

SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE
MSS ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
March 25th, 2016 2:45 – 4:15 pm, Minnesota, 6th Floor
Chicago Marriot Downtown Magnificent Mile

Sociological Practice Committee Report
by Janis Johnston (Chair)

Committee Members Present: Janis Johnston (Presiding) Priya Dua, Melissa Barfield, Jared Hanneman.

Committee Members Absent (tentative): April Barnard (2017), Ali Kamali (2016), Raeda Anderson (2018), Ahmadu Baba-Singhri (2018), Sara Kennedy (2018),

Guests Present: Ehren Stover-Wright

The committee generally discussed this year's sessions. Our committee co-sponsored a session with the MSS Student Issues Committee - Session 150 - Sociological Passions: From the Classroom to Careers Workshop - and we further discussed topics that were of particular interest to this committee in other session, e.g., volunteerism and engaging in the community. The committee then discussed session ideas for the next annual meeting, discussing ideas that ranged from resources for faculty and graduate and undergraduate students to engage in the 'practice' of sociology.

The committee also discussed ways to engage more sociologists in the committee as well as in broader discussions of sociological practice. The committee discussed engaging people who are already members of MSS and then working with institutions that committee members are connected to to engage new people. The committee also talked about doing things to raise the profile of the committee (e.g., proposing more session, promoting some type of social activity, etc.) so that we might be able to attract new interest. Through these discussions a theme developed; "let the work of the committee generate interest and engage new people" that seemed to capture the imaginations of committee members. Jared created a google site for us to share ideas over the course of the year, and we also started working with LaShaune Johnson, the interim chair of the MSS Social Action Committee.

To address the MSS Long-Range Strategic Plan, the committee is:

- Proposing sessions on sociological practice at the next annual meeting;
- Looking at ways to engage new members for the committee and in sociological practice more generally;
- Hoping to coordinate with the appropriate people (e.g., the MSS Exhibits Coordinator, the Student Issues Committee, and continuing work with the Social Action Committee) to assist in the process of expanding the Exhibits to include representation of NGOs and not-for-profit companies and organizations at the annual meetings.
- Working with MSS leadership to develop some kind of "continuing education credits" for participation in meetings.
 - This might help non-academics provide "justification" to attend the meeting and make it easier to get time off from work and possibly, financial assistance for meeting costs.
- Creating mechanisms that allow us to offer professional development opportunities for applied sociologists.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Johnston