

Sociologists for Trans Justice (S4TJ) Forum

American Sociological Association 2017 annual meeting, Montreal, Canada

August 13, 2017, 8:30pm EST

PRESIDERS

Sociologists for Trans Justice co-chairs Laurel Westbrook and Eric Anthony Grollman.

(Contact: sociologistsfortransjustice@gmail.com)

ATTENDING

~50-60 members of ASA, including faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and ASA staff.

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS

- Thank you to ASA Sociologists' LGBTQ Caucus for sharing their meeting time slot and meeting space with us.
- We created S4TJ in summer 2016 in response to the historically high rates of murders of trans women of color in the US, while sociologists were rarely called upon in the media and public in general to make sense of such transphobic violence. With S4TJ, we aim to advance justice for trans and non-binary communities both *in* and *through* sociology.
- S4TJ's mission is three-fold:
 - 1) To support trans and non-binary scholars in sociology
 - 2) To advance trans studies in the sociology
 - 3) To increase public understanding of trans and non-binary issues
- S4TJ is guided by the following principles:
 - 1) To institutionalize efforts to support trans and non-binary scholars, advance trans studies, and increase public understanding of trans and non-binary issues to minimize burnout and individual service, both of which disproportionately affect marginalized scholars.
 - 2) To collaborate with relevant committees, caucuses, and sections of ASA and other sociology organizations to minimize overlap and enhance S4TJ's efforts.
 - 3) To attend especially to the conditions faced by the most vulnerable members of our community – namely trans and non-binary scholars who are grad students, racial and ethnic minorities, disabled, and/or in contingent faculty positions.

OVERALL S4TJ PROGRESS IN 2016-2017

- S4TJ met for the first time at ASA's 2016 annual meeting in Seattle. There, we collectively brainstormed action items to pursue in order to advance trans justice in

sociology and beyond. Thereafter, we developed committees that pursued a number of these action items.

- We are overjoyed with how much our five committees accomplished during the 2016-2017 year. S4TJ co-chairs Eric Anthony Grollman and Laurel Westbrook summarized S4TJ's mission and progress over the year in an essay in ASA's *Footnotes*:
 - Grollman, Eric Anthony and Laurel Westbrook. 2017. "Promoting Transgender Justice through Sociology." *ASA Footnotes* 45(3): 12.
(<http://www.asanet.org/news-events/footnotes/jul-aug-2017/features/promoting-transgender-justice-through-sociology>).
 - This was featured in ASA's "In The News" section, as well:
<http://www.asanet.org/news-events/asa-news/promoting-transgender-justice-through-sociology>
 - You can also see our Feb. 2017 progress report here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6Jh3rGoWiYVT1VXaXJXb25PZnM/view?usp=sharing>
 - And, our June 2017 progress report here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6Jh3rGoWiYVLTlfc0d6d0ZaMEk/view?usp=sharing>

S4TJ COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 2016-2017

Advancing public understanding of trans and non-binary issues (co-chairs: Beth Kiester and Sean Arayasirikul; members: Georgiann Davis, Cary Gabriel Costello, Jay Irwin, Dawne Moon, Moushumi Choudhury, Gary Wood, and Austin Johnson)

- Created list of trans studies experts in sociology for media, which is available on the [TransJusticeSyllabus.com](http://www.transjusticesyllabus.com) website:
<http://www.transjusticesyllabus.com/sociologists-for-trans-justice/experts/>.
 - Scholars may add themselves to the list of experts using this form:
<http://www.transjusticesyllabus.com/2017/03/15/directory-of-experts/>
- Encouraged trans scholars and trans studies scholars to add themselves to the ASA media expert database.

Advancing trans studies in sociology (co-chairs: Ghassan Moussawi, Chris Barcelos, and Anne Marie Champagne; members: Jessica MacNamara, Emmanuel David, Kristen Schilt, Vicky Demos, and Jackie Tabor)

- Successfully petitioned ASA to create a regular session on trans studies. The first will occur at ASA's 2018 meeting in Philadelphia.
 - S4TJ members are strongly encouraged to volunteer to chair the first and subsequent trans studies sessions. (Must be a member of ASA.) Go to <http://www.asanet.org/>. Sign into your member account (tab at top left corner of

ASA site). In Member Portal, click in 2018 Program Committee under the Annual Meeting section. Click Volunteer to Organize. Then complete the volunteer form, indicating your interest to organize the trans studies regular session (or other related sessions, e.g., LGBTQ studies).

- Launched the #TransJusticeSyllabus website: <http://www.transjusticesyllabus.com/>. This continues to be maintained by our webmaster, Anne Marie Champagne.
- Launched #TransJusticeSyllabus Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/transsyllabus> or @TransSyllabus. We are currently looking for an S4TJ Social Media coordinator to run this and the [Facebook](#) accounts.
- Created a compendium of trans studies research resources, now available on the TransJusticeSyllabus.com website: <http://www.transjusticesyllabus.com/2017/06/08/trans-studies-resources/>.
 - New suggestions should be emailed to asatransjustice@gmail.com.
- Currently working on a list of potential peer-reviewers for trans and non-binary related manuscripts for sociology journals. This will be shared with journal editors in the fall.
- Currently working on the #TransJusticeSyllabus of recommended readings related to justice for trans and non-binary communities. This will be released in the fall.
 - Suggestions should be emailed to asatransjustice@gmail.com.
 - Check out the #TransingHigherEd syllabus in the meantime: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uUFd5pMILTOigvVtt9uJYmimhH2w4rZL9azrrUiqZJc/edit>.

Professional development for trans and non-binary sociologists (chair: Emily McKendry-Smith; members: Alex Hanna, J. E. Sumerau, Carla Pfeffer, and Xan Nowakowski)

- Currently developing a proposal for a “curriculum lab” session at future ASA meetings to create a space where students and junior scholars in trans studies can receive feedback on syllabi, presentations, reading lists, action checklists, etc.

Advancing trans sociologists (chair: Emilia Lombardi; members: Jenny Pearson, Natalie Ingraham, and Zak Palmer)

- Launched and are currently maintaining a mentoring program for trans and non-binary identified sociologists at early career stages. Several mentee-mentor matches were made.
- Proposed changes to how ASA asks members’ gender identity and expression for demographic profile.

Addressing and eliminating transphobia and cissexism in sociology (chair: Lindsey Wilkinson; members: Lydia Dana, alithia skye, Lain A. B. Mathers, Jordan Forrest Miller, J. Koehle; Sonny Nordmarken, Simone Kolysh; Rebecca Ewert)

- Worked to create safe spaces for trans and non-binary scholars at sociology organization meetings. In April, successfully hosted a Trans and Gender Non-Conforming hospitality suite at the Southern Sociological Society 2017 meeting in Greenville, SC.
- Submitting proposals to sociology organizations to print gender pronouns on conference attendees' name badges. SSS agreed to do so beginning with its recent 2017 meeting. ASA offered pronoun stickers at 2017 meeting in Montreal. Ultimately, the committee's goal is to make collecting information on conference attendees' gender pronoun(s) standard practice, rather than a special option added on after the fact or that must be requested by individual attendees.
- Currently developing a "best practices" infographic resource page for sociology departments, with plans for a September/October launch. Infographic advises how to best support trans and non-binary students, staff, and faculty.
- Currently developing a survey on trans and non-binary graduate students in sociology that will be launched following ASA's August meeting. The survey will cover experiences in academic training, teaching, job searches, discrimination and harassment, student life, and institutional life. Sonny Nordmarken has sent an email with a link to a draft of the survey, on which S4TJ members are asked to provide feedback by Monday 8/28:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_M1hxnEoSx8h_pkkvaCSaNoSGzY71vAUCBugpU7ureo/edit.

S4TJ Grad student committee (including its members and tasks) was absorbed by other committees. It has been eliminated as a distinct S4TJ committee.

S4TJ COMMITTEES FOR 2017-2018

S4TJ co-chairs Laurel Westbrook and Eric Anthony Grollman have made slight revisions to the S4TJ committees to enhance efficiency. They are described below, and in detail here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ehH9Exdkoh3AoKUYIvE5HzLIK4YCzloD07P6PvmreE/edit>.

Members are asked to sign up (whether new or returning) to volunteer by Monday 8/28. We are also looking for volunteers to chair or co-chair the committees. (Email sociologistsfortransjustice@gmail.com to note your interest.)

1. **Advancing trans studies in academia:** launch #TransJusticeSyllabus in the fall; continue to add to trans studies research [compendium](#); send list of potential trans studies reviewers to sociology journals in the fall; develop an online professional development portal for trans studies scholars.
2. **Advancing trans studies at sociology conferences:** develop new opportunities to present research in trans studies at sociology conferences; encourage other subfields to better

include work in trans studies; host curriculum labs to workshop teaching, grant, and research materials in trans studies.

3. ***Advancing public understanding of trans and non-binary issues***: maintain list of trans studies [experts](#); continue to recruit scholars to be [added](#) to the list of experts; encourage listed experts to add their names to ASA's database of experts; launch S4TJ blog for trans studies experts to comment on current events and educate the public about trans and non-binary issues; work with ASA and other sociology organizations to provide expertise on trans and non-binary current events, court cases, and proposed legislation.
4. ***Supporting trans and non-binary sociologists***: run the mentoring program for trans and non-binary scholars; send the "best practices" guide to sociology programs in the US; administer and analyze the survey of trans and non-binary graduate students and recommend changes to ASA, sociology organizations, and departments based on findings.
5. ***Promoting trans and non-binary inclusion at sociology conferences***: push ASA and other sociology organizations to collect information on sex, gender expression and identity, and sexual identity in member demographic information; create safe spaces for trans and non-binary scholars at sociology meetings; host social events for trans and non-binary scholars at sociology meetings.

NEW S4TJ INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS FOR 2017-2018

We have also created the following positions for S4TJ volunteers. Please email us by 8/28 to sign up, sociologistsfortransjustice@gmail.com.

1. S4TJ Co-Chairs – 2-year-term; serve as incoming co-chairs for first year (2017-2018) and take over S4TJ as co-chairs in second year (2018-2019)
2. Grants coordinator(s) – compile list of grants for trans and intersex studies scholars and trans and intersex scholars; when needed, applying for grants to fund S4TJ projects.
3. Social media coordinator – actively run @TransSyllabus Twitter account; regularly post to S4TJ Facebook page.

The following new positions have been filled:

4. Webmaster for TransJusticeSyllabus.com website: Anne Marie Champagne
5. Liaisons to ASA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ People in the Discipline: Anne Marie Champagne.

Please let us know of your interests for volunteering in 2017-2018 by Mon. 8/28. Email us at sociologistsfortransjustice@gmail.com.

NEW BUSINESS

- Member requested that we send ASA the list of trans studies experts (again). We will task the committee on ***Advancing public understanding of trans and non-binary issues*** to do this in the fall. They should ask ASA to offer an expanded list of experts beyond the few listed on this 2016 announcement:

<http://www.asanet.org/press-center/press-releases/sociologists-available-discuss-transgender-related-issues>

- Member requested that we create a template email for scholars to send to their universities' PR/media offices to note their expertise for opportunities to speak to the media. We will task the committee on *Advancing public understanding of trans and non-binary issues* to do this in the fall.
- Member requested that we think about how to address transphobic scholarship in the discipline. We will task the committee on *Advancing Trans and Intersex Studies in Academia* to do this in 2017-2018.
 - In the meantime, S4TJ are encouraged to take part in WriteWhereItHurt.net's trans peer review:
<https://www.writewhereithurts.net/trans-peer-review-a-call-for-submissions-from-transgender-academics/>.
- Member requested that we expand our focus to include intersex scholars and scholars who do work on intersex people. Collective response was positive to this change. We have accordingly revised committees' tasks to cover trans, non-binary, and intersex scholars, and scholars in trans and intersex studies (reflected here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11ehH9Exdkoh3AoKUYIvE5HzLIK4YCzloD07P6PVmreE/edit>). Future descriptions and discussion of S4TJ's work will similarly note our new focus on intersex sociologists and sociological work on intersex communities.
- Member suggested ASA plenary sessions on trans studies. We will task committee on *Advancing Trans and Intersex Studies at Sociology Conferences* with creating such opportunities.
- Member asked whether undergraduate students can get involved -- and, the answer is yes, undergrads can serve in any capacity in S4TJ.

