



SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Social Problems Theory Division Members,

I am truly honored to be your new Division Chair. For the past decade, SSSP and this division have been my academic home. I look forward to continuing to expand our division, for our works as social problems scholars continues to become more and more necessary. I would also like to thank Mike Adorjan, for his leadership and service to the division as Division Chair over the last two years. This newsletter will provide a recap of our 2024 division award winners announced at our Annual Meeting in Montreal and detail our upcoming meeting in Chicago in August 2025.

I want to start by recognizing our 2024 division award winners. Congratulations Eden Nay, Oklahoma State University for winning the Outstanding Student Paper Award (see p. X), and Dr. Asia Friedman, University of Delaware for winning the Outstanding Book Award (see p. X). Below you will find our divisions call for papers for our 2025 awards, which include the Outstanding Student Paper Award and the Outstanding Scholarship Award (see p. X).

Our time together in Montreal was an absolute blast – thank you to everyone who attended our sessions, and to our members who helped organize and chair! An overview of the sessions from our 2024 meeting can be found on page X. The submission portal for our 2025 annual meeting in Chicago is not open – page X details our division sponsored and cosponsored sessions. Please submit your papers for presentation by January 31st. Thank you to all who have volunteered to chair/organize these sessions. We have some exciting panels and sessions planned!

Please send me (ihstout@ilstu.edu) recent works and publications to include in our Spring newsletter and share with our members. I look forward to working with you all over the next two years!

Joshua H. Stout
Illinois State University



Joshua H. Stout

Social Problems Theory Division Chair 2024-2026

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, Illinois State University

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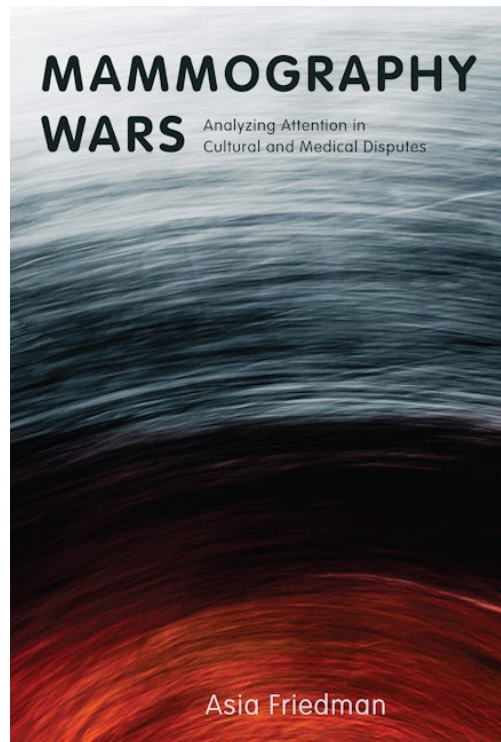
Editors: Joshua H. Stout

SSSP THEORY DIVISION OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD

This year we recognized outstanding books published by our members. It's my sincere pleasure to announce this year's outstanding book award goes to Dr. Asia Friedman for *Mammography Wars: Analyzing attention in cultural and medical disputes*, published by Rutgers University Press!

Committee members noted Dr. Friedman's book is "poetic," and "a masterfully woven together," collection of multiple types of data. One member commented "this is a book I want to discuss with my reading group or organize reading circles around." Others depicted the book as a "powerful examination of experts and the politicized notions of medical care," noting "while the focus of this book was on mammography, it also has deep implications for the debates around medical conditions that also affect men, such as a prostate cancer."

Overall, the committee argued that the book challenges readers to grapple with new theory to understand a well-developed and institutionalized social problem. Despite this institutionalization, there is widespread disagreement between experts, and this lack of consensus further complicates how people understand and receive care from medical professionals. Most importantly, the development of concepts like *attention* and *inattention* provides a new analytical lens to examine the debates around social problems. Congratulations on your impactful book Dr. Friedman!



<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/mammography-wars/9781978830639/>

Thank you to our award subcommittee who reviewed nominations this year, for taking the time to review this important work, as well as all the other submissions we received this year. David Lane chaired the committee with members Kemi Johnson Pratt and Keith Johnson. Thank you David, Kemi and Keith!



Asia Friedman is an Associate Professor and the Associate Chair of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at University of Delaware, with a joint appointment in Women's and Gender Studies. Her research has primarily focused on developing a body of research unified around her interest in theorizing the cognitive and sensory mechanisms of the social construction process, which she has explored in the areas of gender, race, the body, medicine, and sociological theory. Her first book, *Blind to Sameness: Sexpectations and the Social Construction of Male and Female Bodies* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), which won the 2016 Distinguished Book Award from the Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association, examines the cultural-cognitive and sensory processes underlying the social construction of the body. In her recently published second book, *Mammography Wars: Analyzing Attention in Cultural and Medical Disputes* (Rutgers 2023), she maps the patterns of thought that organize cultural and medical conflicts over mammography screening. She also recently published the co-edited book, *Interpreting the Body:*

Between Meaning and Materiality (Bristol University Press, 2023), and is the co-editor of the journal, *Sociological Theory*. Her articles have appeared in a wide range of sociological journals including *Qualitative Sociology*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Symbolic Interaction*, and *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*.

SSSP THEORY DIVISION OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD

While the award ceremony has come and gone, I would like to again recognize the winner and honorable mention for our Outstanding Student Paper Award. The 2024 winner is Eden Nay for their paper *The Normate Circle and the Biopolitics of Trans Stigma*. Our honourable mention was given to Andrew Shapiro for his paper *Hurt People Hurt People: Theorizing liminal complicity in the reproduction of inequality*

Thank you to the theory division subcommittee who reviewed the submissions this year for the outstanding student paper award. This year's committee was chaired by Faryal Razzaq, and Morena Tartari and me served as members.



Eden Nay (they/them) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. They focus on applications of queer disability studies to social science, specifically critical social theory and quantitative research. With a background in social work, Eden holds strong justice- and community-orientations in their academic practice—from teaching to researching to writing.



Andrew J. Shapiro is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, Critical Theory, and Women's and Gender Studies at the Graduate Center, CUNY. His research investigates the structural and psychic forces that perpetuate and counteract systems of inequality. His dissertation, "Hurt People Hurt People," interrogates Jewish and LGBTQ movement histories to illuminate how social mobility for some so often reproduces inequality for others. He teaches the sociology of race, class, gender, and sexuality at Hunter College. His work, titled "On Power's Doorstep: Gays, Jews, and Liminal Complicity in Reproducing Masculine Domination," was recently published in *Men and Masculinities*.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Insurgent Sociology in a Time of Crises



75th ANNUAL MEETING • AUGUST 8-10, 2025

Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Rose M. Brewer, SSSP President, University of Minnesota

CALL FOR PAPERS

As we commemorate our 75th anniversary as a Society, we center Insurgent Sociology as a deep pillar of our history and current practice. Indeed, we must draw from the best of our praxis given the transformational work that the period demands. Our founding principles are to be renewed and made anew as we contend with ethical, scholarly and emancipatory practices in our teaching, analyses, and engagement. We face multiple crises in these times: global capitalism, war, militarism, climate crisis, assault on critical studies and more. In counter hegemony, lifting up solidarity with communities in struggle, visioning, and worldmaking are critical. As we face challenges and possibilities in the 75th year of SSSP, our insurgent history, theory, research and practice are foundational to the program focus and the road ahead.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- Community, Research, and Practice
- Conflict, Social Action, and Change
- Crime and Justice
- Critical Race and Ethnic Study
- Disability, Mental Wellness, and Social Justice
- Drinking and Drugs
- Educational Problems
- Environment and Technology
- Family, Aging, and Youth
- Gender, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities
- Global
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- Institutional Ethnography
- Labor Studies
- Law and Society
- Poverty, Class, and Inequality
- Social Problems Theory
- Sociology, Social Work, and Social Welfare
- Sport, Leisure, and the Body
- Teaching Social Problems

For more information, visit sssp1.org

2025 CALL FOR PAPERS

Student Paper Competition

Deadline: 1/31/25

The [Social Problems Theory Division](#) invites papers for its annual Student Paper Award Competition. To be eligible, papers must:

- (a) be authored or co-authored by students currently enrolled in a graduate program,
- (b) make an original and innovative contribution to the theoretical understanding of social problems,
- (c) not have been accepted for publication,
- (d) may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student, and
- (e) be submitted through the annual meeting [Call for Papers](#) process as a condition for consideration, preferably to a Social Problems Theory Division session.

Self-nominations are welcome. Manuscripts should be limited to fewer than 10,000 words, including references. The winner will receive membership dues, annual meeting registration, a plaque, and \$200 honorarium. The winner will also be invited to present their paper at the 2025 SSSP Annual Meeting. Please also note that students may only submit a paper for consideration to one SSSP Division. A paper submitted to multiple divisions will not receive consideration for the Social Problems Theory Division Award.

Please send all questions and submissions to: Joshua Stout, Chair, Social Problems Theory Division: jhstout@ilstu.edu.

Outstanding Article Award

Deadline: 2/15/25

The [Social Problems Theory Division](#) requests nominations for its Outstanding Article Award. The Division welcomes articles that critique or advance the ongoing scholarly dialogue about social problems theorizing. More information regarding the Division's vision can be accessed through our [Mission Statement](#). Eligible articles must have been published between January 1, 2023–February 15, 2025. Single or multiple-authored articles will be accepted. Authors are encouraged to nominate their own work. Nominees must be members of SSSP. Please send all questions and submissions to: Joshua Stout, Chair, Social Problems Theory Division, jhstout@ilstu.edu.

2025 Annual Meeting Call for Papers

Deadline: 1/31/25

To present your research, respond to the [Call for Papers](#) by submitting an extended abstract or paper online. The Call for Papers is posted in the fall before the annual meeting. The deadline for submissions is January 31. The session organizers and the Program Committee work collaboratively to place submissions in appropriate sessions. In addition to presenting papers, consider serving as an presider or discussant. See descriptions below:

Presider: Presiders ensure that sessions run smoothly. Presiders make sure that session participants stay within their allotted time. Sessions last 1 hour and 40 minutes, unless noted otherwise. Presiders should alert the session participants to how long they will have to present their papers and make sure they provide materials to discussants (if applicable) prior to the annual meeting. Presiders should remember to leave time for questions and answers at the end of the session. We recommend that presiders bring index cards to sessions that indicate how much longer the session participant has left within their allotted time (i.e., cards that read 5 minutes, 2 minutes, and 0 minutes. To encourage broad participation during the open discussion period, presiders should be careful not to let an audience member excessively monopolize the time by essentially making their own ad hoc presentation.

Discussant: Discussants should remember that their tasks are both to reflect on the papers or summaries they should have received prior to the session, and to lead the subsequent discussion by raising interesting points or asking questions gleaned from the presentations. It would be a good idea for each discussant to contact their presenters to make sure they receive some written material prior to the conference, so they have more time to prepare their remarks.

2025 SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS THEORY DIVISION

Session #	Session Title	Sponsor(s)	Organizers
3	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Transformative Justice: Theory and Research in Pursuit of Emancipatory Power, Agency, Community, and Peacemaking-THEMATIC	1. Community, Research, and Practice 2. Conflict, Social Action, and Change 3. Global 4. Social Problems Theory	Schöpf, Caroline M. caroline.schoepf@gmail.com
16	Social Problems Theory and Decarceration/Abolitionist Movements in Prison Studies	1. Crime and Justice 2. Social Problems Theory	Adorjan, Michael madorjan@ucalgary.ca
51	Technology, Surveillance and Access to Health Services	1. Health, Health Policy, and Health Services 2. Social Problems Theory	Shen, Yuying yshen@nsu.edu
63	Insurgent Sociological Theory-THEMATIC	1. Social Problems Theory	Stout, Joshua H. jhstout@ilstu.edu
64	New Directions in Social Problems Theory	1. Social Problems Theory	Mey, Clara csmey@me.com
65	Intersectionality in Action: Bridging Mental Health and Social Problems Theory to Address Complex Social Issues	1. Disability, Mental Wellness, and Social Justice 2. Social Problems Theory	Stout, Joshua H. jhstout@ilstu.edu Ivanova, Lily lily.ivanova@gmail.com (co-organizers)
66	CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Teaching Social Problems and Theory: The Present and Future of Textbooks	1. Social Problems Theory 2. Teaching Social Problems	Thomas, Pattie pattie.thomas@csn.edu

Click [here](#) for detailed session descriptions

RECENT MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Burns, Stacy and Mark Peyrot. 2022. *Social Problems and Social Control in Criminal Justice*: Lynne Rienner Publishers

Esparza, Louis. 2023. *Fields of Fire: Emancipation and Resistance in Colombia*: Lexington Books

Mayorga, Sarah. 2023. *Urban Specters: The Everyday Harms of Racial Capitalism*: The University of North Carolina Press

Malton, Jordanna. 2022. *A Man among Other Men: The Crisis of Black Masculinity in Racial Capitalism*: Cornell University Press

Barbara Combs. 2022. *Bodies Out of Place: Theorizing Anti-blackness in U.S. Society*: University of Georgia Press

Wallace, Derron. 2023. *The Culture Trap*: Oxford University Press

ARTICLES:

Bryant, Jesse Callahan, and Justin Farrell. 2024. "Conservatism, the Far Right, and the Environment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 50. doi: [10.1146/annurev-soc-083023-035225](https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-083023-035225).