

**Eastern Sociological Society
2018 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:

David Lindstrom is Professor and former Chair of the department of sociology at Brown University. In addition to completing two consecutive terms as Chair, he has served as Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the Graduate School, and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies. Lindstrom is the founder and current Director of the recently established master's degree program in Social Analysis and Research at Brown, and he is member of the Steering Committee of the Population Studies and Training Center. He completed his undergraduate studies in Sociology and History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. His research examines the determinants and consequences of migration in economically developing societies, adolescent health and sexual behavior, and the changing dynamics of reproductive health and behavior.

Lindstrom's work on migration has focused primarily on the influence of place of origin characteristics on out- and return-migration, and the interrelationships between migration and other demographic behavior in places of origin at the individual, household and community level. Early work identified the important influence that origin community investment opportunities have on the choice of internal versus US migration in Mexico, and the decision on trip duration. Subsequent work on the impact of US migration experience on the occupational mobility of return migrants in Mexico provides evidence that return migrants encounter considerable friction in reentry into the Mexican labor market and in effect pay a penalty in terms of short- and long-term occupational mobility in Mexico for the time they spend outside of the Mexican labor market. He also examines the interrelationship between Mexico-US migration and family formation to show how couples make decisions about the timing of births, the location of childbearing and childrearing, and return to Mexico. Using retrospective migration and birth histories for couples from the Mexican Migration Project, he provides one of the very few empirical examples linking differential fertility and migration behaviors to selection effects, and one of the first examples of the potential diffusion effects of the low fertility of return migrant women on the fertility of

non-migrant women in communities of origin. He has explored the effects of US and internal migration experience on a range of reproductive health behaviors in Guatemala and showed that urban as well as US migration experience leads to greater contraceptive use, lower fertility, and greater use of prenatal care and that return migrant women model reproductive health behaviors to non-migrant women. Current work examines long-term trends in Mexican migrant integration into the United States and the impact of U.S. migration experience on long-term health.

His work has been published in *Social Forces*, *Social Science Research*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Social Biology*, *International Migration Review*, *Demography*, *Population Studies*, *Studies in Family Planning*, and *International Family Planning Perspectives* among other journals. He has received grants for his research from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Compton Foundation and RAND. Lindstrom served for many years as a panel member of the Population Sciences Subcommittee of NICHD, and he recently completed a term as a council member of the Section on Population of the American Sociological Association, and was a member of the section's Otis Dudley Duncan Book Award Committee.

Throughout his career he has been actively engaged in primary data collection and he has directed surveys in Mexico, Guatemala and Ethiopia. Lindstrom is currently a Co-Investigator on the NIH supported Mexican Migration Project, and he will take-over the co-leadership of the project at the end of the current five year grant. As part of his program of research on Mexico-U.S. migration, Lindstrom has been very active in graduate level training in Mexico at the prestigious El Colegio de México in Mexico City, where he was a Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the Mexico-United States Foundation. He regularly teaches a modular course on Event History Analysis, serves on thesis committees, and recently was a co-organizer of the first Brown International Advanced Research Institute-Mexico on Migration in the Americas that brought together 35 young migration scholars from across Latin America.

With support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Compton Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, NIAID, and NSF, Lindstrom directs a long-term training and research program in Ethiopia. The international team is engaged in a program of policy-relevant, scientific research on adolescent life-course transitions, physical and reproductive health, and sexual risk taking. The center piece of the collaboration is the Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth (JLFSY), which followed a cohort of 13-17 year-old youth for seven years. To date, the project has produced over 35 published articles, book chapters, and working papers; given over 60 presentations of research findings at scientific meetings, professional conferences, and invited lectures; produced 38 policy briefs highlighting key research findings and recommending implementable interventions, and produced public health messages for broadcast on local radio in the study area. Lindstrom has presented the study's key findings to national meetings of senior policy makers and service providers in Ethiopia and has changed the way university based research is disseminated in the country.

Statement:

I am very honored to be nominated to for the Presidency of the Eastern Sociological Society. The ESS is an outstanding exemplar of how a regional professional society should function. It provides a networking and community building opportunity for faculty and students spread across a wide range of institutional settings. It offers junior scholars and students a critical opportunity to present their work, in many instances for the first time. It serves as an important gateway into the discipline for undergraduate students, and it provides a constructive and supportive forum for the exchange of innovative theoretical, methodological and substantive work. If elected president, I would be committed to preserving and enhancing these important functions, along with being mindful of the core values of inclusivity and diversity. The ESS is its members, and the program of the annual meeting should draw upon and be reflective of the diverse backgrounds, interests, and sociological approaches of its membership. If elected president I would pursue a number of additional goals. First, we live in an era in which scientific expertise is discounted and mistrusted by a significant proportion of the public and leading political figures. We need to combat the “sociology is goobledygook” characterization – we cannot pretend that it is does not matter nor think that we cannot do anything about it. We need to more effectively communicate the relevancy of sociology to understanding social behavior and addressing pressing social problems. The annual meeting

provides an opportunity to showcase sociological research that can inform public policy and make complex social processes and relationships understandable. I would work to bring media attention to research findings of major public interest presented at the annual meeting. Second, we need to increase the participation of undergraduates in the annual meeting. Trend data on undergraduate sociology majors published by the ASA show a steady growth in the number of sociology majors since the mid-1980s. We should not be complacent about this. One of the lessons I learned as department chair was that existing majors are the most effective recruiters of new majors. The more we connect sociology students to a broader regional community of sociologists and demonstrate to them the value and relevancy of sociology to a range of careers and professions, the more our undergraduate programs will grow. Third, we can do more to engage and professionalize graduate students. We need to look beyond the annual meeting as the only mechanism for engaging graduate students. I have considerable experience using web-based teleconferencing tools to conduct joint seminars and presentations across distant locations. These tools can be used to bring graduate students together in the region for thematically focused seminars and workshops that can culminate in student sessions at the annual meetings. Finally, we can do more to increase participation among all groups in the annual meetings through personal outreach and invitations. Nothing is more effective in getting people to participate than a personal invitation. Finally, I would work very closely with the executive committee and reach out to a diverse group of colleagues throughout the region to solicit their ideas and opinions, and to harness their wisdom and experience.

Alejandro Portes (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin) is the Howard Harrison and Gabrielle Snyder Beck Professor of Sociology and director of the Center for Migration and Development at Princeton University. He has formerly taught at Johns Hopkins University, where he held the John Dewey Chair in Arts and Sciences; Duke University, and the University of Texas-Austin. In 1997, he was elected president of the American Sociological Association and served in that capacity in 1998-99. He is the author of some 200 articles and chapters on national development, international migration, the informal economy, and Latin American urbanization. His books include *City on the Edge – the Transformation of Miami* (California 1993), co-authored with Alex Stepick and winner of the Robert Park Award for best book in urban sociology and the Anthony Leeds Award for best book in urban anthropology in 1995. His current research is on the adaptation process of the

immigrant second generation and the rise of transnational immigrant communities in the United States. His most recent books, co-authored with Rubén G. Rumbaut, are *Legacies: The Story of the Immigrant Second Generation* and *Ethnicities: Children of Immigrants in America* (California and Russell Sage 2001). *Legacies* is the winner of the 2002 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the American Sociological Association and of the 2002 W. I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki Award for best book from the International Migration Section of ASA.

Portes is a former fellow of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences and of the Russell Sage Foundation. He has received honorary doctorates from the New School for Social Research and the University of Wisconsin and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Statement:

My focus as your president will be on sociology as a science and as a vocation, highlighting its most recent contributions to knowledge and its bearing on key areas of public policy such as growing income disparities, gender discrimination, and the current war of the federal government on the nation’s immigrants.

Sociology has often been the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves and this role ought to be celebrated and strengthened. As well, advances in research methodology, both quantitative and qualitative, have produced major studies in recent years in the areas of class and ethnic inequality, gender disparities, the rising role of technology in social life, and immigration.

I intend to highlight these achievements at both the annual meetings and other activities of the society. I will also emphasize the efforts of the discipline to place into focus the increasing disparities in wealth and power in American society and the end of a compassionate stance toward the poor and downtrodden, including immigrants and refugees.

Finally, the international dimension of the discipline will be highlighted by inviting both prominent and promising foreign sociologists, especially from less developed countries, to our annual meetings and to other activities of the ESS.

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For Vice President:

Enobong (Anna) Hannah Branch is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She received her PhD from University at Albany – SUNY and BS from Howard University. Anna’s research interests are in race, racism, and inequality; intersectional theory; work and occupations; and diversity in science. Her book *Opportunity Denied: Limiting Black Women to Devalued Work* (Rutgers 2011) provides an overview of the historical evolution of Black women’s work and the social-economic structures that have located them in particular and devalued places in the U.S. labor market. She is the editor of *Pathways, Potholes, and the Persistence of Women in Science: Reconsidering the Pipeline* (Lexington 2016) which outlines the inadequacy of the pipeline metaphor in understanding the challenges of entry and persistence in science and offers an alternative model that better articulates the ideas of agency, constraint, and variability along the path to scientific careers for women.

Anna is also the founding editor of the Rutgers University Press Book Series, “Inequality at Work: Perspectives on Race, Gender, Class and Labor.” She is author of several articles published in the *International Journal of Gender, Science, and Technology*; *The Sociological Quarterly*; *Sociological Perspectives*; *Social Science History*; *Journal of Black Studies*; and *Race, Gender, & Class*. Her current stream of research funded by the National Science Foundation, investigates rising employment insecurity in the post-industrial era through the lens of racial and gender inequality. She served on the 2012 ESS Program Committee in 2012 and was a member of the 2015-2016 Komarovsky Book Award Committee. She served or is serving in leadership roles in the American Sociological Association, Sociologists for Women in Society, and the National Center for Women in Information Technology.

Anna also serves as the Associate Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion and the Chief Diversity Officer for UMass-Amherst. She provides strategic leadership for campus diversity efforts to promote an institutional culture that values and supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Statement:

I am thrilled to serve as candidate for Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. ESS has been a vital part of my academic life and leadership through service has been an important means to give back. The annual conference provides an unmatched opportunity for engagement among graduate students

and faculty, across institution types from community colleges to the Ivy Leagues, and in a venue that offers the opportunity to share ideas in formation and those that are primetime ready. Maintaining this space as one where everyone feels welcome, seen, and heard is a responsibility I take seriously. It would be my honor to help govern the organization and make recommendations to support the needs and interests of its diverse membership. Thank you for your consideration.

Natasha Kumar Warikoo is Associate Professor of Education at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her most recent book, *The Diversity Bargain: And Other Dilemmas of Race, Admissions, and Meritocracy at Elite Universities* (University of Chicago Press, 2016), illuminates how undergraduates attending Ivy League universities and Oxford University conceptualize race and meritocracy. The book emphasizes the contradictions, moral conundrums, and tensions on campus related to affirmative action and diversity, and how these vary across racial and national lines. Her first book, *Balancing Acts: Youth Culture in the Global City* (University of California Press, 2011), analyzes youth culture among children of immigrants attending low-performing high schools in New York City and London. *Balancing Acts* won the Thomas and Znaniecki Best Book Award from the American Sociological Association's International Migration Section. This year, Natasha is a Guggenheim Fellow, for which she is studying racial change in suburban America.

Funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, this project analyzes how the settlement of the nation's most successful immigrant groups in privileged, previously predominantly white communities shapes the nature of racial boundaries, beliefs about success and achievement, and youth cultures. The findings will have implications for how to address racial diversity and student competition in privileged communities.

After completing her PhD in Sociology at Harvard, Natasha taught for four years at University of London, then returned to Harvard nine years ago. She completed her BA (philosophy) and BSc (mathematics) at Brown University.

Statement:

I am humbled and honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society.

I have been a member of ESS since 2012, and have participated in panels for the past three years. This year I serve on the Program Committee. I had a wonderful Author-Meets-Critics session on *The Diversity Bargain* at ESS in 2016. I have appreciated the smaller size of the ESS conference and the space for scholars from different stages in their careers and different perspectives to present their work in a supportive environment. I hope that we can make this inclusivity an explicit part of the ESS identity. I also hope we can build into the organization discussions about the future of the field of sociology and how to honor a broad range of theoretical, empirical, and moral perspectives in the discipline. Finally, I hope that we can think strategically about how to ensure high-quality research has an impact on the world, in a variety of domains, including public discourses, social policies, and everyday practices.

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For Executive Committee:

Christopher Donoghue is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Montclair State University. He also serves as the Book Review Editor for Sociological Inquiry, and the Council Representative for the NY/NJ region for Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honors Society. He earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at Fordham University. His research interests are in social psychological topics in elementary, middle school and high school education such as peer aggression, coping, sexual risk taking, academic motivation and the acquisition of ethnic and racial prejudice.

As a member of ESS for over 15 years I have had the opportunity to observe many of the society's functions and activities. I have participated in meetings, offered input, and served on the annual meeting program committee. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee where I think I would be a great asset to the society.

Statement:

If elected I would offer my problem solving abilities to the task of serving our membership. Specifically, I would like to assist in enhancing the quality of our meetings and enabling broader participation. Maintaining an active and vibrant society is beneficial to all of our membership. By taking on this role I would hope to become a more active participant in that process.

Loren Henderson (PhD, University of Illinois) is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and a Hrabowski Innovation Fellow at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her research interests include diversity issues, stratification and inequality, health disparities, and race, class, gender, and sexuality. Dr. Henderson is coauthor of *Diversity in Organizations: A Critical Examination*, a book that offers an examination of organizational characteristics, recruitment and retention factors, and employment practices and job benefits that are associated with the racial and gender composition of organizations in the U.S. In addition, she has published research that looks at various forms of social inequality that revolve around issues of difference. She is the author of “Credit Where Credit is Due? Race, Gender, and the Credit Scores of Business Startups” (*The Review of Black Political Economy*). She is coauthor of “Wealth Inequality in Black and White: Cultural and Structural Sources of the Racial Wealth Gap” (*Race and Social Problems*); and “Separate and Unequal: The Impact of Socioeconomic Status, Segregation and the Great Recession on Racial Disparities in Housing Values” (*Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*). She has made presentations of her research before government agencies, in the media, and at the United Nations.

Dr. Henderson has also used quantitative and mixed methods to conduct research on racial and gender disparities in health outcomes. She previously worked as a research analyst in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois in Chicago where she conducted quantitative research for a federally funded study to prevent HIV/AIDS among juvenile offenders. She has also served as Project Manager of the “Depression in Low-Income, Single African American Mothers in the Hidden America” Research Project in Chicago. Dr. Henderson has also served on the Executive Committee for the Association of Black Sociologists in the role of Member-At-Large.

Statement:

I am greatly honored to be given the opportunity to share more about myself and why I would love to serve on the Executive Committee of the ESS. As a Sociology faculty member at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, I have been an active participant in the Eastern Sociological Society. I have presented on several research panels at ESS. I found the meetings to be exhilarating, the networking invaluable, and the sense of community refreshing at each meeting. These feeling of community and scholarly exchange have motivated me to seek out

ways to support the organization through my service, public engagement, and scholarly participation. I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Association of Black Sociologists. I was also a member of the Planning Committee for the National Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference. My experiences with both of these organizations have taught me that working closely with the Executive Committee provides an intimate connection to the organization and a sense of pride in helping to create successful conferences, to be a resource for my fellow members, and to offer input that helps shape decisions for the members. I am keenly aware of the time required, and I am fully committed to serving. I have previously served in capacities such as student paper competition reviewer, membership service liaison, and I have provided mentorship to graduate students and new faculty. I would be honored to serve ESS and the discipline in this position if you would have me.

Smitha Radhakrishnan is an Associate Professor of Sociology, Wellesley College.

My research examines the cultural, financial, and political dimensions of gender and globalization, with particular focus on India, the United States, and South Africa. Currently, I’m involved in a long-term project examining the for-profit microfinance industry in southern India, probing what the industry reveals about the expansion of the global financial system. Through ethnographic work and interviews in two microfinance institutions in southern India, my work “traces up” a set of transnational linkages between the U.S. and India, including borrowers, loan officers, managers, industry leaders in India, and peer-to-peer lenders on kiva.org. I am working on a book manuscript based on this research, titled, *When Women Pay Up: Power, Profit, and Personhood in Global (Micro)Finance*. I teach courses on globalization, development, race, and nationalism. My MOOCs on Global Sociology, currently in archive mode on the edX platform, have reached tens of thousands of students around the world. I have worked at Wellesley College’s Sociology department since 2007, after a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA’s International Institute. I received my PhD from UC Berkeley Sociology in 2006.

My first book, *Appropriately Indian: Gender and Culture in a Transnational Class* (Duke University Press 2011) was a multi-sited ethnographic

examination of transnational Indian IT workers, and argues that gendered arrangements within educated, upwardly mobile IT families give this elite group disproportionate power in defining what it means to be Indian in the global economy. Prior to this book, I examined the cultural politics of post-apartheid South Africa, based on extensive research with South African Indian communities in Durban and its surrounding townships. My papers have appeared in *Sociology of Development*, *World Development*, *Sociology Compass*, *Theory and Society*, *Gender and Society*, and *Qualitative Sociology* among other journals and edited volumes. I have received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Association of University Women, the Social Science Research Council, and the National Science Foundation.

Statement:

I am honored to run for ESS's Executive Council. I am eager to get acquainted with the inner workings of ESS and aim to recruit diverse candidates for various committees.

Although I have not served in ESS in previously, I have served ASA in various capacities over the years, including on the Cox Frazier Johnson Award Committee, and on Award Committees for the sections on Organizations, Occupations and Work, Sociology of Development, and Sex and Gender. Outside of section work I have independently organized panels at ASA annual meetings, and have been invited to serve as a discussant on several occasions as well. Through these interactions in my past decade of work at Wellesley, I have built up a network of scholars across the Eastern region spanning multiple sociological subfields and area studies interests. I look forward to drawing upon these experiences and expanding them through my work as part of ESS's Executive Committee.

Leslie Wang is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She received her Ph.D. in 2010 from the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Her work focuses on issues related to gender, family, and migration and uses qualitative methods to explore growing transnational ties between the United States and China. Dr. Wang is the author of *Outsourced Children: Orphanage Care and Adoption in Globalizing China* (2016), published by Stanford University Press. Based on a year and a half of ethnographic fieldwork, it is the first systematic study of orphanage care in China. The book addresses the moral and ethical issues that are raised when state authorities allow their vulnerable children to be cared for by outside actors, both inside

orphanages and through practices of international adoption.

Currently, Dr. Wang is studying various aspects of return migration to China. Her second book, *Chasing the American Dream in China: Chinese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland*, is under contract with Rutgers University Press. This book examines the experiences of second generation American Born Chinese professionals who move to China as adults to pursue career opportunities. Another major project examines issues related to "satellite babies": children born in the United States to Chinese immigrant parents who are sent back to China to be cared for by relatives for prolonged periods. This project is a joint collaboration with the non-profit organization Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and clinical psychologists at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Wellesley College. Articles from her research have also appeared in *Gender & Society*; *Qualitative Sociology*; and *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

During her time in Boston, Dr. Wang has also been active in professional service. She helped organize a successful migration mini-conference for the 2015 ESS meetings. Furthermore, she spearheaded the planning committees for the last two Social Theory Forum at UMass Boston, a biennial two-day conference that seeks to foster discussions about social theory and social justice between faculty, students, and local communities. The 2015 conference focused on Intersectionality and new perspectives on race, gender, class, and sexuality, while the 2017 meetings examined the work of W.E.B. DuBois and his lasting influence on contemporary race scholarship. She has also served as an elected council member of the ASA Section on Asia/Asian America.

Statement:

I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the ESS executive committee. Throughout my time on the East Coast I have greatly benefited from the social and intellectual support of this organization and its members. I was entirely educated in large public schools and am now employed at the only public university in the city of Boston, in which the majority of students are working class, first-generation college students, and/or students of color. Therefore, I consider myself to be an advocate for those who have less access to financial, social, and academic resources. If elected, I seek to further the reach of this organization to address the many concerns of students and faculty from non-elite institutions. Furthermore, I believe it is imperative to better represent the needs of the quickly growing, but

often overlooked, population of contingent faculty who now teach the majority of classes at American colleges and universities. Finally, I look forward to helping ESS connect to a broader audience, especially in terms of making academic research more relevant and accessible to the general public.