

**Eastern Sociological Society
2015 ESS Candidate Bios and Statements**

Candidates for office were asked to supply biographical information about themselves and a brief statement about their goals and priorities if elected to office.

For President:

John Iceland is Head of the Department of Sociology and Professor of Sociology and Demography at Penn State University. He received his B.A. and Ph.D. from Brown University. His main areas of interest are social demography, poverty, residential segregation, and immigration.

Iceland's interest in sociology began early, having grown up in Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Greece. He became interested in the history, culture, and social structure of each of these places, and wondered about their differences and what caused them. Accordingly, he majored in sociology as an undergraduate at Brown, being drawn especially to courses on race and ethnicity, class, and eventually demography. His honors thesis was on Mexico's demographic transition.

In graduate school he developed a special interest in the dynamics of poverty—an interest that continues to this day. His dissertation focused on the effects of labor market characteristics on the likelihood of falling into and getting out of poverty in the United States. After graduate school, Iceland completed a two-year postdoc at the University of Michigan before leaving academia for a few years for the U.S. Census Bureau. There he continued his research on poverty issues in the Poverty and Health Statistics Branch, and was promoted to Chief of the Branch after a few years of service. It was also there where his interest in racial residential segregation deepened, and he coauthored a monograph on this issue after the release of 2000 decennial census data. Iceland returned to academia when he accepted an academic appointment at the University of Maryland in 2003. He has been Professor of Sociology and Demography at Penn State since 2008, and Head of the department since 2011.

Iceland has authored three books and numerous articles on poverty, segregation, and immigration issues. His first book was *Poverty in America* (2003, with a 3rd edition published in 2013), followed by *Where We Live Now: Immigration and Race in the United States* (2009), and his latest book, *Portrait of America* (2014)—all by University of California Press. His articles have appeared in top journals in

the field, including *American Sociological Review*, *Social Problems*, and *Demography*. Iceland is interested in following broad demographic patterns and trends, and exploring the underlying forces driving them. His work on residential segregation and immigration, for example, was originally sparked by the observation that while black and white residential segregation had been declining slowly over a few decades, Asian and Hispanic segregation had not. What was the role of immigration in this process? In a series of analyses, Iceland concluded that while high levels of immigration were fortifying ethnic enclaves, native born Hispanics and Asians were significantly less residentially segregated than the foreign-born, indicating that at least some level of residential incorporation was occurring over time and across generations. Nevertheless, the extent and pace of this incorporation was still substantially shaped by race and ethnicity; for example, both native- and foreign-born blacks remained much more segregated from whites than were Asians and Hispanics.

Iceland's most recent book, *Portrait of America*, examines a broad set of demographic changes occurring in the United States across several realms, including, among others, the family, racial and ethnic composition, the labor market, residential patterns, and health disparities. Among the most important trends observed over the last several decades is that while racial and gender gaps have narrowed somewhat (at least when considered over a long time period), the relative impact of socioeconomic status has increased. This has had profound implications for the life chances of Americans born into different economic circumstances, especially as income inequality has grown considerably in recent years.

Iceland is committed to professional service. He has been on the editorial board of a number of social science journals and has served as an elected member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) Community and Urban Sociology Section and Population Section Councils and the Population Association of America (PAA) Board of Directors. He has been a member of a number of National Academies panels (he is currently on one that is reviewing the Census Bureau's redesign of the

Survey of Income and Program Participation), has been on National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation grant review panels, has served on a number of ASA awards committees, and has testified before a Congressional subcommittee examining problems with the current U.S. official poverty measure, among other activities.

Statement:

I am honored and delighted to be nominated for President of the Eastern Sociological Society. This organization has been a beacon to sociologists in our region for nearly 85 years, and I would do my best to further its mission of promoting excellence in sociological scholarship and instruction. The best way to do this is to provide robust support for the main activities that draw us together—the annual meeting and our flagship journal, *Sociological Forum*. Fortunately, both of these have been doing well over the past few years, mainly through excellent leadership and broad engagement of the society's members.

With regards to the annual meeting, one of the most important duties of the President is to take the lead in organizing a thought-provoking, inclusive, and well-attended conference. The meeting itself has a number of important functions. For one, it is a place for professional socialization for sociology students. Engaging these students is critical for sustaining high quality research and teaching in sociology, as well as for ensuring the continued health of the ESS from one generation to the next. To this end, I will work toward creating more opportunities at the annual meeting for students to meet and interact with more senior scholars. Providing travel awards to the meetings also remains an important vehicle for helping students attend the annual meeting.

The annual meeting should also provide a forum for all scholars to present and discuss innovative and potentially influential research. We do this not only with our regular panels, but also through our author-meets-critic sessions, mini-conferences, and special sessions that can help ensure that the conference includes a range of researchers, from first-time participants to the best-known sociologists. Likewise, we should seek to be inclusive of people from a wide range of institutions both inside and outside of academia. In doing so we can draw upon the strength of all sociologists, and value their contributions to our understanding of how society works. As the lead organizer of the conference, I would conscientiously work to achieve this intellectually-stimulating mix.

The ESS has a reputation for being a welcoming, well-run organization that brings together sociologists from all over the region. I would enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to engage with all members to further our collective mission.

John Torpey is Professor of Sociology and History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the Graduate Center.

Viewed from the perspective of his high school days, this is a pretty unlikely destination from where he started. As a young person, he was mainly interested in history – American history, that is, simply because that was the only history on offer in the public schools he attended. Upon graduating from high school in the thriving metropolis of Toms River, New Jersey, he went on to study political science at Amherst College, from which he graduated *magna cum laude* on the basis of an honors thesis titled, “Higher Education and the Reproduction of Inequality in the United States”.

While in college, he had begun learning German but, after a year, gave it up, thinking, “What am I ever going to do with that?” The idea of going to Germany was not at that point something that seemed possible, but the opportunity presented itself after graduation, and he ended up spending two years in the then politically pulsating university town of Göttingen, where he read a lot of German philosophy and social theory and his German got pretty good. At this point, the idea of a more “cosmopolitan” life became more plausible, and graduate school seemed to be the next step. But someone informed him that his interests – now driven to a significant degree by concerns associated with Marxism – would best be served by a PhD in sociology, about which he knew practically nothing, having taken only one sociology class in college (with Norman Birnbaum, a highly stimulating but not very mainstream sort of guide to the field). He got into Berkeley, where the title of his honors thesis may have captured the attention of Jerome Karabel, a fellow South Jersey native on whose work the thesis had drawn. Karabel would, in fact, be his dissertation adviser, but he was also strongly influenced at Berkeley by Robert Bellah and by Martin Jay, an intellectual historian who had written a good deal about German social thought (the Frankfurt School). Against this background, it is perhaps not surprising that a central concern of Torpey's work has been the broad thematic of “American exceptionalism.”

Torpey is the author or editor of eight books. The first, growing out of his dissertation, was called *Intellectuals, Socialism, and Dissent: The East German Opposition and its Legacy* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995). The experience of publishing that book has frequently impressed upon him the folly of writing a book about a country that ceases to exist (the German Democratic Republic or “East Germany” – anyone remember that?). He nonetheless went on to write a second book that raised similar questions about his mental state; even he often asked himself whether he was really writing a book about the history of passports. Notwithstanding those concerns, *The Invention of the Passport: Surveillance, Citizenship, and the State* (Cambridge UP, 2000; French, Portuguese, and Japanese translations) and a companion volume edited with the historian Jane Caplan, *Documenting Individual Identity: The Development of State Practices in the Modern World* (Princeton UP, 2001), sparked considerable interest in the eminently Weberian theme of bureaucracy and (especially national) identity. Most gratifyingly, it generated a good deal of work by other scholars around the world on the vagaries and vicissitudes of identity documentation.

The controversy over the Iraq war initiated by the United States and its allies in 2003 led to an edited volume, *Old Europe, New Europe, Core Europe: Transatlantic Relations after the Iraq War* (edited with Daniel Levy and Max Pensky; Verso, 2005; Japanese and Chinese translations), that brought together contributions by some of Europe’s leading intellectuals on the pros and cons of that action (it had its supporters, not all of them neocons). In retrospect, the subtitle was too optimistic; Iraq remains at the epicenter of a spiraling outpouring of violence that increasingly engulfs the entire region. That violence is the focus of some of Torpey’s current research, which compares the sectarian violence in the contemporary Islamic world with that which followed the onset of the Protestant Reformation five centuries ago.

While working on the book on the Iraq war, Torpey had already embarked on a project on the growth in the post-Cold War period of demands for “reparations” for a variety of historical injustices. He was struck by the changed meaning of the term “reparations,” which previously had referred exclusively to the monetary or other compensation demanded by the winners of wars from the losers, who were said to have started everything. The new meaning of the term suggested a new kind of political thinking and activity, which has burgeoned and become more or less commonplace in the meantime.

Work on those issues led to an edited volume, *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004), and a sole-authored book, *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics* (Harvard UP, 2006; Japanese translation forthcoming), as well as a number of related publications.

Having completed that project, and returned to the United States after six years in Canada (at the University of British Columbia), Torpey took up aspects of the problem of “American exceptionalism”. One of the most persistent aspects of that difference involved the question of the supposedly greater vitality of religion in the United States, an observation that goes back at least to Tocqueville. In order to assess that alleged difference, it was necessary to delve into the literature on religion and secularization more broadly. That inquiry led to a paper, “A (Post-)Secular Age?: Religion and the Two Exceptionalisms,” that appeared in an issue of *Social Research* dedicated to the work of Aristide Zolberg, who served as a kind of post-doctoral mentor and was a much-valued friend until his recent death. Torpey’s burgeoning interest in the sociology of religion also led to a volume titled *The Post-Secular in Question*, which was co-edited with Philip S. Gorski, David Kyuman Kim, and Jonathan van Antwerpen (New York University Press, 2012) and to a study, co-authored with Christian Joppke, on the *Legal Integration of Islam: A Transatlantic Comparison* (Harvard UP 2013).

In addition to many book chapters and reviews, his articles have appeared in *Theory and Society*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociological Forum*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, *Journal of Classical Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Genèses: Sciences sociales et histoire*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Dissent*, *Contexts*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *The Nation*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Times Higher Education Supplement*. He has also written a number of shorter pieces that have appeared online in *Informed Comment*, *International Business Times*, *openDemocracy*, and elsewhere.

Torpey has taught, lectured, or done research in some 35 countries, including Japan, Turkey, South Africa, Namibia, and throughout Europe and North America. His work has been translated into nine different languages. He has held fellowships from the German Marshall Fund, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). In Spring 2010, he was Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at

the Karl-Franzens-University in Graz, Austria. During 1995-1996, he was a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and in 1992-1993, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University.

His current work revolves around aspects of the problem of American exceptionalism (particularly the place of violence in American life), the ongoing debate over Weber's comparative sociology of the world religions, and changes in the nature of warfare in the contemporary world.

Statement:

I am deeply honored to have been nominated for the office of president of the ESS. My past involvement with the organization has mainly been limited to organizing conference panels and nominating colleagues for various awards. A move to the president's seat would therefore mean a major ramping-up of my participation in the ESS. Why do I want to do it?

It has long seemed to me that sociology is *the* paradigm for thinking about the world in our time, but that it is not always understood as such. Others have argued that we live in a "therapeutic culture," and there is of course much to that idea. But political, economic, and cultural life are best illuminated by sociology, with its broad range of approaches and subject matters. Despite its intrinsic diversity, sociology has certain core strengths: a focus not on individuals but on groups and their ways of behaving; a sensitivity to inequality and to domination; and an underlying desire to help ameliorate human problems.

Yet we face challenging times. Public higher education, that backbone of middle-class opportunity and national scientific advancement, faces steadily declining support from state legislators. Not seeing any point in the activity, Congress mounts assaults on government funding of the social sciences. In part as a response to waning public funding of higher education, new technologies challenge the familiar model of face-to-face student interactions. At the same time, and although they are still in their infancy, those technologies may offer enhanced access to those who might not have had such educational opportunities before. Suffice it to say that American higher education is in a state of massive and consequential flux, with uncertain outcomes but a tendency toward the greater inaccessibility of traditional campus-based higher education – where most sociology is taught and most sociological research carried out.

Meanwhile, sociology faces challenges to its place in the landscape of knowledge production. Its relatively porous boundaries (compared, say, to physics) make it vulnerable to "poachers" from outside. Think tanks of a variety of kinds – many of them with clear political agendas that have, over time, become "normalized" – contribute substantially to the public's understanding of the social world. Journalists, who often write more effectively than those with higher degrees, may do so as well. Even within the academy, some of our chief ideas have been pilfered by those from other fields and turned into bestsellers (think of recent work by Steven Pinker, which self-consciously restates Norbert Elias, and by Robert Putnam, whose *Bowling Alone* updated Bellah et al., Riesman et al., and of course Tocqueville himself).

As a discipline and as a profession, sociology thus faces a broad array of challenges from both outside the academy and from inside it. If I were elected ESS president, I would want to have the ESS membership reflect seriously on the moment in which we find ourselves with regard to the future of sociological knowledge production and dissemination. Where do we fit in the contemporary terrain of intellectual life? How can we communicate our research findings more effectively? How should we change the institutions in which we find ourselves in order to strengthen the field and to enhance the access of students to the insights we have to offer?

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For Vice President:

Japonica Brown-Saracino is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Boston University, whose ethnographic work has made contributions in the areas of urban and community sociology, cultural sociology, and the study of gender and sexualities. Her book, *A Neighborhood That Never Changes: Gentrification, Social Preservation, and the Search for Authenticity* (The Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries Series of the University of Chicago Press, 2009), explores social preservation and gentrification and received the 2010 – 2011 Urban Affairs Association Best Book Award. Her second book, *The Gentrification Debates*, was published by Routledge in 2010 and is composed of excerpts from defining book chapters and articles on four key areas of gentrification scholarship published over the last forty-five years. She is currently at work on a review of gentrification for the *Annual Review of Sociology*. With co-authors, Brown-Saracino has written on the practice of ethnography, newspaper coverage of gentrification, and on social

movements, sexuality, and culture. Her articles have appeared in *Cultural Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Theory & Society*, *City & Community*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and *Qualitative Research*. She has served as secretary/treasurer of the Community and Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association, and currently is co-book review editor for *City & Community*. At Boston University she is co-chair of the Initiative on Cities' Urban Seminar Series, and regularly teaches courses on cities, qualitative methods, and Boston. Japonica's path toward Sociology began in an Urban Sociology classroom at Smith College. Despite having spent much of her childhood in a very small New England town, the conversations that course texts and the professor ignited sparked an early desire to learn much more about cities, communities, migration, and residential choices. After completing a senior thesis exploring rural gentrification, Japonica spent a year as a researcher at an education foundation in New Orleans. She then entered graduate school at Northwestern University, from which she received her PhD in 2006. At Northwestern she undertook her first comparative ethnography; her dissertation compared gentrification in two small New England towns and two Chicago neighborhoods. In 2004, *City and Community* published her first article, "Social Preservationists and the Quest for Authentic Community," which introduces her argument that gentrifiers' attitudes and actions are much more diverse than extant literature suggests, with a class of highly self-conscious gentrifiers, or "social preservationists", lobbying to forestall the very neighborhood changes that they help to produce.

Her current research is animated by a puzzle that emerged from her dissertation research in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. Noting that as gay men began to arrive in substantial numbers many residents swiftly dropped recognition and criticism of lesbians' key early role in the neighborhood's gentrification, she contemplated a study that would examine this under-studied group's residential choices and the consequences thereof for the places they move to and for their own lives. In 2007 she launched a comparative ethnography of the migration of lesbian, bisexual, and queer women to four small U.S. cities that fit the profile of the type of place to which lesbian-couple migration is most oriented: small cities with many natural amenities and progressive political profiles. Her sites include Ithaca, New York, Portland, Maine, San Luis Obispo, CA, and Greenfield, MA. Her book on the project is under advance contract with the University of Chicago Press Fieldwork Encounters and Discoveries Series. An article from the study, "From the Lesbian Ghetto

to Ambient Community: The Perceived Costs and Benefits of Integration for Community," appeared in *Social Problems*, and a second, "From Methodological Stumbles to Substantive Insights: Gaining Access in Queer Communities" in *Qualitative Sociology*.

Statement:

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as Vice-President of the Eastern Sociological Society. One of the pleasures of returning to Massachusetts after nearly a decade in Chicago for graduate school and my first faculty position was becoming a member of ESS. I have since had the pleasure of presenting on Author Meets Critics panels, participating in a mini-conference on ethnography, and seeing undergraduate and graduate students from my university present their research. Perhaps my most rewarding experience at ESS involved seeing a college senior who was writing a senior thesis under my direction present a poster on her findings and receive careful feedback and criticism from thoughtful conference attendees. I consistently find that the ESS conference provides a wealth of opportunities to learn from a wide range of scholars, from full professors to MA students – often on the same panel. These interactions leave me feeling that my scholarship has been enriched and that I have been exposed to a broad range of exciting new ideas. I have also been pleased to note the reach of ESS beyond our region. Scholars from other regions of the U.S. attend our annual meeting, and our flagship journal is widely respected. On my view, we should, moving forward, harness this interest by continuing to elevate the visibility and reach of the Society. However, we must simultaneously provide resources, such as travel scholarships and undergraduate poster sessions, which enable the continued participation of a broad range of members from our region. As Vice-President, I would advocate to preserve and elevate these strengths of the Eastern Sociological Society: that is, to facilitate the very active participation of undergraduate and graduate students, and the construction of opportunities for the truly heterogeneous panels and sessions which allow venerable and nascent ideas to mix, and for sociologists at a variety of institutions and career stages to come together.

Sujatha Fernandes is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, City University of New York. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and her BA from the University of Sydney. She is a former recipient of a Wilson-Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton University's

Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts (2003-2006) and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Center for the Humanities, CUNY Graduate Center (2007-2008). In 2008, she was awarded the Feliks Gross Award, presented each year to an assistant professor by the CUNY Academy for Arts and Sciences in recognition of outstanding research.

Fernandes' research combines social theory and political economy with in-depth, engaged ethnography of global cultural and social movements. Her first book, *Cuba Represent! Cuban Arts, State Power, and the Making of New Revolutionary Cultures* (Duke University Press, 2006), explored the ways in which ordinary Cubans use film and global culture to create new forms of public voice in post-Soviet Cuban society. She demonstrates how culture and consumption also become crucial arenas for the state to redefine its hegemonic project in a global era. She employs a range of innovative methodological techniques, including semiotic analysis, open-ended interviews, and ethnographic fieldwork.

After completing *Cuba Represent!*, she expanded her interest in state-society relations from culture to the study of social movements. Her second book, based on nine months of field research and residence in the shantytowns of Caracas, is entitled *Who Can Stop the Drums? Urban Social Movements in Chávez's Venezuela* (Duke University Press, 2010). *Who Can Stop the Drums?* looks at the role of urban social movements in generating new forms of associational life in Venezuela under the radical left wing leader Hugo Chávez. The book was translated and published in Spanish this year by Editorial Imago Mundi.

Her third book, *Close to the Edge: In Search of the Global Hip Hop Generation* (Verso, 2011) seeks to explore whether place-based cultural movements could form a global community, specifically through the musical subculture of hip hop. The book is based on extensive interviews and field research in four cities – Havana, Chicago, Sydney, and Caracas. *Close to the Edge* was published in Australian, Chinese, and Italian editions, and it led to three invited Op-ed pieces on global hip hop written by Fernandes in the *New York Times*. Fernandes is currently working on a new book called, *Mobilizing Stories: Storytelling and Social Change*, which traces the uses of storytelling by states, NGOs and social movements in a range of global contexts including immigrant rights movements in the United States.

Statement:

It is an honor to be nominated for the Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Association (ESS). I

believe that regional associations like the ESS have an important role to play in creating a space for younger scholars and students to interact with more senior scholars. The ESS has facilitated conversations and participation from scholars at an earlier stage of their careers, and I believe that this not only allows for their own professional development and engagement, but it also enriches the kinds of conversations we can have as sociologists. ESS has also opened up more spaces for participation by minorities and women than other larger national associations, and I also believe that this is vitally important for the health of the discipline.

If elected to the ESS, I would like to work with the executive committee to expand the orientation of ESS scholars toward a public sociology. Particularly with the prevalence of social media tools within academia such as twitter, and the need for a public voice on such issues as race, military intervention, and immigration, I think that the ESS could play a role in encouraging scholars to speak to a broader audience.

I would also work to continue broadening the focus from the United States to the global arena, both by a focus on global issues and by trying to involve international scholars. As someone who works in an interdisciplinary way, I would also want to draw on the rich wealth of scholars from other disciplines in the region whose work addresses sociological themes and who could enrich the discussions of the association by their presence.

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For Executive Committee:

Matthew W. Hughey is Associate Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Faculty in the Africana Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut. He received his PhD from the University of Virginia in 2009. Matthew is the author of *White Bound: Nationalists, Antiracists, and the Shared Meanings of Race* (Stanford UP 2012), which received the Eduardo Bonilla-Silva book award from SSSP, was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Award, and received an honorable mention from the Association for Humanist Sociology. He also wrote *The White Savior Film: Content, Critics, and Consumption* (Temple UP, 2014), co-authored *The Wrongs of the Right* (New York UP, 2014), and published other edited volumes with Oxford University Press, The New Press, and the University Press of Mississippi.

Matthew has also served as a guest editor for past and forthcoming special issues of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Journal of African American Studies*,

American Behavioral Scientist, and *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. He has published a number of articles on race and racism, including “Survival of the Fastest? The Media Spectacle of Black Athleticism and Biological Determinism” (*Contexts*, 2014), “Stigma Allure and White Antiracist Identity Management” (*Social Psychology Quarterly*, 2012), “Show Me Your Papers! Obama’s Birth and the Whiteness of Belonging” (*Qualitative Sociology*, 2012), and “Cinematic Racism: White Redemption and Black Stereotypes in ‘Magical Negro’ Films” (*Social Problems*, 2009)

His current research extends his work on white identity formation through ethnographic explorations of all-white civic and social groups. The project documents how members of these varied classed and gendered groups collectively understand the meanings of race and how those inter-subjective understandings serve as pathways of action toward the contestation and reproduction of racism and racial inequality. Alongside ethnographic engagements, Matthew’s scholarship also focuses on racialized organizations and the production, distribution, and consumption of mass-mediated racial representations.

He is a co-founding Associate Editor of the new ASA journal (*Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*) and in 2014 he received the “Distinguished Early Career Award” from the ASA Section for Racial and Ethnic Minorities (SREM).

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated for the ESS Executive Committee. ESS is particularly special as it hosted the first professional sociological conference I attended. I have received much from the Society and it is my desire to give back. Having served as an ASA section executive officer, sat on various committees in SSS and SSSP, and worked as a member of the Charles Willie Minority Scholarship Committee and Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities for ESS, I have an understanding of the general state of the discipline and the specifics of how the Society operates. If elected to the Executive Committee, I will labor to further strengthen ESS, engage its stakeholders to maintain its vivacity, and nurture and involve its diverse community, especially those from marginalized backgrounds.

Leah Schmalzbauer is Associate Professor of Sociology and American Studies at Amherst College. Before her return to the East Coast in 2014, she spent

10 years as a faculty member in the Sociology Department at Montana State University. Leah received her PhD from Boston College in 2004. She is the author, most recently, of *The Last Best Place?: Gender, Family and Migration in the New West* (Stanford University Press 2014). Her first book, *Striving and Surviving: A Daily Life Analysis of Honduran Transnational Families*, was published by Routledge in 2005. Leah has also published numerous articles in venues such as *Sociological Forum*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Rural Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Global Networks*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Action Research*, and the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. She won the 2012 *Rural Sociology* Best Paper Award, and the 2006 Best Article Award from the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family. Leah also serves on the editorial board of *Rural Sociology*.

Leah is an ethnographer interested in how globalization affects daily life for those who are income-poor and socially marginalized. She is especially interested in the international movement of people across borders as it relates to race, class and gender inequalities, and in how migrants’ structural positions – geographic, legal, social and economic – influence the way they construct and experience gender. Her most recent book, *The Last Best Place?*, explores intersections of gender, migration and rurality in southwest Montana, a new immigrant destination in the gentrifying Mountain West. Utilizing a feminist approach, Leah analyzes social constructions of femininity and masculinity as they intersect with rurality, legal status and economy. Additionally, the book offers theoretical insights into how physical and cultural geographies – the specificities of place – impact migrants’ gender and family relations. Her first book was a community-based ethnography exploring the survival strategies and daily life realities of poor families divided between Chelsea, MA and Northern Honduras.

Leah came to her research on international migration after spending several years as a community organizer and activist. She worked in the late 1980s and early 1990s with the Central America Solidarity Movement, beginning as an undergraduate student organizer for the New Hampshire Central America Network and, upon graduation, as the New England Coordinator for the Nicaragua Network. Her activist background inspired her commitment to doing sociology that is community-based and social justice-oriented.

Leah is also a committed and passionate teacher. She has won various teaching awards starting as a

graduate teaching fellow at Boston College and Harvard University and continuing during her tenure at Montana State.

Finally, Leah is a mom. Her son Micah (8 years old) and daughter Zola (6 ½) serve as important sociological lenses through which she engages in fieldwork and teaching. They have also invigorated her dedication to fighting for just work/family policies both within and outside academia.

Statement:

I am truly honored to be nominated for a position on the ESS Executive Committee. I spent most of the last decade in the West, far off the radar screen of most folks in the East. Yet, while I left part of my heart in the Rockies, my formation as a teacher and scholar happened in the East, and I am really excited to be back. I have worked in two drastically different institutional settings; a large resource-strapped land grant institution and a private elite liberal arts college. Whereas I love both environments, I felt consistently limited while at Montana State because I didn't have the resources to actively participate in the societies and conferences in which I was so interested, nor did I have the research support I knew colleagues elsewhere enjoyed. I am enthused to think through ways to bridge the status and material divide between sociologists at resource rich and resource-challenged institutions. I am also excited by the potential of bringing a rural perspective to the ESS, and to being part of the movement to strengthen a public sociology. Thank you for considering me for this important position!

Milton Vickerman is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia and received his Ph.D. from New York University in 1992. He is the author of *Crosscurrents* (Oxford University Press 1999), *The Problem of Post-Racialism* (Palgrave-Macmillan 2013), and forthcoming in 2015 (with Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl), *Race and Ethnic Relations: Continuity and Change* (Cognella). His research focuses on immigration, the incorporation of immigrants, race theory, and race relations, particularly as these impact West Indians and Latinos. As such, Vickerman has published numerous chapters and articles on West Indian immigrants and the West Indies. On Latinos, he was co-researcher on a large scale project that investigated one of the earliest efforts by a local government to pass anti-Latino immigration legislation. This research is summarized in *Evaluation Study of Prince William County's Illegal Immigration Enforcement Policy, 2010*, on which he is a co-author. In other research on Latinos, which is

ongoing, Vickerman has investigated employer-Latino relations in new gateways.

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated to run for a position on the Executive Committee of the ESS. I have always viewed the ESS fondly because it was the first professional organization I joined when I was in graduate school. I have found that the meetings exude the scholarly air one expects at such venues but they are also low key. This creates a cordial atmosphere that facilitates interaction between sociologists at different points in their career. These circumstances helped enormously in my development as a sociologist, and I see a great deal of enthusiasm for the ESS among my students. If given the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee, I hope to cultivate this interaction. Overall, my goal is to move the ESS and the discipline, as a whole, forward; to help find practical solutions to the challenges faced by the ESS, and to formulate plans for helping it flourish in the future.

Barbara R. Walters, Academic Director of the CUNY School of Professional Studies Online BA in Sociology Program and Professor of Sociology at Kingsborough Community College, received her BA from Vanderbilt University, and her MA and PhD in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she also completed an NIMH post-doctoral fellowship in sexual identity development in the Department of Psychiatry, and a second MA in Music. Her main interests are in global religion (implicit and explicit), human rights from a sociological perspective, and online eportfolio pedagogy. She is especially interested in comparative studies at the intersection of religion, human rights, and gender inequality, the focus of her current research.

Barbara Walters is author of two books *The Politics of Aesthetic Judgment* and *The Feast of Corpus Christi*. The latter, co-authored with medieval specialists Vincent Corrigan and Peter T. Ricketts, utilizes codicological evidence to analyze liturgy as a site of struggle and to document the forgotten women who initiated the new feast under peril from the nascent Inquisition, most notably the *auctoritas* for the initial version, Juliana Mont Cornillon. Other articles have appeared in *Journal of Implicit Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Visual Sociology*, *Art and Text*, *Sociological Symposium* and several university press collections.

Walters served on the Virginia Board of Health Professions as Chair of the Scope and Standards of Practice Committee, as Chair of the Virginia Secretary's Task Force on the Utilization of Nurse Practitioners, on the Virginia Governor's Task Force on the Need for a Redefinition of Nursing, and on a number of related task forces and committees on health professions. She also served as on the Steering Committee and as Chair of Membership for SWS, as Chair of the ASA Committee on Professional Ethics, on the board of the International Visual Sociology Association, as Chair of the CUNY Committee on Academic Technology Eportfolio Subcommittee, as Program Co-Chair for the AAEEBL Annual Conference, and on the Council for the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning. She currently serves on the ESS Executive Council, replacing in the final year an elected member who resigned.

Statement:

Like many women, who completed PhD degrees in the 70s, and especially women from Appalachia, much of my career has been on the margins of academia and sociology doing invisible work. Serving as faculty “on the margins” at Kingsborough Community College (ranked fourth in the nation) for ten years provided an invaluable, rewarding, and life transformative teaching and learning experience – one that fostered deep insights into educational inequalities, including those impacting my own personal narrative. Crossing CUNY bridges, my work as Academic Director of the BA in Sociology Program at the CUNY School of Professional Studies has deepened my understanding of educational inequalities among faculty and students alike, providing a unique vista onto the challenges we face as sociologists, individually and collectively, both within and outside the academy. I would treasure the opportunity to give back through ESS, working with current leadership and colleagues to address these challenges, especially those in the education, professional community development, and meaningful employment of all professional sociologists.