

**SOUTHWEST SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Houston, Texas**

**March 31-April 3, 2010**

at the

**Hyatt Regency and Doubletree, Downtown Houston**

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

Please email paper proposals (title, author, abstract) directly to one of the organizers of the sessions by November 6, 2009. Overflow papers that are too numerous for particular sessions will be sent by the session organizer to the program chair who will attempt to find another session for the papers.

**Please indicate to your session chair if you need an overhead or other accommodation.**

**For questions, contact Karen Manges Douglas, Program Chair, Southwestern Sociological Association, Sam Houston State University, Department of Sociology, Box 2446, CHHS Suite 270K, Huntsville, TX 77341-2446; [kmd007@shsu.edu](mailto:kmd007@shsu.edu) or [kmdouglas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmdouglas@sbcglobal.net)**

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**POSTER SESSION &  
 VISUAL SOCIOLOGY: SOCIAL PROBLEMS STUDENT PHOTO ESSAY CONTEST  
 Instructions**

**Session Organizers:** Charlotte Dunham  
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A photographic essay is a personal and integrative statement about a social problem of importance to the student (undergraduate/graduate). The essay should reflect the social problem under consideration, elicit an emotive response from the viewer, and be a statement of public affirmation of your position on the issue.

**Instructions:** The competition is for graduate and undergraduate students only. Title your essay, but no written copy is to accompany the photographs other than the location where the picture was taken. Place the photos in such an order of presentation that they “read” like an essay. Photographs downloaded from the Internet are acceptable as long as copyright laws are not violated. Please avoid large poster board presentations. The essay is limited to five to eight photographs.

**Proposal Due Date:** November 6, 2009.

**Juried Competition:** The judges will evaluate: appropriateness of the title, whether photographs reflect the social problem under consideration, demonstrate a given position on the issue, elicit an emotive response from

the viewer, “reads” like an essay, excel in general presentation / mounting, cite location where pictures were taken or complete website URL, and all instructions were followed. Students are urged to be available to answer questions after the judges have evaluated the posters.

Awards: There will be **three competitions** – two (one graduate and one undergraduate competition, refereed by invited faculty members), and a “People’s Choice” award voted on by all those who view the posters during the session. Three winners will be identified in each award category (first, second, third place), receive “Certificates of Excellence” at the annual meeting awards ceremony, an award ribbon affixed to the essay, and an award notification letter. The first place winners in the juried competition will also win a SSA student membership for the following 2010-2011 membership year.

### **Instructions for Poster Session Participants**

Participants will post their materials in one of three 2 to 3-hour time periods, on the POSTER SESSION DAY – perhaps 8:30-11:15, 11:30-2:15pm, and 2:30-5:15 so that members can browse through displays during the day. Presenters will be required to attend during the last half of their period to interact with convention attendees. We will work on ways to encourage the SSSA membership to come to poster room and mingle with the presenters and other colleagues. Among the browsers will be members of a jury who will judge the top posters for awards to be given at the early evening business meeting.

Poster sessions are the routine at most natural science meetings. The new generation of cheap inkjet printers gives us all the ability to produce attractive color graphics and large font tabular material. And, maybe you are good with a camera. All the better!

#### **1. Poster Layout**

The idea is to arrange a set of materials in a way that a reader--actually, a crowd of readers in a busy poster session--can follow what you have done and understand your conclusions. **The poster boards are four feet high and eight feet wide this year.** This will give a 32 square foot space with which to work. You can approximate the space by laying out your material on a conference room table. The poster bulletin boards are mounted on wheeled stands and we will be using both sides, one side per participant. We will have a surface for which push pins will hold your material. Practice your arrangement on a wall or large table ahead of time. There will probably be a chair or two for you to set a handout on or a tablet for notes.

The arrangement of your materials is very important in communicating to your audience. Each poster should have a title banner (text of title should be close to that in the printed program). In the same way that you find papers on the program that interest you, members will be looking for certain titles on poster displays. To be readable from a distance, the title should be printed in a large font (at least one inch high). Individual items (tables, charts, graphs, photos, pages of textual material) should be arranged under the title in a series of columns beginning on the left. Thus, browsers read from the top down in the leftmost column and work across the presentation, ending on the right. Colorful frames for the individual components of your display are also a nice touch. At this point, you may want to click her to check out a sample poster.

Along with your visual material, you will want to post short narrative explanations. Though they are too small to read on the sample poster, the yellow squares are explanations of the graphics and tables (a use of the sticky note metaphor). This guides a browser through your presentation even if you are not there to walk them through. Of course, you will also want to post identifying information (name, affiliation, etc.) in the same way that you would have a title page for a paper.

#### **2. Poster Session Procedures**

The poster stands on tables will be ready for you in the poster room. Each poster surface will be numbered. We will post the assigned numbers by name here and on the side of poster number 1. The presentations will be grouped as they are in the printed program to give some substantive organization to the session. By no later than 15 minutes into your period of 2.5 to 3 hours, post your materials (expect browsers even that early who may strike up a conversation as you work). Check on your display once or twice during the first session or 1.5 hours. People leave messages pinned to posters if they wanted to talk, but could not make the poster talking hour at the close of each session. The poster talking session begins at one hour before take-down time at the start of the second session timeslot, 1.5 hours into the double period allotted and should wind down by the end so that the next group can post. During that last hour, stand by or near your poster and converse with members who browse through the displays. And, enjoy some scholarly interaction. Please remove your poster materials as soon as possible after the poster session. Clear off your materials in a timely manner.

### **3. Hints**

- Bring business cards or other identifying material to exchange with persons who may wish to correspond. You may need to replenish this before your three hours are over.
- Have a notepad for jotting down names and making other notes. You can receive some marvelous suggestions from browsers in poster sessions (e.g., newer versions of a data sets, relevant citations, possible funding opportunities).
- If you have a paper or related publication, have some along to handout.
- Be prepared for a lively and busy hour of quality professional interaction.