

Black Placemaking in a Divided Age: Difference, Power, and the Possibilities of Worldmaking

We invite abstract submissions for the **Black Placemaking in a Divided Age: Difference, Power, and the Possibilities of Worldmaking** mini-conference to be held as part of the 2027 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. We are especially interested in work that examines how Black placemaking practices produce meaning, belonging, and political claims in the face of histories of racialized dispossession, spatial exclusion, and marginalization. We welcome work that considers how difference operates within and across Black and Brown communities, including differences shaped by region, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nativity, age, migration, generation, and ecological context. This includes environmental contexts such as land loss, climate vulnerability, food systems, ecological stewardship, and environmental justice, as well as cultural, economic, historical, institutional, and diasporic dimensions of placemaking and world-building. Submissions may address theoretical, empirical, or methodological questions, and we welcome interdisciplinary approaches that engage Black placemaking. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Black geographies and spatial justice
- Environmental racism and Black ecologies
- Place attachment, place identity, and belonging
- Land sovereignty, heritage, and spatial memory
- Creative and cultural placemaking
- Everyday place-based practices of care, refusal, and survival
- Repair and restorative place-based practices
- Black futures, speculative geographies, and worldmaking

Submissions should include a title and a brief (<500 words) abstract to be considered. If possible, specify your paper's connection to the theme of the mini-conference in the abstract.

Decolonizing Sociology

For the past three years the mini-conference “Decolonizing Sociology” within the ESS has established a space of elaboration and dialogue on frameworks and methods to address the global linkages established by racial capitalism, colonialism, imperialism and heteropatriarchy. The calls for decolonizing are to simultaneously offer radical critiques of political regimes and socio-economic orders of the worlds through reflection and engagement with emancipatory movements around the world in the current conjuncture; and to open new imaginaries and conceptual vocabularies for a decolonial praxis. We welcome theoretical, programmatic, and/or empirical papers that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. Towards a Decolonial Rethinking of the world: knowledge, critique, and categories:

- Decolonial Futures and Praxis
- Decolonial epistemologies, theories, and concepts

- Decolonizing methodologies and research practices
- Global formations of anti- and decolonial praxis
- Decolonial/Anticolonial/Anticapitalist
- Navigating reluctant institutions

2. Decolonial struggles towards Decolonial Futures

- Decolonial approaches to:
 - War, peace, militarism, and genocide
 - Religion
 - Social Reproduction, Nature, Work
 - Bordering the worlds
 - Nations and State formations
 - Land and Disposessions
 - Kinship, Family, Life
 - Territorial struggles
 - Anti-capitalist struggles
- Strategies, impacts, and contradictions of anti and decolonial movements (historical and contemporary)
- The challenges and limitations of ‘decolonizing’ sociology

Diasporic Womanist Sociology

Welcome to our Diasporic Womanist Sociology Mini Conference page!!! Does your research contribute to the survival, wholeness, and liberation of racialized, global south and global south diasporic women, families, or communities from colonial racialized oppressions? Then we invite you to submit an extended abstract (350-400 words) to present your work and participate in a dialogue with a supportive collective of scholars with similar commitments.

- We welcome submissions that focus on African, Afro descendant, Asian, Caribbean, Latin American, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, or South Asian regions and their diasporas of color.
- We encourage submissions that present a critical analysis of historical and contemporary cases of imperialism, colonialism, colonial patriarchy, white supremacy, caste, racial capitalism, state-sanctioned violence, military occupation, or related topics.
- We also welcome submissions that present decolonial alternatives to colonial ways of knowing, doing, and being, by amplifying and validating decolonial epistemologies and pedagogies; governance structures, economies, and technologies; ethical practices of spirituality, healing, and ecological stewardship.

Our mini conference organizers, Sancha, Tannuja, and Monisha, can't wait to see you there! Email Sancha at smedwinter@umass.edu with questions. [Read Excerpt \[optional\]: Diasporic Womanist Sociology \[click on Kindle version\]](#)

Environmental Sociology: Examining environmental crisis across difference

We invite you to submit an abstract to the **Environmental Sociology Mini-conference as part of the 2027 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) annual conference in Philadelphia, from March 4-7, 2027** (<https://www.essnet.org/annual-conference>). The title of the mini-conference is **Environmental Sociology: Examining Environmental Crisis Across Difference**. This mini-conference invites submissions with a focus on environmental sociology, broadly defined. Topics of interest include (*but not limited to*): 1) environmental justice, racism, and inequality, 2) global climate change, 3) environmental governance, politics, and regulatory regimes, 4) public engagement and activism, and 5) work, organization, and sustainability.

This year we are also inviting submissions for **1-2 Author Meets Critics sessions**. Please submit a proposal for an ESS AMC session (make sure you select the Environmental Sociology mini-conference), including book title, author, publisher, and brief description, along with the names of 3-4 critics who have agreed to participate and a session chair (who can be one of the critics or an additional person).

Please consider submitting! Submissions only require a title and a short abstract (500 words max) to be considered. In your abstract, please specify how your paper connects with the theme and topic(s) of the mini-conference.

Military Sociology

The 2027 Military Sociology Mini-Conference at ESS will accept presentations related to the conference theme, the military and war, and/or the broader topic of the military, culture, and society. Below is a brief topic list for the Mini-Conference (not intended to be exhaustive):

- War and Society: Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Gaza, Syria & Iran
- The Military's Role in a Divided Age
- Struggle and Constraint in and around Military Service
- Military Science in and around Difference and Division
- Soldier, Veteran, and Family Divisions
- NATO and Difference
- Civil-Military Relations in Divided Contexts
- Divisions in Military Life: Active Duty/Guard/Reserve/Civilians
- Regional Security Challenges and Joint Operations
- Multinational Cooperation for Environmental Security
- Teaching, Learning, and the Military
- Active Duty and Veteran Policies: Overcoming Human Differences
- Drones, AI, and the Military
- Environmental Security: National, Regional, Global
- Military Families, Difference, and Division
- Crossing Axes of Military Classification

- Differences and Cultural Meanings of War
- Other themes in and around the military and society, differences, classifications, and divides.

The ESS abstract submission system will soon be available: <https://www.essnet.org/>. Submit abstracts to (y)our Mini-Conference: Military Sociology by 23:59 EDT on October 15, 2026. (Note that the ExOrdo system doesn't allow one individual to submit multiple abstracts for other people).

Follow up by sending names, title, contact info, and abstract directly to Ryan Ryan Kelty (ryan.kelty@afacademy.af.edu) or Morten Ender (morten.ender@westpoint.edu) by October 15, 2026.

Narratives of Labor and Technology

Narratives are at the core of research on labor and technology. As Ewick & Silbey (1995) identify, narratives are treated in different ways during research. We offer that the scholarship of labor and tech is no different and we might treat narratives as objects of inquiry, as method or as product. As object of inquiry, we seek out stories of stakeholders, prioritizing marginalized groups and surfacing counter-narratives to the mainstream. As method, we attempt to use narratives as the lens through which broader sociological issues can be unpacked. As research product, we ourselves produce narratives around the topics we study and our own experience of the research we do. This mini-conference invites submissions that capture stories of labor and technology in any of the three dimensions outlined. We are especially interested in stories that capture the labor of studying labor and technology, inviting reflexivity and a critical engagement with the material conditions of the work of organizing, research, and teaching that we do. We also encourage submissions from undergraduate students.

Peopling Politics: Race, Class, and Inequality in US Politics

This mini-conference will bring together sociologists, political scientists, other academics, and political practitioners who study and/or work in U.S. politics with a focus on race, class, inequality, and the influence of social and cultural forces. We believe that in order to understand and affect political institutions or electoral outcomes, we must begin with the contexts and cultures of the people who make political phenomena real - from non-voters and voters to grassroots organizers to elected officials and their staff. This requires empirical observations of actual people and their actions, rather than relying on abstracted models of how individuals, political groups, or institutions operate.

We invite papers on a broad range of topics, including but not limited to:

- How people's cultures, identities, and social groups shape their political views and behaviors;
- How race, class, and other forms of inequality influence political engagement, representation, and policy outcomes;

- The roles played by behind-the-scenes actors such as campaign staff, organizers, and bureaucrats, as well as by marginalized communities, in shaping political institutions and processes.

For more on our approach, please see <https://www.peoplingpolitics.com/about>; abstracts should clearly indicate how the proposed paper addresses these themes.

Sociology of Reproduction

The Sociology of Reproduction is a thriving subfield within sociology. Since 2012, the Eastern Sociological Society has sponsored mini-conferences on the Sociology of Reproduction in conjunction with its annual meeting. Such sessions bring together scholars with a common area of research who might otherwise be divided across the subfields of medical sociology, sociology of sex and gender, family sociology, population and demography, law and society, social movements, organizations, and communication. By bringing research on reproductive matters into conversation with each other, sociologists of reproduction challenge traditional thinking within subfields and promote cross-cutting dialogues that lead to new, cutting-edge insights.

We are soliciting papers for the 2027 Mini-Conference on the Sociology of Reproduction, which will be held at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, March 4-7, in Philadelphia, PA. We welcome papers at any stage, including research proposals, on such topics as contraception, abortion, fertility intentions, fertility decision-making, pregnancy, infertility, reproductive technologies, birth, ideologies of motherhood, breastfeeding, genetic counseling, digital media and reproduction, men's involvement in reproduction, reproductive justice and autonomy, disability and reproduction (including disabled parenthood, disability and pregnancy, and examinations of ableism within reproductive spaces), and reproductive politics, among others.

Those wishing to present their research should submit an abstract no longer than 250 words through the regular ESS submission. Please select the “*Mini-conference: Reproduction*” track to ensure that your submission will be considered for the mini-conference.

Teaching Sociology

ESS welcomes submissions related to the transformative possibilities of teaching sociology through novel approaches to teaching/pedagogy, interesting and effective assignments and assessments, strategies to deal with contemporary challenges to teaching in the discipline, and considerations of reflexive work exploring the role of positionality in experiences of teaching.

Transnational Asian/America 3.0: Difference Across Borders in a Divided Age

The third Mini-Conference on Transnational Asian/America convenes at ESS 2027 around the theme *Difference Across Borders in a Divided Age*. In a moment when lines of difference are being fixed, legislated, and instrumentalized, transnational frameworks are essential to the conversation. The categories under contest, including citizenship, race, gender, religion, and family, were forged across borders long before they were policed within them. We invite submissions that examine how difference is produced, contested, and lived across the circuits linking Asia and the Americas. Topics include and are not limited to:

- Transnational capitalism, geopolitics, and ethnic economies
- Race, religion, and conversion across borders
- Gender, sexuality, and family formation across borders
- Afro-Asian solidarity against racism
- Birthright, legal status, and contested citizenship
- Statistical invisibility and demographic politics
- Methodological nationalism and the limits of area studies
- Global cultural production and the circulation of Asian/American forms
- Rethinking assimilation and foreign-ness within local and transnational frameworks

Drawing on the network of our first two conferences, we will recruit returning contributors and actively seek new voices. We are also working toward publication, with a special issue of *Sociological Forum* or an edited volume as the target, to materialize these discussions and sustain the network. Select the *Transnational Asian/America* track when submitting and specify how your paper engages the theme.

Understanding Differences within Health Professions Education and Delivery

The LCME Standards removed structural competency and the AMA removed DEI considerations. The federal government is reifying cisheteronormative gender categories and reshaping which health professions qualify for loans. Understanding differences is not only important but it is also deeply under threat. How do we study, teach, and address difference when we can't call it difference? With this year's mini-conference, we focus on how health professionals conceptualize and experience difference, articulate narratives of difference and leverage them for political purposes, and initiate policy solutions oriented around fostering more equitable spaces.

We are interested in papers with empirical foci on the social construction of knowledge and technologies within health professions education; downstream consequences of understandings of difference in healthcare settings on patients' health and experience; deprofessionalization's impacts on professional pipelines and experience; studying difference in a federal context that dismisses difference, with emphases on how working conditions shape the scholarship (e.g., by position, university, state, country).

In addition to welcoming traditional research presentations, we are also very interested in pedagogy presentations about how scholars address understanding difference in the classroom,

how researchers navigate a constrained research environment, and how practitioners engage in bridging difference in a divided age.