed postscript will also interested in qualitative social science research.



processes through a variety of extreme and co-victims' forgiveness. The commentary on based on this work; implications; for future inquiry; the methodological gather such rich and

academics and relevant fields, criminology, services, welfare, as well as understanding of including co-victims been altered by and upheaval. Its serve well those methodology in

# MEET YOUR AHS MEMBERS

## AHS VP of Membership



Dr. Cameron Lippard is Chair and Professor of Sociology at Appalachian State University. His research and teaching interests include race and racism, Latino immigration to the American South, War and its impacts on veterans, and research methods. His most recent publications include two new books. *The Death of Affirmative Action* was published by Bristol University Press and is co-authored with Dr. J. Scott Carter. The other book is an edited volume, *Protecting Whiteness*, published by the University of Washington Press and was co-edited with Drs. David Embrick and J. Scott Carter. He currently serves as the Vice President of Membership for AHS and is the incoming Vice President-Elect for the Southern Sociological Society.

### Reflexive Statement:

As a sociologist, my duties are to investigate the structural determinants that impact our day-to-day behaviors whether it is to determine why a person picks one beer of another to drink or it is to lay bare the destruction and inequality caused by racism. I am also responsible for educating individuals who need more direction to focus their energies and passions to bring about social justice in the world. Finally, my most important duty is to encourage change for the better and AHS is the perfect location to assist me in meeting my calls as a sociologist. Moreover, it allows me to embrace my hope in the human spirit and our abilities to change the world for the better.



Recent publication, **“Protecting “Whiteness: Whitelash and the Rejection of Racial Equality”** edited by Cameron D. Lippard, J. Scott Carter, and David G. Embrick

The standoff at Cliven Bundy’s ranch, the rise of white identity activists on college campuses, and the viral growth of white nationalist videos on YouTube vividly illustrate the resurgence of white supremacy and overt racism in the United States. White resistance to racial equality can be subtle as well—like art museums that enforce their boundaries as elite white spaces, “right on crime” policies that impose new modes of surveillance and punishment for people of color, and environmental groups whose work reinforces settler colonial norms.

In this incisive volume, twenty-four leading sociologists assess contemporary shifts in white attitudes about racial justice in the US. Using case studies, they

investigate the entrenchment of white privilege in institutions, new twists in anti-equality ideologies, and “whitelash” in the actions of social movements. Their examinations of new manifestations of racist aggression help make sense of the larger forces that underpin enduring racial inequalities and how they reinvent themselves for each new generation.

Editors of *Whitelash*: Cameron D. Lippard is professor and chair of sociology at Appalachian State University and coauthor with J. Scott Carter of *The Death of Affirmative Action: Racialized Tactics and the Fight for College Admissions*. J. Scott Carter is associate professor of sociology at the University of Central Florida. David G. Embrick is associate professor of sociology and Africana studies at the University of Connecticut and coeditor of *Challenging the Status Quo: Diversity, Democracy, and Equality in the 21st Century*.

## **Nine members of AHS were included as contributors!**

Here is a link to the book webpage: <https://uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780295747996/protecting-whiteness/>.

\*\*\*\*\***Meet Your AHS Members Feature Story.** If you are a member of AHS and would like to be featured in the AHS newsletter, please email [schulhoffam@appstate.edu](mailto:schulhoffam@appstate.edu) along with a photo and reflexive statement about your work and why you became an AHS member. We would love to learn more about you and your work!

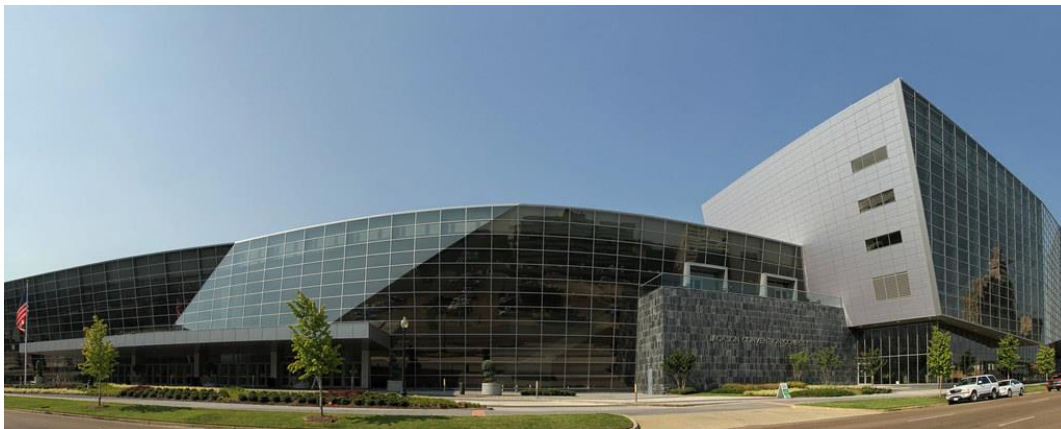
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## **Upcoming Annual Meeting Information**

Jackson, Mississippi

November 4-6, 2021

Our conference will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex not the hotel.

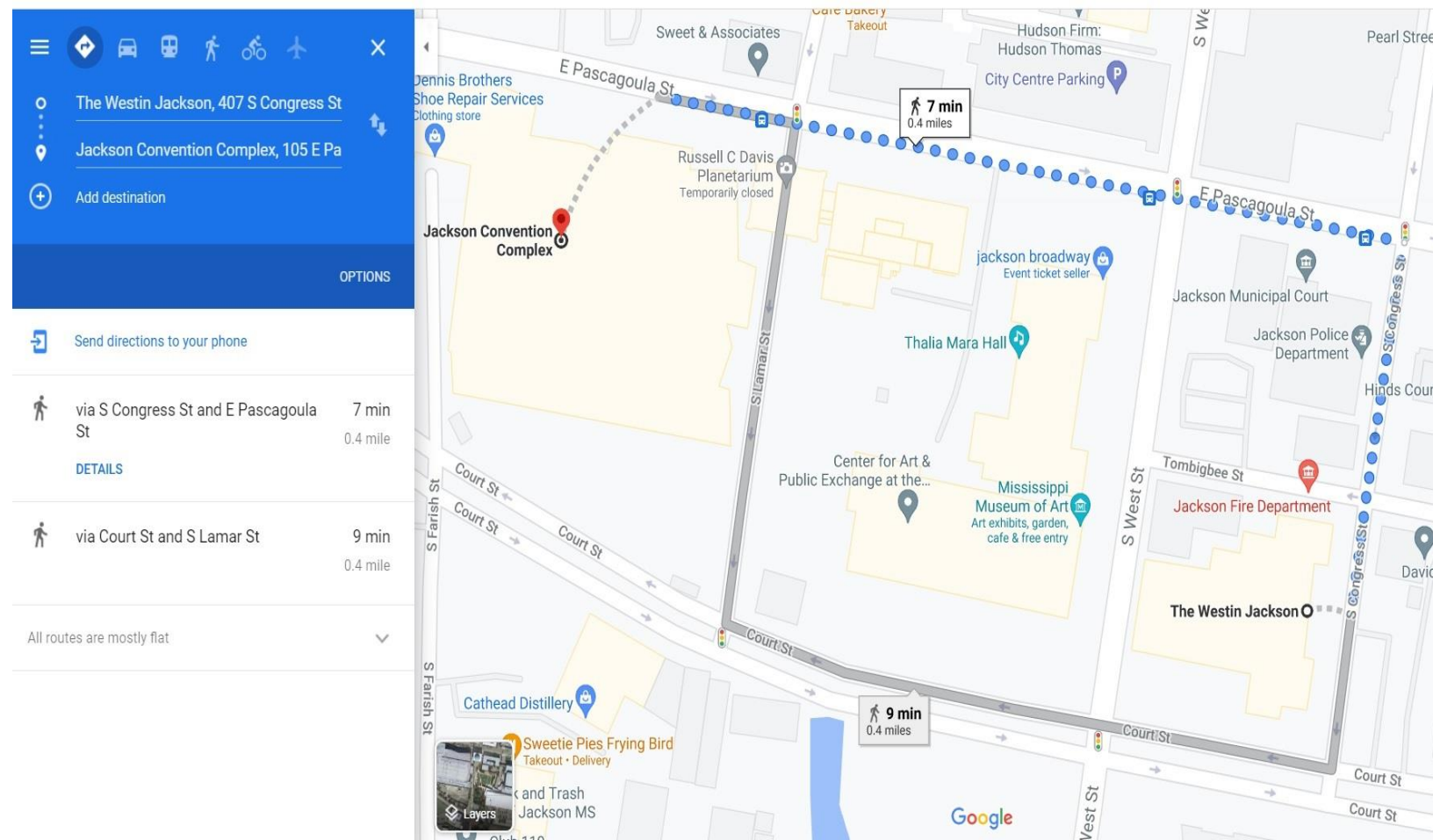


### **Hotel and Conference Location Addresses**

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The Jackson Convention Complex is at 105 East Pascagoula St. in Jackson, MS

The Westin Jackson Hotel is located at 407 South Congress St., Jackson MS 39201



The walking distance between the hotel and the convention complex is .4 miles. See map above.

### Jackson Convention Complex Parking

The main parking lots for the Jackson Convention Complex are located across the street and directly behind the facility.

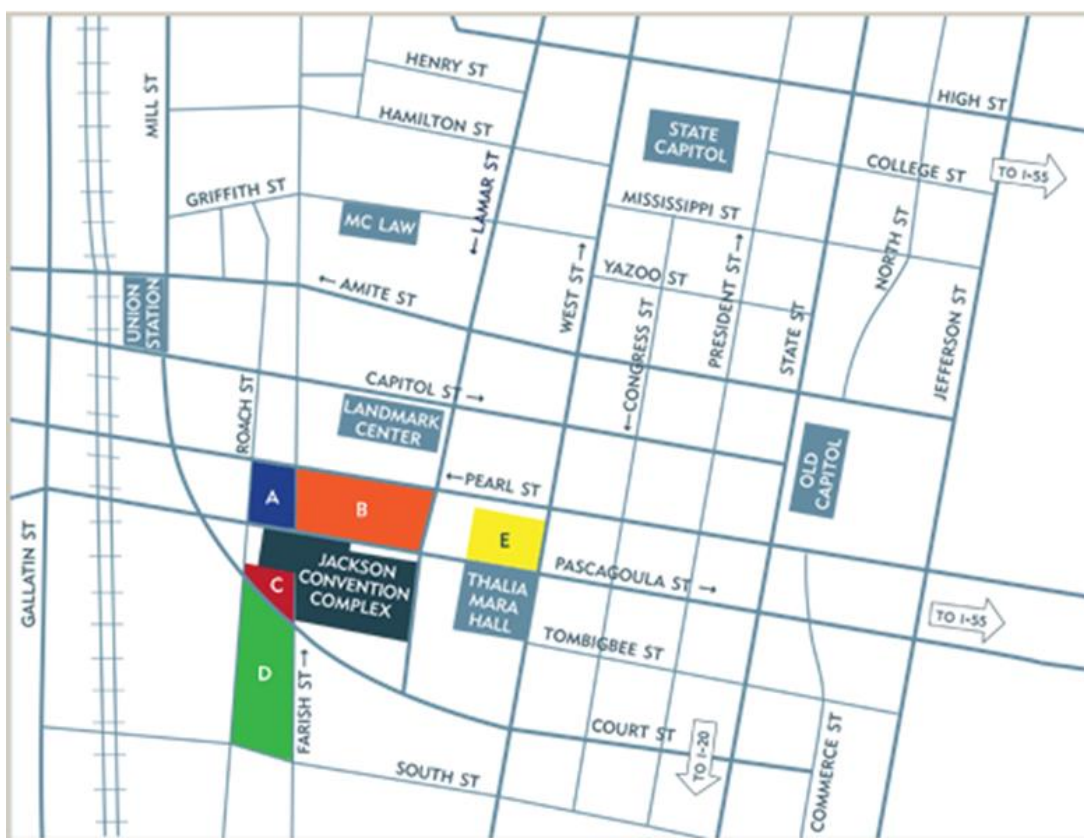
**Location:** The JCC parking lots can be accessed from the following streets:

- Pascagoula Street
- Farish Street
- Pearl Street
- Roach Street
- Court Street

- **Specifications**

- 3 separate parking lots.
- 763 general public parking spaces available.
- 12 handicapped parking spaces.

## JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX PARKING MAP



**A** - Convention Center Public Parking  
Pascagoula St.

**B** - Convention Center Public Parking  
Pascagoula St.

**C** - Convention Center Public Parking  
Corner of Court St. & Roach St.

**D** - Convention Center Public Parking  
Corner of Farish St. & Court St.

**E** - City Centre Garage  
Corner of West St. & Pascagoula St.



## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN JACKSON, MS

Westin Jackson Hotel

407 South Congress St., Jackson MS 39201

Book your room now for the Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting!

**Last day to book hotel room: Oct 13, 2021**

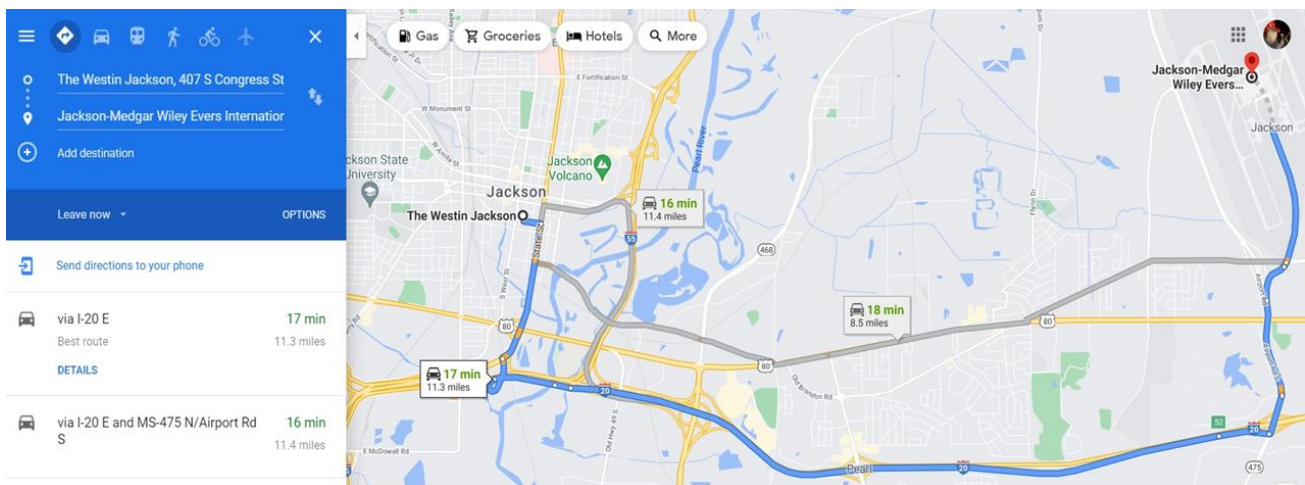
Book your special group rate under Association for Humanist Sociology at this link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1622215525583&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

The Westin Jackson @ \$149.00 USD per night (rates apply to dates Nov 3-6)

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## Jackson, MS Airport to Westin Hotel Map



Located in the heart of vibrant, downtown Jackson, near both the Jackson Train Station and the Mississippi State Capitol, the Westin Jackson puts guests close to the great things to do in a beautiful city. This hotel does not offer shuttle service.

Estimated taxi fare is \$35 (one way) from airport.

Valet daily parking rate at hotel is \$22

Getting Around Jackson – Helpful Website: <https://www.visitjackson.com/getting-around>

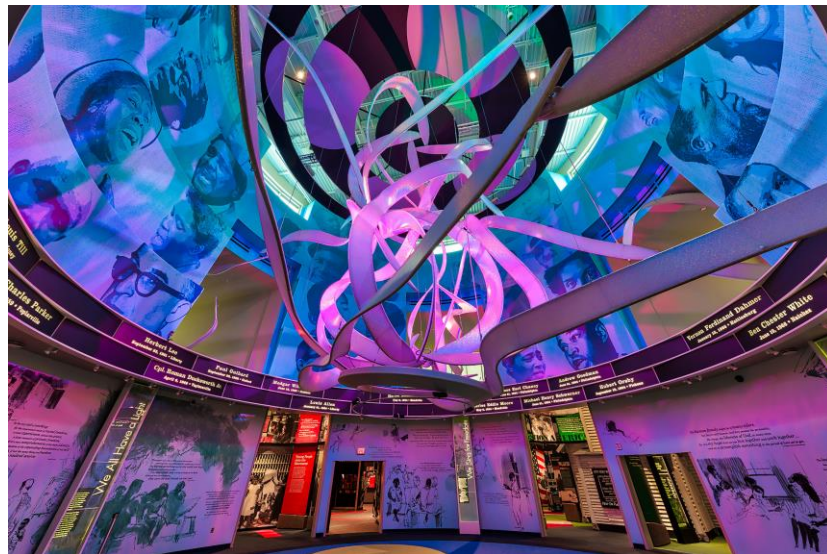
Jackson, MS Train Station Website: <https://www.amtrak.com/stations/jan>

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## Local Attractions in Jackson, MS

Recommended by James M. Thomas (JT), University of Mississippi

- **Things to do/see:**
  - Two Mississippi Museums (Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History). Opened in 2017 in celebration of the state's bicentennial. Could spend a whole day between the two sites, which are next to each other on Capitol Street (<https://www.mdah.ms.gov/2MM/>)



- Medgar Evers Home. Home of slain Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers and his wife, Myrlie, is now a National Monument. The home is unique in that it has no front door – that was an intentional decision by the Evers, for their safety.
- Mississippi Museum of Art. Free admission. Over 21,000 pieces of art, plus an outdoor Art Garden.
- Cathead Distillery. First legal distillery in the state of Mississippi, founded in 2010. Wonderful tours and tastings.



- Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. Founded as the Institute for the Study of the History, Life, and Culture of Black People by Margaret Walker in 1968. The Center is an archive and museum dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of African American history and culture. Bonus is Jackson State University, one of six HBCUs in Mississippi, and the state's largest.
- COFO Civil Rights Education Center. Part of the Margaret Walker Center portfolio). From its website: "In 1961, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) was established as an umbrella organization to unify and meet the needs of an increasing presence of civil rights organizations in Mississippi, including the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and a host of local organizations. In 1963, COFO made 1017 John R. Lynch Street its home, and this office served as the state headquarters for the modern Mississippi civil rights movement."

- **Places to eat:**

- Brent's Drugs. Classic southern diner. Conference goers may recognize it from the movie *The Help*.
- Big Apple Inn. Located in the historic Farish Street Historical District, which was the all-Black business district of Jackson. Famous for its pig ear sandwiches. Medgar Evers used to work right upstairs.
  - Bully's. Some of the best soul food in the state. I think they are cash only.



- Cultivation Food Hall. Nine different vendors. Everything from coffee and pastries, to tacos and tapas.



- Walker's Drive In. Awesome dinner spot in the Fondren district, which also has a bunch of nightlife options.
- Aladdin Mediterranean Grill. Lots of veggie and vegan options.
- Char. Really good steakhouse.
- Iron Horse Grill. Classic pub. Great brunch.
- Babalu. Tacos, tacos, tacos.
- Mayflower Café. Greek diner vibes.
- Hal and Mal's. Live music on the weekends. ‘
- Taste of the Island. Caribbean, including jerk chicken and fried plantains.

## AHS Reports & Announcements



Dear AHS Members,

Announcement on candidates AHS is seeking for the coming year. The Nominations Committee is:

Bilal Sekou (co-chair) (sekou@hartford.edu)  
 Emily McDonald (co-chair) (emcdon15@gmu.edu)  
 W. Carson Boyd (wcbyrd@umich.edu)  
 Dana Greene (greenedm@gmail.com)  
 Maretta McDonald (mmcd053@lsu.edu)

Offices the Nominations committee will be recruiting candidates for:

Vice President, Membership (2 candidates for one position)

Nominations Committee (6 candidates for three positions)

If you are interested in being considered for one of these elected positions, please email Bilal Sekou (seku@hartford.edu) or let any of the Nominations Committee members know. As an organization that is completely run by officers on a volunteer basis, it is very important that we recruit candidates who are interested in serving, getting to know our members, and moving our association forward. Please see the AHS Constitution and Handbook on the AHS website (<https://www.humanist-sociology.org/> under “About”) to learn more about the responsibilities of these positions.

Bilal Sekou  
 Co-Chair, Nominations committee

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**Melissa F. Lavin**  
**AHS Secretary**

***Association for Humanist Sociology, Notes from meeting on 11/4/2020 (with 1/2021 updates)***

AHS had a board meeting on 11/4/2020. We opened with a moment of silence for Rebecca Hensley, former president of *AHS*, friend, and activist, who died in November of 2020. We discussed whether we should do something for Rebecca as an organization, and ultimately decided that we would offer \$1,000 on an annual basis toward something or someone in her honor.

We discussed sending a note to Marc Settembrino to confirm that he is still willing to be nominated for president. We think that he is willing to be nominated and serve in that capacity.

Bhoomi indicated that the newsletter had come out earlier that day (11/4/2020). At that point in time, Bhoomi said that we need a new website coordinator/ V.P. publications position filled.

We discussed that we needed a chair for the Book Award Committee. The name mentioned in context of this was Jill Bystydzienski. The update (early 2021) is that Jill B. is set to chair the 2021 Book Award, along with Joti Sekhon and Chris Dale. This committee will proceed with 3 members instead of 4 members if that is acceptable.

We also mentioned the conference in November 4-6, 2021, which as of now, is scheduled as a face-to-face conference. The name of the conference is “Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge.” We noted that we had to have a fall back plan if we must revert to online.

We discussed the status of *Humanity and Society*. Editor of *Humanity and Society*, Daina Harvey, has gone past his term and continues to be H & S editor through 2021. We discussed the health and future of the journal, wondering aloud if members ourselves need to support the journal more by publishing in it, or whether we can market it as a journal of special issues (which we rely on a lot) and lean into that identity for the journal. We still struggle to get quality submissions. We have no journal submission fee currently. We get many submissions from India or North Africa. We discussed whether we should sever our relationship with SAGE, and mentioned that the journal needs be more visible, e.g., promoted on Twitter. H and S has been indexed. Still no impact factor. We wondered if the double-open (non-blind) review is sustainable re: getting an impact factor for the journal.

Since we had no election due to Coronavirus and cancellations, and folks agreed to more time, we ran no election in 2020. For 2021, Bilal will co-chair the nominations committee with Emily MacDonald. If Emily agrees to chair it, he can phase out. We will touch base with people who are interested in serving.

Ad hoc: Woody, Treasurer, said that we had \$69,308.51. Our income dropped, but no expenses. We have the money to do some things as we choose. He suggested that we roll the budget over.

V.P. of membership said that 75 people paid dues for 2020, we would get more people to renew/pay dues with an upcoming conference.

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**VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**2020/21**  
**Cameron Lippard**

**Hello fellow humanist sociologists!** I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dr. Cameron Lippard, and I am reaching out to you today as the Vice President of Membership for the Association for Humanist Sociology (AHS). As you probably know, it is that time once again to consider renewing your membership with AHS.

Although we know you have multiple choices when it comes to professional development and membership, the members of AHS believe that what our organization offers goes beyond scholarship and networking. **We value and offer experiences that push sociologists to uncover and address social issues that plague our society and profession.** We also believe in a humane approach to solving social problems and that outreach and activism are vital to serving our profession and communities wherever we are. More importantly, we are an organization that goes beyond the conference presentation, providing invaluable experiences at our meetings that include interactions with local citizens, activists, and world-changing organizations to bring justice and peace to those in need.

Recently, our latest conference provides a great example of what AHS can do for you. **During the conference in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, AHS brought sociologists and local activists together to address immigration issues on the border and violence against women. The conference also included opportunities to meet and talk with local organizers and experience the cultural wonders of El Paso and Juarez citizens living on the border. We also had opportunities to meet and support local businesses and artists whose missions were to better their communities for all members, citizens, and non-citizens.** On top of these events and activities, we also had several research presentations and plenaries, focusing on the hottest topics in sociological research that included academics and activists.

If you hated missing our last conference, do not worry. **We have another great experience lined up for November 4-6, 2021, in Jackson, Mississippi!** President Johnny Williams and Program Chair Dr. James Thomas are organizing an in-person conference for all of us to enjoy and see Jackson. This conference will be a great moment to come back from the pandemic and rekindle our efforts for furthering knowledge and encouraging social change. See our [webpage](#) for more details!

I also ask that you join us in Jackson because we need you! As you may know, the pandemic hit several organizations hard with recruiting new members and holding on to existing ones. In 2018, we had 131 members. By 2020, which was at the start of the pandemic, our numbers dropped again to 80, and as of today, we have around 60 paying members. As you can see, we need to get our numbers back up, and it really is up to all of us to come back and bring a friend (or three) to help us do the important work we have always accomplished since the association's founding in 1976. **I hope to work with the Executive Committee to announce some great incentives to help with defraying membership costs and entice you to bring colleagues to our next meeting. Stay tuned for more on this soon!**

Also, as a bonus, you will receive a subscription to our scholarly journal, [Humanity and Society](#), and our newsletter. You also get reduced conference registration fees. I will also plan to make a concerted effort to contact you quarterly to make sure you are up-to-date on various events and

issues identified by AHS and its members. You should see these updates in our newsletter, emails, and through our newly-revised association website.

**With that said, isn't it time to renew your membership?** As you may recall, our membership dues are paid on a calendar year basis, from January to December. **To renew your membership, please use the following link to access our membership form: <https://www.humanist-sociology.org/membership.html>. You can also pay your dues via the "store" link and be set for an exciting year of AHS news and events.**

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to seeing you at our next annual conference in Jackson, Mississippi!

Cameron D. Lippard  
AHS VP for Membership

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**2020 FINAL**  
**March 2021**  
**WOODY DOANE**

This report provides a status report on AHS' finances as of December 31, 2020.

To state the obvious: everything about 2020 was altered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponement of the 2020 conference scheduled for November. Without the annual meeting, AHS financial activity was limited to processing membership payments and handling administrative and journal costs.

The good news is that while the pandemic has had a devastating financial effect upon so many organizations, AHS has been relatively unscathed, an outcome that is due to our minimal organizational and administrative costs. As of December 31, 2020, our account balance was \$69,285.29. While this shows a loss of \$6995 when compared with the \$76,280.29 with which we began 2020, if we remove a payment for \$9,828.25 to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP did not cash our payment check for the 2019 annual meeting until January 2020), we actually had a small surplus when considering revenues and expenses for 2020. My assessment is that we finished the year in good financial position.

Of greater concern is the decline in membership. With the distractions of the pandemic and the postponement of the annual meeting, for the year 2020 we experienced a 30+ percent drop in membership, from an already low 116 to 80. It is essential that we work to reverse this trend in 2021.

While I have attached a budget projection for 2021, so much is unknown. Recent developments with a vaccine for the coronavirus provide some hope that we will be able to hold an annual meeting in 2021, but anything at this point is purely speculative. If circumstances do permit AHS to

hold a 2021 Annual Meeting, it is crucial that we improve attendance. Our last annual meeting registration declined from 148 (141 paid) in Detroit in 2018 to 98 (95 paid) in El Paso in 2019.

**2020 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY TREASURER'S REPORT--FINAL  
SUBMITTED BY WOODY DOANE, TREASURER, MARCH 2021**

**BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2020 \$76,280.29**

General Fund \$75,260.29

Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund \$1,020.00

**INCOME [TOTAL] \$4,912.34**

Memberships [conference postponed] (net)\* \$3,912.34

Sponsorship for annual meeting [Critical Sociology] \$1,000.00

Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund donations \$0.00

**EXPENSES [TOTAL] \$11,907.34**

Administration (postage, shipping, refunds) \$106.51

*Humanity & Society* (mailing costs billed by Sage) \$368.75

Organizational (accounting, website, stipends) \$1,494.56

Conference expenses [2019] \$9,937.52

**YEAR END BANK BALANCE 12/31/2020 \$69,285.29**

General Fund \$68,265.29

Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund \$1,020.00

**NET GAIN/LOSS 2020 -\$6995.00**

\* Net cost includes charges for credit card transactions.



Dear Colleagues,

In an effort to update the AHS website so it reflects more collectivity from its members, I'm reaching out to you for help on the following items to upload to the AHS website:

1. Photos you might have and can share of any AHS activities (annual meetings, current and former colleagues, etc.)
2. Accomplishments (books, pubs, other honorifics)
3. Links to your favorite activist organizations
4. Memorials to former AHS members
5. Suggestions on the AHS website (constructive criticisms are very much welcomed)

I have already started to overhaul our website and plan to devote significant time over the summer to making it the best I can. I can only do this with your help. It can't just be a site with my or one or two other members' photos. We need everyone's input to make this "our" organization/website.

Please take just a few minutes to send me any of the above listed to: [david.embrick@uconn.edu](mailto:david.embrick@uconn.edu).

You are much appreciated.  
DGE

Dr. David G. Embrick  
Past-President, Association for Humanist Sociology  
AHS Webmaster & Designer

## **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