

# THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Winter/Spring 2023

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## LOOKING FORWARD: NEWS ON THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

### Humanist Sociology at the End of the World? Confronting Cascading Crises Together

It feels like attacks are coming from all directions. Transgender people and women are losing access to life-saving medical care. Washed-up musicians angrily shoot cans of cheap beer with assault weapons and domestic terrorists are storming public libraries around the US. Meanwhile, children take to the streets and occupy state capitols demanding that legislators enact meaningful gun control. The climate crisis is intensifying. Californians are recovering from devastating floods. Communities across the southeast are sorting through rubble after weeks of deadly tornado outbreaks. However, officials in Atlanta, Georgia are raising forests and killing Indigenous protestors to make way for their “Cop City.” Corporate profits have never been higher, yet more Americans face hunger and homelessness due to price gouging on food, medicine, housing, and other basic necessities. Even our Ivory Towers are under siege as reactionary politicians begin to dismantle so-called “woke” curricula and neoliberal administrators develop plans for faculty buyouts and layoffs in advance of the dreaded demographic cliff. I could go on, but my chest feels tight just from typing this paragraph.

It’s clear that our work as humanist sociologists is more important than ever. **I invite you to join us from November 1 through 4, 2023 for our annual meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana.** Our conference theme is “**Humanist Sociology at the End of the World? Confronting Cascading Crises Together.**”



Marc Settembrino as Tuffy Love

I encourage you to submit papers, workshops, and panel sessions that highlight the academic, creative, and activist work you are doing to challenge white supremacy, cis-hetero-patriarchy, Christo-fascism, the climate crisis, and all other forms of oppression. Additionally, I encourage you to engage the central question of the conference, “how can we support one another as humans/academics/activists as our communities, organizations, and institutions fail?” **The deadline for conference submission is July 15, 2023.** More information will be available at <https://www.humanist-sociology.org/annual-meeting.html> soon, however, you can submit your abstract today at <https://forms.gle/Az7kFoon9GTjUMmV6>.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Please do not hesitate to email me if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is anything I can do to support you.

In Solidarity,

Marc Settembrino  
[Marc.Settembrino@selu.edu](mailto:Marc.Settembrino@selu.edu)

### LOOKING BACK: THE 2022 AHS MEETING IN MEXICO CITY



Dr. Gema Kloppe-Santamaría, giving the Friday night keynote address: **In the Name of Christ: Violence, Religion and Politics in Postrevolutionary Mexico**



L to R: hephzibah strmic-pawl, Joanna Hadjicostandi, Emily Brissette, Víctor Ramírez, Sandra Weissinger, and Emma Bailey.

### AHS SERVICE AWARD

Walda Katz-Fishman and Steve McGuire received AHS Service Awards for their many years of service to AHS. Walda served as AHS President in 1989 when the annual meeting was held in Washington, DC. She also served as editor of *Humanity & Society*. Steve was AHS President in 2002, with the meeting in Madison, WI. He also served as Vice President for

Membership. Both did stints on the Nominations Committee. Congratulations to you both and thank you for your many efforts on behalf of AHS.



Steve McGuire receiving his service award at the AHS 2022 Annual Meeting in Mexico City.



Mónica Mayer, Feminist Artist and Activist, Thursday Luncheon speaker

**2023 AHS MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA, November 1-4**



Conference attendees at the Non-profit Otro Dreams en Accion

Oh, you can't scare me  
I'm sticking to the union  
I'm sticking to the union  
I'm sticking to the union  
Oh, you can't scare me  
I'm sticking to the union  
I'm sticking to the union  
Till the day I die

*Union Maid*, lyrics by Woody Guthrie



Marc Settembrino (they/them) as Tuffy Love (she/her), with Mo'Zelle Heggins (they/them) and other members of the Lavender Lions at Southeastern Louisiana University following the campus Lavender Graduation Ceremony.

## IT'S GRADUATION SEASON: SOME ARE LAVENDER

By Marc Settembrino

Lavender Graduations are held across the country to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ students and their contributions to their communities. The first Lavender Graduation was held at the University of Michigan in 1995 by Ronni Sanlo. In 1979, at the age of 31, Ronni came out as a lesbian after being married to a man and having two children together. Ronni lost custody of her children because of her sexual orientation and was banned from attending their high school graduation ceremonies. Ultimately, Lavender Graduation is an opportunity to recognize both the struggles and achievements of LGBTQIA+ people on our campuses. Moreover, these celebrations of trans\* and queers students challenge the anti-trans\*/queer political climate.

## GRADUATE STUDENT FEATURE:

**Courtney B. Ross, Sociology Ph.D. candidate,  
Virginia Tech University**

Courtney Ross is approaching the finish line of her sociology graduate career at Virginia Tech University, with hopes of completing her dissertation by the end of this year. She attended the 2021 AHS meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, where she presented on “Teaching from Inspiring Words: The Practice of Contemplative Reading,” and currently serves as an associate editor for *Humanity & Society*. Her scholarly work focuses heavily on teaching, especially the use of contemplative practices. In addition to numerous national and regional presentations, she co-authored “Promoting Empathy and Reducing Hopelessness Using Contemplative Practices,” in *Teaching Sociology* (50[3]:256-68). She has a TRAILS publication as well as four book chapters in *Marijuana in America: Cultural, Political, and Medical Controversies* (2022). Her scholarly work has resulted in

nominations for her department's Outstanding Graduate Student Award as well as the university's Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award.

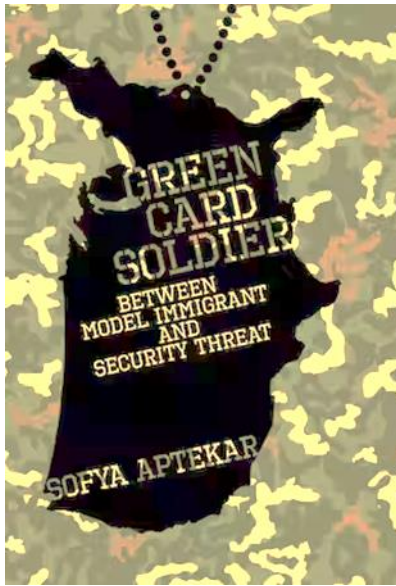
On top of all this, Courtney has served her department and university in a number of leadership roles, including as a delegate on the Graduate Student Assembly of the Sociology Graduate Student Organization, as well as four years as a panelist on the Graduate Honor System. Most recently, she was one of ten students selected for a luncheon on university leadership with Virginia Tech's President, Provost, and Dean.

Courtney is currently working on the completion of her dissertation using a multi-method, quasi-experimental design to assess contemplative practices as pedagogical tools for the development of sociological imagination, studying students in nine Introductory Sociology courses. We wish her the best in her efforts to wrap up this stage of her budding career!



In front of the Virginia Tech president's house (L to R): Cyril Clarke, executive vice-president and provost; Courtney Ross, Sociology Ph.D. candidate; Aimée Surprenant, dean of the Graduate School; and Timothy Sands, president.



**FORTHCOMING BOOK:**

**Sofya Aptekar. *Green Card Soldier: Between Model Immigrant and Security Threat*. MIT Press. May 2023.**

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262047890/green-card-soldier/>

While the popular image of the US military is one of citizen soldiers protecting their country, the reality is that nearly 5 percent of all first-time military recruits are noncitizens. Their reasons for enlisting are myriad, but many are motivated by the hope of gaining citizenship in return for their service. In *Green Card Soldier*, Sofya Aptekar talks to more than seventy noncitizen soldiers from twenty-three countries, including some who were displaced by conflict after the US military entered their homeland. She identifies a disturbing pattern: the US military's intervention in foreign countries drives migration, which in turn supplies the military with a cheap and desperate labor pool—thereby perpetuating the cycle.

As Aptekar discovers, serving in the US military is no guarantee against deportation, and yet the promise of citizenship and the threat of deportation are the carrot and stick used to discipline noncitizen soldiers. Viewed at various times as security threats and members of a model

minority, immigrant soldiers sometimes face intense discrimination from their native-born colleagues and superiors. Their stories—stitched through with colonial legacies, white supremacy, exploitation, and patriarchy—show how the tensions between deservingness and suspicion shape their enlistment, service, and identities. Giving voice to this little-heard group of immigrants, *Green Card Soldier* shines a cold light on the complex workings of US empire, globalized militarism, and citizenship.

**RECENT PUBLICATION OF NOTE:**

Rabii, W. (2023). Global Appeal: Colorblindness, Neoliberalism, and Neighborhood Branding. *Critical Sociology*, 08969205221146268.

**REMEMBERING OUR LOSSES:**

**Renwick “Wick” Griswold (1944-2023)**

Longtime AHS member and former President (2006), Renwick (“Wick”) Griswold, 78, of Old Lyme, Connecticut, passed away on January 21 after a long illness. Wick was a unique person who touched the lives of everyone who knew him. His infectious enthusiasm, essential humanity, and ready smile enabled him to connect with people of all ages and from all walks of life. He was a man of many interests, most notably canoeing (or “drifting” as he preferred to call it), all things related to the

Connecticut River (particularly shad, ferries, and conservation), history, reading, the New York Yankees, basset hounds, classic Volkswagens, candle making, and enjoying life with his wife Annie and a seemingly endless array of friends. His canoeing friends in the Connecticut River Drifting Society remember an annual calendar of drifts from New Year's Day to late autumn, each drift a memorable adventure. His signature greeting, screaming "ROARRRR" while throwing both fists in the air, became a ritual part of every river outing.

Wick was born in New Britain, Connecticut on June 21, 1944 (he took great delight in celebrating his birthday on the summer solstice) and graduated from New Britain High School and the University of Hartford. He held many jobs in his youth, but his primary calling was as a sociology professor and he spent over three decades on the faculty of the University of Hartford until his retirement in 2018. "Gris," as he was known to his students, was an engaging and much-beloved teacher; many former students credited him with being a transformational or life-changing influence. Environmental concerns and social justice were at the core of his classes and Wick inspired his students to become active in the community through service learning, including group activities such as river cleanups and overnight sleepouts to raise awareness and support for the homeless, along with spring break service-learning trips to New Orleans, Texas, and Puerto Rico in the wake of hurricanes. He developed a course "Sociological Perspectives on the Connecticut River" in which students learned about life on the river, traveled out on the water, and participated in a cleanup of the shores of Great Island at the mouth of the Connecticut River. Later in his career, he wrote or co-authored a series of books for History Press about the Connecticut River, including *A History of the Connecticut River* and *Connecticut Pirates and Privateers*, and was associate producer of a documentary "Ferryboats of the Connecticut River" that was broadcast on CPTV in June of 2018. When he retired, the University of Hartford honored him with emeritus status and by creating the Hillyer College Wick Griswold Award for Service.

Wick spent the last decade or so of his life living with Annie at Griswold Point at the mouth of the Connecticut River in Old Lyme. He loved looking out at Long Island Sound, his daily walk to the mouth of the Connecticut River, paddling in his canoe, and entertaining a steady stream of visitors. Wick remained active in retirement, giving talks about the Connecticut River, pursuing new writing projects including a ten-part radio drama, "Colonized" on the arrival of Europeans in the Connecticut River Valley, and hosting a regular show, "Connecticut River Drift" on I-CRV radio in Ivoryton. During his year-long final illness, Wick continued to live life to the fullest degree possible, roaming the world on his ever-present iPad. He was particularly grateful for a "rebound" from late spring into the autumn that enabled him to enjoy a few last baseball games, walks, paddles on the river, and outings with friends and family. All those who knew and loved Wick wish him a final "ROARRRR" as he drifts off into the Universe.

### **AHS OFFICERS--2023**

**President:** Marc Settembrino

**President-Elect:** Sandra Weissinger

**Past President:** Dawn Tawwater

**VP for Membership:** Emily Brissette

**VP for Publications:** Joanna Hadjicostandi

**Secretary:** Melissa Gouge

**Treasurer:** Woody Doane

**Nominations Committee:**

Emily McDonald (Chair)

Maretta McDonald

Cindy Brooks Dollar

Jerome Kruse

Amy Foerster

**Editor, *Humanity & Society*:**

hephzibah strmic-pawl

**Interim Editor, *The Humanist Sociologist*:**

Jim Pennell

**Webmaster:** David G. Embrick

## A NOTE FROM THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST INTERIM EDITOR

Hello Current and Former AHSers,

I hope you have enjoyed catching up with recent and future AHS happenings. If there is something you wanted to have included but didn't send it to me, then that it is the reason it isn't here! Many thanks to Mary Barr, Emma Bailey, hephzibah strmic-pawl, and Steve McGuire for sending me photos of the 2022 meeting. A special thanks to Emma for knowing who was being depicted.

I have offered to serve as interim editor until the AHS Board decides if they would like me or someone else to continue as editor, but that will require a board meeting. So, until they do that, I will be working on putting together the next issue. Let us know about your accomplishments! I'd also like to include a section next time on **your fondest memories of AHS meetings**. A paragraph will suffice. If you are reading this and are thinking of something, write it down and send it to me at [jpennell@uindy.edu](mailto:jpennell@uindy.edu). I hope to get the next newsletter out by mid-June, so please send me anything you would like to include by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Until then... Cin, cin!

Jim Pennell

P.S. And if you haven't renewed or rejoined AHS, I hope you will go online and do that right now at <https://www.humanist-sociology.org/membership.html>.



**Le Pavillon: Site for the 2023 AHS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, Nov. 1-4**

## LIFE UPDATE FROM OUR 2019 PRESIDENT JEFF TORLINA

I'm grateful for Jim's invitation to "share your news" regardless of "your immediate status." Put that way, even my unusual circumstances apply. I miss my AHS friends and colleagues, and I hope to reconnect as my immediate status changes into a professional position—hopefully one that is devoted to humanist concerns. I've been away from the battle for justice long enough to miss it, and I also miss the health insurance and retirement package that comes with a white-collar job!

Working in my construction trade as a mason the last five years has been rewarding in many ways (if you read my book you will know what I mean!), but a future of heavy labor is not long for a 57 year-old man. I still outwork the guys on my crew that are half my age (when I was their age I would never let an old man outwork me!), but without benefits beyond a straight wage, concrete work is clearly a dead end. Besides, I need to work all year to pay for the projects that are needed to transform my rural home into a working farm. That's another story that would be best shared in a hospitality suite over a couple beers, eh?

I will pay my AHS dues when I am no longer unemployed (i.e., too poor). I am applying for jobs to which my academic experience and skills apply, along with my expertise. I've been telling my students for years that sociological skills and knowledge are marketable, but there haven't been any offers. My only interview has been for Director of Community and Economic Development in a small city near me, but I am waiting to see if I make the second round without much direct experience at shepherding the rebirth an old industrial city. The top of the pay range would be the same as my income from construction work if that was steady all year, but the insurance, PTO, and retirement package make it worth the longer hours and greater stress. It would also allow me to directly pursue the AHS mission and gain credentials to leverage that experience into greater social change down the line. There is no job that rivals a college professor's in terms of



rewards and influence, but since I was told that my insistence to teach critical thinking is no longer welcome in a liberal arts curriculum, I am looking for an alternative outlet for my humanist ambitions.

Since I abandoned the comfort of my tenured teaching position, it is difficult to balance activism with the need to pay the bills. Having a mortgage puts most of the job openings in the human services and social justice organizations out of reach, but the search goes on for a humanist profession that pays “enough” and that needs the skills of a committed sociologist. Fortunately, I listened to the old timers who told me long ago to learn a trade to fall back on. Unfortunately, the work of my chosen trade is so physically exhausting that there is nothing left for any AHS commitments, especially in the heat of summer. When I get a job that allows it, you will see me at the next AHS conference! In the meantime, take care and keep up the fight. Peace, Jeff –Esperance, NY

“A more simplified definition of fascism would be a sort of formula like: racism + anti-intellectualism + anti-liberalism/anti-socialism + xenophobia + ethnocentrism + nationalism + queerphobia + misogyny = fascism.” –Louie Dean Valencia-García, “This is American Fascism”  
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/countering-radical-right/american-fascism/>

## AHS Board Meeting – October, 2022 – Mexico City, MX

*Attendees:* Cameron Lippard, Emma Bailey, Emily McDonald, Sandra Weissinger, Dawn Tawwater, Melissa Gouge (minutes)

At the start of the meeting, discussion of submissions for conference (114 submitted/accepted), 71 members have paid by now.

Expenses this year were higher than expected. It cost \$23,000 to put on the conference for a loss of \$600. We were hoping to come in at cost.

Shifting the culture? We should address the issue of accepting papers but authors don’t show up for the conference.

Recruitment: We’ve historically been a place for ‘lonely’ souls. Thinking attendance may be down because many people lost their travel funding. The international focus of this year’s conference helps with that.

There’s a generational element we may wish to address. We have 94 dues paying members right now. Will reach out to the next VP of membership for a list.

What’s our story? From October to October, what are we focusing on. Our publications? Perhaps we could do a survey for what folks need? Focus on academia, meeting to support one another? Try to have regional meetings? We could collect ideas and send a survey. Support statements for what we believe in – to connect w/ people outside the organization.

Ongoing naming issues: Humanism? Sociology? Should we explore the new handbook on humanism. How open are we to other disciplines.

Website: We have a new front facing page and call for submissions. Ongoing issues w/ the existing website.

Dispatches blog: Could we do special issues for students and adjuncts featuring local activism?

We could also feature non-academic job postings and more community contact. To do this, we would need a new admin person.

We can also do more mentoring work and job/career building.

Election? Constitution says we must hold election. Discussion around whether we will hold a vote or since one nominee per position, we could do a ‘vote’ and then let membership know who was selected. Decision was made to hold traditional vote.



Activist luncheon with Las Patronas Victor Ramirez (interpreter), Julia Ramirez Rojas and Norma Romero Vasquez (Las Patronas), Monica Huerta (Masters of Gender Studies Student at the University of Veracruz), 2022 Annual Meeting.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022

WOODY DOANE, AHS TREASURER  
FEBRUARY 2023

This is a report on AHS' finances as of December 31, 2022. Additional information—month-by-month accounting, itemized expense accounting—is available upon request. From a financial standpoint, 2022 has been a continuation of the financial challenges of the past few years. While we were able to weather challenges from the pandemic due to our lack of administrative overhead, our decline in membership and annual meeting attendance led us to end 2022 with a **deficit** of \$8,451.51. We ended 2022 with 97 members (including 1 lifetime member, 1 comped membership, and 6 from the “buy one, get one” promotion) and 81 registered participants for the 2022 annual meeting (some international participants [14] were covered by funds from the Dello Buono/Hensley Fund for international scholars). While both membership and annual meeting attendance were improved from 2021, our financial position has continued to weaken—with a **combined deficit of \$20,188.01** over the past two years. We are still in an “okay” situation—our year-end balance of \$49,096.42 is, thanks to our very strong years of 2017 (Havana) and 2018 (Detroit), considerably larger

than our balance of just over \$35,000 when I became Treasurer in 2017. We, like many other professional organizations, are trying to navigate previously uncharted waters with changes in meeting attendance and institutional support for faculty to attend conferences. Nevertheless, our current course is not sustainable.

The path ahead is straightforward:

- We need to increase membership (we had 131 members in 2018);
- We need to increase annual meeting attendance (141 in 2018).

This involves working to recruit new members, working to retain existing new members (we do not do a good job of maintaining regular contact with members), and working relentlessly to market our annual meeting. We cannot afford to assume that “if we build it (a good organization and an excellent conference), they will come.” We all need to work tirelessly to spread the word about AHS.

The other option to consider is reducing costs by restructuring the annual meeting. Although recent AHS presidents have worked hard to present a high-quality meeting while containing costs, the overall costs of the conference have exceeded our total annual organizational income. Barring an increase in membership and attendance, it may be necessary to reduce the number of days and or events in the coming years.

Finally, while it has been my privilege to serve AHS as Treasurer from 2017-present, **it is important for the Board to realize that my constitutionally limited term as treasurer (extended for one year due to the cancellation of our Annual Meeting in 2020) expires at the end of 2023 and to begin the process of searching for a new Treasurer.** It is essential that the new Treasurer be someone who is detail-oriented and committed to the future of AHS. I intend to spend the coming year preparing for a smooth transition for this all-important position.

2022 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY FINANCIAL REPORT--FINAL  
SUBMITTED BY WOODY DOANE, TREASURER, FEBRUARY 2023

**BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2022 \$57,547.93**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund                   | \$55,287.93 |
| Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund | \$1,060.00  |
| Dello Buono/Hensley Fund       | \$1,200.00  |

**INCOME [TOTAL] \$16,388.59**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Memberships/Conference Registrations (net)* | \$15,888.59 |
| Raisz/Hensley Award donation                | \$500.00    |

**EXPENSES [TOTAL] \$24,840.10**

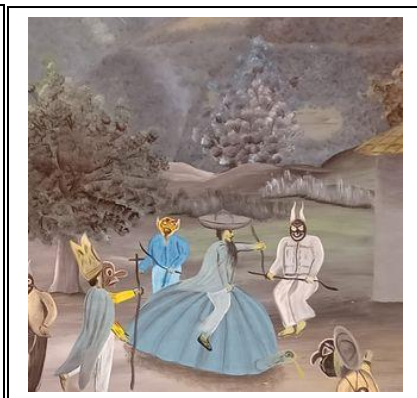
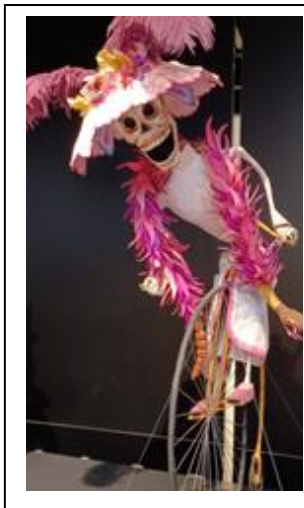
|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Administration (postage, shipping, scanning)               | \$30.70     |
| <i>Humanity &amp; Society</i> (mailing costs, logo)        | \$901.25    |
| Organizational (accounting, website, awards, stipends)     | \$2,531.32  |
| Scholarships (International meeting registration—DBH Fund) | \$332.28    |
| Conference expenses  | \$20,967.17 |
| Refunds  | \$77.38     |

**YEAR END BANK BALANCE \$49,096.42**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund                   | \$46,668.70 |
| Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund | \$1,060.00  |
| Dello Buono/Hensley Fund       | \$867.72    |
| Raisz/Hensley Award            | \$500.00    |

**NET GAIN/LOSS 2022 -\$8,451.51**

\* Net amount includes charges for credit card transactions.



Images of Mexico City, AHS 2022  
Photos by Steve McGuire

***HUMANITY & SOCIETY***  
**2022 MEETING REPORT**  
**hephzibah strmic-pawl, Editor**

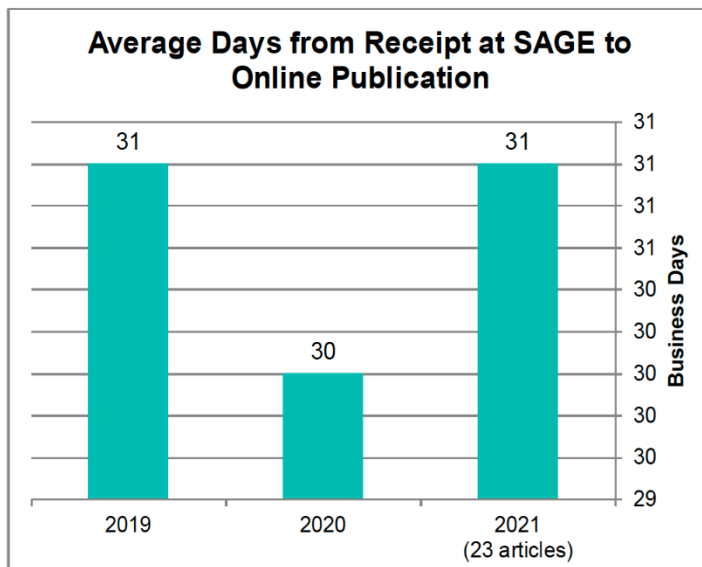
This is a summary of the initiatives and changes that have taken effect since new editor-in-chief, hephzibah strmic-pawl, stepped into the role as of Jan 2022.

- 1) A survey was sent out to all AHS members to get feedback on the journal. Questions generally addressed:
  - a. Themes to focus on in the journal
  - b. General direction of the journal
  - c. Votes on special issue foci
  
- 2) A new logo was created for Humanity & Society
  - a. Feedback was solicited from AHS members
  - b. Decision was made by AHS board
  - c. Logo helps to make connection between AHS and H&S clearer
  - d. Colors reminiscent of old AHS logo
  - e. Created by Natalia Veras who resides in the Bronx. Her website is <https://culture-face.com/>
  - f. New logo was integrated on journal cover, social media accounts, AHS website, and signatures for board members
  
- 3) Revised the call for H&S
  - a. Shout out to Watoii Rabii for his dedicated help
  - b. Feedback solicited from H&S board
  - c. Approval by H&S advisory board
  - d. 4 specific calls made: 1) general call, 2) book and media review call, 3) pedagogy call, 4) Dispatches call
  - e. Addition of Dispatches: online blog, lives on AHS website. Open access.
  
- 4) New Editorial Board
  - a. New deputy editors
  - b. About fifty percent new associate editors
  - c. Recruit board members outside of AHS membership and recruit board members with a range of specialties and with a range of affiliations.
  - d. Shout out to Managing Editor, Heidi Nicholls, who graciously stepped into the role and has been a huge support!
  
- 5) Revision of H&S SAGE website and H&S pages on AHS website
  - a. Complete revisions of H&S webpages to reflect new mission, new call, new board
  - b. H&S page on AHS website has a bio and reflexive statement of every board member
  - c. More information on reviewing and what a reflexive statement is
  - d. Calls for H&S are also posted here

Latest information from SAGE on publications:

### Total Submissions and Acceptance Rates

|                     | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>Total</b>        | 73   | 212  | 109  |
| <b>Original</b>     | 52   | 182  | 96   |
| <b>Accept</b>       | 24   | 27   | 21   |
| <b>Reject</b>       | 7    | 15   | 4    |
| <b>Accept Ratio</b> | 77%  | 64%  | 84%  |



### Circulation

| Average Circulation by Type 2019-2021      |       |       |       |                        |
|--|-------|-------|-------|------------------------|
|  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | Renewal Rate 2019-2020 |
| <b>Members</b>                             | 100   | 81    | 76    | 81%                    |
| <b>Institutions</b>                        | 17    | 18    | 18    | 106%                   |
| <b>Package, Read Only</b>                  | 2,916 | 2,614 | 2,414 | 90%                    |
| <i>Institutions Migrated into Packages</i> | 40    | 39    | 35    | 98%                    |
| <b>Package, with Open Access</b>           | 0     | 232   | 338   | 0                      |
| <b>Lower Income Countries</b>              | 7,218 | 7,218 | 7,218 | 100%                   |



***Humanity & Society: The Journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology***  
*Your home for critical humanist, activist scholarship*

***Humanity & Society, Call for Submissions***

***Humanity & Society (H&S) publishes:***

- Activist-oriented, public scholarship that directly applies a social justice lens. Work should engage in how to advance movements and how to participate in our collective, social struggle.
- Sociological work that has interdisciplinary and global perspectives, including but not limited to critical ethnic studies, women & gender studies, queer theory, history, and geography.
- Theoretical orientations that map onto or reflect a humanist agenda such as anti-imperialism, Black feminisms, decoloniality, community and social movements, critical class analyses, critical disability studies, critical race studies, indigenous studies, intersectionality, Marxist humanist theories, postcolonial theories and perspectives, settler colonialism, queer theory, and queer of color critique, and women of color feminisms.
- Methodologies can be varied and critical; novel approaches are welcome.
- Manuscripts that challenge or deviate from traditional paper organization and push the boundaries of sociological styles of writing.

***Humanity & Society general paper submissions should be 8,000 - 10,000 words and may include original research, theoretical examinations, & historical analyses.***

***Other manuscript types include:***

- **Pedagogy:** Manuscripts with innovative teaching approaches, either empirically and/or theoretically, that focus on social justice and social change (approx: 3500-4000 words).
- **Book and Media Reviews:** Critical essays on books and media such as television shows, films, podcasts, social media content, video and other games, and blogs/vlogs (approx: 900-1000 words).
- **Dispatches:** Our new online blog, which welcomes critical commentaries, essays from activists on the ground, and brief pedagogy or media reviews (approx: 500-1000 words).

*H&S* is committed to an open, peer review process that encourages dialogue. To that end, authors and reviewers are all *non-anonymous* to one another.

**Manuscript Guidelines:** All papers should be double spaced with word count noted, use ASA citations and references, and include key words. All papers also must include a personal reflexive statement. For more information, see: [Guidelines](#). Submit on [Manuscript Central](#). *Scholars who support our mission are also encouraged to register with Manuscript Central as potential reviewers.*

**Meet the Editor**



Dr. hephzibah v. strmic-pawl: Dr. strmic-pawl has been a member of the Association of Humanist Sociology since 2012. She is committed to scholar-activism and practicing a revolutionary sociology.

For more information, contact Editor hephzibah v. strmic-pawl,  
[humanityandsocietyjournal@gmail.com](mailto:humanityandsocietyjournal@gmail.com)

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**Call for Chapters***Arbiters of Race: Cultural Intermediaries, Racism, and Consumer Industries***Edited by**

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**Deadline for Extended Abstract Submission: May 1, 2023**

*We are looking for extended abstracts of 500 words (max) for consideration and possible inclusion in this edited volume under contract with Routledge*

Cultural Intermediaries (hereafter CIs) are market actors whose performances manipulate social and cultural tastes within societies - a manipulation that is fundamentally based on the matrix of social relationships and the positionalities of those within it. They construct value and meaning for products, practices, and consumers within a wide variety of consumer industries, especially, but not necessarily limited to, cultural and creative industries. CIs may be salespeople, marketers, brand ambassadors, or other industry representatives. They play a large role in framing how others (end consumers and other market agents) engage with goods and affect the perception of goods, services, ideas, and behaviors as meaningful, legitimate, and worthy within various social and cultural fields. These folks are emissaries who build relationships, maintain accounts, and most importantly, share provocative narratives about the product and the consumers who consume it. This is different from the world of marketing and advertising, where this kind of regular and maintained interaction with buyers seldom happens. Through their practices and work, CIs also alter meanings of what is good, desirable, worthy, and, importantly, *for whom* within the matrix. From literary agents to marketing personnel, from sports agents to booksellers, from realtors to wine representatives, from critics to social media influencers, from the historical gatekeepers to the contemporary algorithms on social media platforms, CIs actively work to connect and exclude, channel and erect barriers, forge and dissemble products, participation, opportunities, and markets in complex ways.

At the threshold of the second quarter of the 21st century, social scientists have much to offer in conceptualizing, studying, theorizing, understanding, and, ultimately, impacting racial justice within consumer industries. We are excited to bring together a group of critical scholars in this edited volume project to focus closely on race and racism in a myriad of consumer industries and, specifically, the role of cultural intermediaries in reproducing and/or rectifying such market-based inequalities. We believe that *Arbiters of Race* comes at an important moment when a variety of industries are being fundamentally called out for the racism that organizes their markets and the connection between producers and consumers. As such, this volume has every potential to be an empirically substantive and theory-shifting project within the discipline of sociology as well as the critical interdisciplinary intersections across the social sciences. Although there has been a growing body of scholarship dedicated to CIs over the past couple decades, little attention has been paid to their role in reproducing (or challenging) existing racial hierarchies. This is where *Arbiters of Race* enters the conversation. Much of the past work on CIs fundamentally misses how consumer industries were founded in the context of white supremacy and the active exclusion of racialized minorities and people of color. Take for example cultural markets such as the craft beer market, music scenes, and leisure and sporting markets, to name a few, where it has been shown that whiteness is one of the primary organizing principles that orientates production, distribution, and consumption. Markets such as these have also differentially integrated those racialized minorities who have been marginalized without recognizing exclusionary structures already in place. If not

acknowledged, there is a very real and evidenced risk of reproducing the very racist structures upon which these markets/industries were founded. There is a significant need to investigate these processes and to push social theory to incorporate race and racism in our understanding of CIs work in the marketplace.

If you are interested, please send us a tentative title and a brief (max 500 words) description/outline/abstract of the potential chapter. Be sure to include the core problematic(s)/question(s), key data and methodolog(ies), key conversations that your work will be engaged with, and the industr(ies) your work investigates. **Please send these by May 1st, 2023 to: [erik.withers@uwr.edu](mailto:erik.withers@uwr.edu) and [brunsmad@vt.edu](mailto:brunsmad@vt.edu).**

If you are not interested and/or cannot commit at this time, it would be wonderful if you could take a moment to let us know of some scholars that you know are currently working at the intersection of race/racism and consumer markets, particularly looking at the role of CIs in their contemporary ideologies and practices.

While the final shape of the volume will depend on the submissions received, we expect the book to have a preface, a critical and comprehensive introduction, 10-12 chapters, and a postscript. Each chapter will be from 6,000 to 8,000 words, inclusive of everything. Our sincere hope is that contributions will be peer-reviewed by 1-2 reviewers as well as editorially reviewed by the editing team.

If you see your work fitting within this call, we look forward to hearing from you!

### **FROM THE AHS CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES**

This Association shall be a non-profit, scholarly, voluntary organization that shall provide a forum for sociologists concerned with the value-related aspects of sociological theory, research and professional life. It shall seek to extend the boundaries of humanist sociology through exploring connections among sociology and other disciplines.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the Association will carry out the mission statement of the organization, will hold conferences, publish a journal and a newsletter, and engage in related activities which will emphasize the examination of underlying value implications and moral and ethical dimensions of sociological inquiry. The Association will also explore possible connections among sociological perspectives and approaches and modes of analysis and findings of other social scientific and humanistic disciplines. The Association considers it an ethical responsibility of social scientists to contribute actively through their scholarly practice to improvements in the quality of human life, rather than merely to increase understanding of social reality as an end in itself.

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



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