

PRESIDENT

Please choose one.

Dana R. Fisher is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on questions related to democracy, activism, and environmentalism — most recently studying political elites' responses to climate change, the emergent US Civilian Climate Corps, and activism around climate, systemic racism, and the American Resistance. She received her PhD and MS Degrees from the department of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her AB from Princeton University. She began her career at Columbia University, where she spent her first 8 years on the faculty and has been on the faculty at the University of Maryland since 2011.

Fisher is the author or co-author of five books: *National Governance and the Global Climate Change Regime* (Rowman and Littlefield Press 2004), *Activism, Inc.* (Stanford University Press 2006), *the Practice of Research* (with Shamus Khan, Oxford University Press 2013), *Urban Environmental Stewardship and Civic Engagement* (with Erika S. Svendsen and James Connolly, Routledge Press 2015) and *American Resistance* (Columbia University Press 2019). She is the editor, along with Stewart Lockie and David Sonnenfeld, of *the Routledge International Handbook of Social and Environmental Change* (2013) and serves as a Series Editor for the Series on Society and the Environment at Columbia University Press along with Evan Schofer.

Her work has been published in over 65 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, including in sociological journals such as, the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Social Forces*, and *Sociological Forum*. She has also published her work in high-impact interdisciplinary journals including *Science Advances*, *PLOS ONE*, and *Nature Climate Change*. In the past 10 years, her work has been funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the National Science Foundation.

Fisher is committed to getting her research out to the public. To that end, she has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, and PBS Newshour to discuss her work. She has also written for the popular press, including in the *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Politico*, *Business Insider* and the *American Prospect*. Her research has been featured in media outlets such as the *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Herald*, and *USA Today*, as well as on various programs on National Public Radio and the BBC. Her efforts at public sociology have also included presenting her work to federal agencies, foundations, presidential campaigns, and other organizations, including the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. She has held leadership positions in the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Environmental Sociology (RC24), as well as in the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the ASA. Fisher is currently serving as a Contributing Author for Working Group 3 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Review (IPCC AR6) writing about citizen engagement and civic activism. From 2021-2022, she is serving as a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Governance Studies program at the Brookings Institution.

Statement-Dana R. Fisher

I am honored to be nominated as ESS President. If elected, I will focus my term as President on prioritizing the ways that sociology contributes to our understanding of the world and spotlight our collective contributions so that it gets the attention it deserves. We are living through the second year of a global pandemic that has exacerbated social inequalities. It is unclear what higher education will look like on the other side and these changes come at the same time that we watch some of the pillars of our democracy be endangered, experience the effects of climate change in the form of extreme weather, fires and floods, and continue to address inequalities and systemic racism in the field and society as a whole.

The ESS has served as a friendly haven for me over the years. It has been a place to meet colleagues, brainstorm ideas, and present work while it is in progress. I have many fond memories of conversations on panels and in the hallways during the annual ESS meetings. If elected, I will work to support and extend the Society's profile as a safe and friendly community for sociologists from the full range of institutions, with a diversity of identities, orientations, and perspectives. I will also focus my efforts on increasing the profile of the Society through its annual meeting, its flagship journal, and by doubling down on the investments that my predecessors have made to center public engagement as a common feature.

As we all know, the field of sociology has a lot to contribute to debates going on in the public sphere. I will work to expand efforts to showcase our annual meeting as a site for speaking to the broader public about the importance of sociological findings. In particular, I will help develop clearer channels from the academic work presented at our annual meeting and published in our academic journal to the general public through various types of public and social media opportunities. I hope to work with everyone at the ESS to encourage more research that has broader impacts beyond the academy and to get our research out to the general public during these trying times. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. If elected, I look forward to working with you to make the ESS more effective at getting the word out about the amazing work our members are doing and to ensure that the 2024 ESS is a success.

Richard E. Ocejo is Professor of Sociology at John Jay College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is an urban sociologist who uses qualitative methodological approaches to analyze a variety of problems in today's cities. His research and teaching interests have primarily concerned how urbanites—specifically the middle class, working class, and low-income populations—both shape and are shaped by the structural forces of gentrification, economic growth policies, cultural stratification, organizational restructuring, local political and civic action, and inequality.

Ocejo is the author of four books, with a fifth under contract. His second monograph, *Masters of Craft: Old Jobs in the New Urban Economy* (Princeton University Press, 2017), about the transformation of low-status occupations into cool, cultural taste-making jobs, won the Max Weber Award for Best Book at the American Sociological Association. His first, *Upscaling Downtown: From Bowery Saloons to Cocktail Bars in New York City* (Princeton University Press, 2014), analyzes the roles growth policies, nightlife, and gentrification play in community attachments and conflicts. Ocejo has also edited two volumes: *Urban Ethnography*:

Legacies and Challenges (Emerald, 2019) and *Ethnography and the City: Readings on Doing Urban Fieldwork* (Routledge, 2012). Finally, his current book project examines gentrification and race in a small city through the framework of racial capitalism. It specifically shows how pro-growth actors use racial discourses and ideologies to revalue racialized urban spaces, gain wealth, and foster a sense of community at the risk of displacing existing low-income residents of color.

Along with these books, Ocejo has published articles in *Social Problems*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *City & Community*, and *Poetics*, and has contributed chapters to several edited volumes.

Ocejo is the Editor of *City & Community*, an official journal of the American Sociological Association, and serves on the editorial boards of the journals *Work and Occupations*, *Metropolitica*, and the *Journal for Undergraduate Ethnography*. He has been very active in professional associations, serving in leadership roles for the Eastern Sociological Society, the Consumers and Consumption and Community and Urban Sociology Sections of the ASA, and ASA's Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Committee. Ocejo is the director of the MA program in International Migration Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. Finally, he is a podcast host for the New Books Network, an initiative dedicated to raising the public discourse around academic work.

Statement-Richard Ocejo

I still can't believe I've been nominated to run for President of ESS. I am honored that there are people who think I am sufficiently prepared and accomplished for such a role and grateful for the opportunity to serve. Quite simply, without ESS my career would've gone very differently, and I wouldn't be the same academic today. I gave my first-ever scholarly presentation and first experienced being a panel presider and discussant at its annual conference. As my career has progressed, I've had the honor of serving in several leadership and organizing roles at ESS. I was the program chair for the 2017 conference and served on the Executive Committee from 2017-2020. I have co-organized two mini-conferences (one on professional development) and mentoring programs for the conference. This society is important to me and getting nominated to run for President is the ultimate honor.

Being elected and serving, however, would be more than just an honor. The President of ESS has enormous responsibility. I have already played a central role in running the annual meeting as program chair and I have been very active in the society. If elected, I am therefore quite confident the 2024 meeting would come together smoothly and be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding event. I will assemble a program committee of scholars from a range of diverse backgrounds and institutional affiliations and with a breadth of research interests. I will also create invited sessions with scholars from underrepresented groups and institutions. These measures will ensure the conference is truly representative of the society's membership.

But while the conference is important, I want ESS to do more and be more for its members. If elected, I will base my efforts on two related premises: 1) ESS's annual conference should be a resource for its members beyond presenting scholarship; and 2) ESS should be a resource for its members not just at the conference, but year-round. To these ends, I will spend my term

as President making feasible changes to ESS's governance and designing new additions to its offerings.

First, I will make mentoring and support integral to the society and seek to create more opportunities for supporting our students and colleagues. I will propose creating a new standing committee for mentorship and professional development, which would be tasked with coordinating an extensive mentoring and development program at the annual conference. Thus far, faculty outside of ESS leadership (including myself) have had to organize this program. But without their efforts, it wouldn't take place. Through governance changes, I will make mentorship and development a permanent part of the conference and design a program to cover a broad range of topics and issues (e.g., navigating the job market, teaching, funding, work-life balance, publishing, DEI work, job talks). And it will be for members at all stages of their careers, from undergraduates to full professors. Many of these activities already take place at the conference informally. But they should be a formal part of how we engage with each other at our meeting. In short, I want to make ESS a more valuable resource for its members.

Second, ESS membership should be more than a prerequisite for the conference. Our memberships are for a full year, not just a long weekend. Community and relationships take time to grow and skills take time to develop. Despite its shortcomings, Zoom has become a powerful tool for us as academics to stay connected and share our work. We can use it as a tool to extend ESS, showcase our scholarship, and offer support beyond the conference. I will therefore design the aforementioned mentoring program to be year-round, but in ways that do not overburden our members with service. I will also create professional development and scholarly events during the year. These will include panels on guiding doctoral students through the job process and junior faculty through the tenure process, skills-building workshops (e.g., grant writing), and conference sessions like "Author Meets Critics" and "Scholarly Conversations." By spreading out events throughout the year, we give members more opportunities to share, engage, support, and learn.

These approaches and ideas will make our society stronger and more rewarding for its members. If elected, I will work hard to make them happen and give you an ESS we all want. Thank you for reading my statement.

VICE PRESIDENT

Please choose one.

Simon Cheng is Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut. He received his PhD from the Department of Sociology at Indiana University in Bloomington, and his MS and BS from the University of Utah. His research and teaching interests include sociology of education, sociology of family, sociology of sexuality, race/ethnicity, and quantitative methodology. His research addresses a combination of traditional and emerging problems in the discipline, and represents a diverse yet coherent set of topics and projects, connected by common threads of interest—in family change and family forms, in gender, race and sexuality issues in the family and education, in the importance of classification and measurement, and in documenting contexts that condition education and inequalities. His articles are consistently placed in the top

journals in discipline including the *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Social Science Research*, and the *Annual Review of Sociology* as well as the leading journals in his sub-specialties like *Sociology of Education*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, and *Sociological Methods and Research*. His article on the effects of same-sex parents received the Sociology of Sexualities Distinguished Article Award in 2017.

Simon has served on the editorial boards of the two top journals in Sociology and the top specialty journal in Sociology of Education: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, and *Sociology of Education*. He has also engaged in a wide range of service to the American Sociological Association and the Eastern Sociological Society. At the University of Connecticut, Simon served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Sociology Department from 2017 to 2019. Under his term, the Sociology's Undergraduate Program developed a student-run undergraduate Sociology Club and actively engaged Sociology undergraduates in research with faculty.

Statement-Simon Cheng

I am honored to be nominated for Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. Just as I benefited from the strong programs, annual meetings, and services provided by sociology's professional associations throughout my career, I hope to be able to return the favor by serving as the Vice President to my fellow sociologists. In addition to the primary responsibilities for the Vice President to serve on the ESS Executive Committee and program the Robin Williams, Jr. speaker and the Author Meets Critics Sessions for the annual meeting, I am strongly committed to expanding and nurturing a collegial community for women, people of color, and graduate students. I recognize that the pandemic has exacerbated the racial disparities in academia and further suppressed the opportunities for graduate students. If elected, I will work closely with the President-elect to find support for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) scholars and explore opportunities for sociology graduate students.

David A. Cort is Associate Professor of Sociology at UMass Amherst and is also Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in UMass' College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. A social demographer by training, Dr. Cort's early research agenda focused on the socioeconomic incorporation of immigrant groups such as Hispanics and undocumented immigrants. In this project, he examined topics such as racial, ethnic, and documentation status differences in the quality of neighborhoods to which Los Angeles residents move and changes in naturalization rates before and after the implementation of the California's Proposition 187. David's current work focuses on the social determinants of sexual behavior in sub-Saharan Africa. In this project, he examines how Africans' beliefs and attitudes about those with HIV/AIDS are related to their own private sexual behaviors. His future work will explore racial and ethnic differences in residential mobility outcomes in South Africa. David is a 2018 Fulbright Fellow to South Africa's Eastern Cape (Walter Sisulu University). In the years to come, he will continue to examine intellectual questions that pertain to sub-Saharan Africa and the Southern Africa region.

Statement-David Cort

I am honored to be nominated for Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS). The smaller size of the ESS has been a constant source of support and edification. As such, it has been supremely beneficial to my network connections and to my scholarly pursuits. For that, I am grateful for the Association. I take issues of equity seriously. If elected as Vice President, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the ESS remains an intellectual space in which all members and all types of scholarship are supported and showcased. In that vein, an important goal as Vice President will be to develop additional spaces in which global studies, global health, and international/comparative work are highlighted and supported.

SECRETARY

Please choose one.

Amy Hsin is Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, City University of New York. She researches topics at the intersection of education, immigration and social inequality, employing both quantitative and qualitative methods. Her research has been published in *The Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, Demography, Social Forces, International Migration Review* and other venues and has been featured in the *New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, The Economist, TIME, and NPR*. She has received support from the National Science Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. She is currently working on a book (with Sofya Aptekar) that analyzes the experiences of undocumented young adults in New York City.

Hsin has served in a variety of elected and appointed positions, including the Program Committee of the Eastern Sociological Society (2020-2021), Advisory Committee of the Russell Sage Foundation-Gates Foundation Pipeline Grants (2020-present) and Council Member on numerous sections of the American Sociological Association. She is an associate editor of *International Migration Review*, a member of the editorial board of the *American Sociological Review* and was selected for inclusion in *NYC City and States' 100 Education Power List* of 2021. In 2018, she was appointed by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio to serve on a task-force to recommend policies to integrate NYC public schools.

Statement-Amy Hsin

Being nominated for the position of Secretary is a great honor and privilege. The ESS has been an intellectual home to me from the beginning of my academic career. I attended my first ESS conference as a graduate student and found it to be a supportive and intellectually engaging place for a budding sociologist with aspiration of entering academia. If elected, I will work towards preserving and improving ESS's tradition of being a diverse and inclusive space for vibrant intellectual exchange. I will work to make ESS accessible and welcoming to sociologists at every career stage, from graduate students to senior scholars, and who work at the range of academic institutions from community colleges to four-year minority serving institutions (where I have worked for over 10 years) to liberal arts colleges to R1 institutions. I will work to promote the public presence of the ESS, spotlighting the academic work of ESS membership and connecting it with policy-makers, the media and the public.

Laura Mauldin is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, as well as Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Connecticut. She received her PhD in sociology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2012 after earning an MA in Deaf Studies from Gallaudet University in 2005. Her research lies at the intersections of medical sociology, feminist disability studies, and science and technology studies. Through her work, she aims to develop and advance a more serious engagement with disability as an axis of inequality in the discipline of sociology. She is the author of *Made to Hear: Cochlear Implants and Raising Deaf Children* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016) which received Honorable Mention for the ASA Section on Disability in Society's Outstanding Publication Award. She has also published in a wide variety of journals such as *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, and *Science, Technology and Human Values*. She is also committed to supporting other scholars working in the sociology of disability by co-editing a special issue of *Gender & Society* on Gender, Disability and Intersectionality, co-editing the next issue of *Research on Social Science and Disability* on Disability in the Time of Pandemic, and organizing several panels and mini-conferences on disability, including at ESS, over the years. She is currently writing a book that is a mixture of ethnography, memoir, and sociological analysis on spouses who care for their disabled partners at home. This project is supported by a Rapid Response to Covid-19 Grant from the Social Science Research Council, a Scholarship and Collaboration in the Humanities and Arts grant from UConn, and a fellowship at the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute. Outside of academia, she also continues to work in the community as a nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter, particularly in hospitals and other medical settings.

Statement-Laura Mauldin

I gave my very first conference talk at ESS in 2009 on what eventually became my dissertation and then my first book. ESS has always been a place that I have gone to develop my work and I have benefitted enormously over the years from the generosity of senior scholars at ESS who have always thoughtfully engaged with me. So, it is my honor to be nominated to run for Secretary. My role as Secretary would be to primarily support the Executive Committee in their endeavors. I am excited about the possible opportunity to give back to this organization, as they have long supported me.

TREASURER

Please choose one.

Joseph Harris is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Boston University and Visiting Research Professor at the WZB Social Science Center in Berlin. He co-founded the Global Health and Development Interest Group within the ASA's Section on Development and is author of *Achieving Access: Professional Movements and the Politics of Health Universalism* (Cornell University Press, 2017). Dr. Harris has served in a variety of elected and appointed service positions in his career, including serving as Associate Editor of *Social Science and Medicine* and Council member for the ASA's Section on Development.

He has played a particularly active role at ESS dating back to the first meeting he attended in 2014: He was a member of the ESS Organizing Committee in 2018. And in 2019, with Siri Suh, he organized the first Miniconference on Global Health at ESS, which featured 13 different sessions running from Thursday to Sunday. He and Siri also organized a Presidential Panel on Science and Technology Studies in an Era of Anti-Science the same year. Contributions to this panel and a companion panel organized by Laurel Smith-Doerr were subsequently published in *Engaging Science, Technology, and Society*.

In 2017, he received the Gitner Award for Distinguished Teaching, the BU College of Arts and Science's highest teaching award. He is a contributor to major news outlets, including NPR, the Washington Post, and U.S. News and World Report. He received his doctorate in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University and is the recipient of two Fulbright scholarships and a Henry Luce Scholarship.

Statement-Joseph Harris

As a scholar who holds a deep commitment to teaching and mentoring, I am extremely honored to have been asked to run for Treasurer of ESS. For many, ESS and other regional sociological associations offer foundational first experiences at professional conferences. It plays a vital role in the professional development of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty through the opportunities it offers to present and gather feedback on developing research and to network with scholars within and beyond the region. This is why I care about ESS deeply and have invested a great deal of time and energy into ESS organizing efforts at the session, miniconference, and conference levels already.

The job of a Treasurer is an important, if often unappreciated, one. Strong financial stewardship allows an organization to function smoothly and to grow and expand in exciting new ways. It is also a role with which I have some experience. As Council member in the ASA Section on Development, our incoming Chair held a vision for social justice and sought ways to offer remuneration to people who did important service work that had until that point remained uncompensated. However, as is the case in most sections, the Development Section confronted a situation of severe financial constraints. Supportive of her vision, I took the initiative and performed an analysis of section dues across all sections of the ASA and presented my findings to the council. My analysis found a path forward that enabled the section both to maintain its commitment to one of the most affordable and accessible fee structures in the ASA but also to compensate the important volunteer work that had gone unremunerated. I would hope to bring this same initiative, creativity, and out-of-the-box thinking to the post of Treasurer at ESS in order to support the growth and expansion of the organization, while enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion by making conference participation more accessible. I am particularly excited to explore new avenues of fundraising and experimenting with new methods of engagement through new technologies and digital media.

Elena Vesselinov is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center, at the City University of New York. She earned a Master's degree in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from Essex University, United Kingdom and then a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University at Albany, State University of New York. Vesselinov's first academic position was at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. After 5 years in

the Department of Sociology there she moved to Queens College, where she has taught for the last thirteen years. She was awarded two times the Certificate of Recognition, City University of New York, in Honor of Outstanding Scholarly Achievements and Contributions to the Creation and Transmittal of Knowledge. For almost two decades Vesselinov has conducted research related to urban inequality, working on topics such as housing inequality of the post-socialist cities in Eastern Europe, gated communities in the context of residential segregation, economically diverse neighborhoods, educational disparities, social media and textual analysis. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and other granting agencies. Vesselinov has published scholarly articles in many peer-reviewed journals, the Journal of Urban Affairs, Urban Studies, International Journal for Urban and Regional Research, Sociological Forum, Demography, etc. She currently serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Urban Affairs and has been involved with the Community and Urban Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association since graduate school. She has served on the CUSS Council, the Publications Committee, the Student Paper committee and has contributed to the section in various other ways. She was also invited to be a member of the Scholars Strategy Network, which connects “journalists, policy makers and civic leaders with America's top researchers to improve policy and strengthen democracy.”

Statement-Elena Vesselinov

I am honored to be invited to serve in the position of a Treasurer for the Eastern Sociological Society. As stipulated in the ESS Bylaws I will be happy to help with the periodic financial statements and budgets to be presented at the general Business Meetings. The larger society undergoes a constant social change, however, the present times have been quite challenging for our profession and students. Many undergraduate and graduate students feel disconnected given the transition to fully online instruction following the Covid-19 pandemic. As we slowly weave our way back to be physically present in classrooms, we have to work harder to reconnect with our students, help them navigate this new transition and reestablish relationships with peers, faculty and staff. We should be cognizant of the many challenges that await us, including heightened political polarization, stress, and mental health issues. Sociology as a discipline has always been a home for opposing points of view, diverse groups and many sub-fields and sub-divisions. I believe that now more than ever, we have to work together in good faith, support each other and demonstrate our willingness to collaborate across the many dividing lines. The very first academic conference I attended as a graduate student was the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in 1998, in Philadelphia, PA. I still remember the paper I presented “Individual and Contextual Effects on Homeownership of Immigrants” and I also remember the feeling of being among like-minded colleagues and friends. If elected, I would work towards recreating a similar context of closeness, tolerance, of incorporating more students and early career professionals. I will work to further the ESS goals in advancing: (a) sociological research, (b) the effective teaching of sociology, (c) the development of a more vital relationship between sociology and related disciplines.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Please choose two.

Shruti Devgan is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Bowdoin College. She received her PhD in Sociology from Rutgers University. She held visiting faculty positions at the College of William & Mary and Bowdoin College before starting on the tenure track. Her research focuses on the transnational, digital and intergenerational memories of the 1984 anti-Sikh violence. Devgan has published in journals such as *Identities*, *Contexts*, and *Journal of Punjab Studies*. She is also committed to public sociology and has written for web journals including *The Revealer*, *Berkley Forum* and *The Polis Project*. Currently, she is working on her book manuscript entitled *Digital 1984: Sikh Transnational and Intergenerational Memories of a Violent Past*. Devgan is part of the editorial collective at the *Sikh Research Journal*. She is also involved with several community initiatives, including presenting her own research as well as organizing and moderating discussions for organizations such as the Sikh Research Institute.

Statement-Shruti Devgan

I am grateful for the opportunity to run for ESS's Executive Committee. At ESS, I have served on the Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Award Committee. I have also served on ASA's nominations committee for the section on sociology of emotions. The following will be my focus if elected to ESS's executive committee:

1. Being a woman faculty of color who worked in visiting and adjunct positions for several years, I am in a unique position to reflect on issues of diversity, inclusion and precarity. Even as I have felt marginalized in the academy and discipline, I have also found mentors and colleagues who help me navigate its various challenges. If elected, I will commit to finding ways of providing such support to students and faculty on the margins of the discipline because of their intersectional identities and contingent status. An example of this might be faculty-student and junior-senior faculty mentorship programs and informal meetings.
2. Related to the above, I will also work on creating an inclusive space for graduate students and faculty doing research on non-Western groups and contexts. Sociology in the US continues to have a narrow, US-centric focus, excluding and marginalizing scholars from and working on non-US/non-Western contexts. There is some conversation about these issues in the discipline lately, but we still have a long way to go. One of the most engaging and fulfilling ESS annual meetings I attended was when I participated in a mini conference on the sociology of South Asia. I will do my best to reach out to scholars working on topics related to the global South and invite them to organize formal paper sessions and cultivate informal social networks.
3. In my research and teaching, I am invested in making complex ideas accessible and little-known narratives visible to wider audiences. In this vein, I will also work to make ESS members' research more accessible to the general public. One possible way to do this would be to collaborate with a web journal or create our own web journal showcasing latest research written in jargon-free language, and advertising and spreading word about these journals and articles through social media.

Christel Kesler is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Colby College in Maine. She also currently serves as the Faculty Director of Colby's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs. She earned her BA (1998) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison,

her MA (2001) and PhD (2007) from the University of California-Berkeley, and also holds an honorary MA (2007) from the University of Oxford. Before joining the Colby faculty in 2017, she taught at Barnard College and was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. Kesler has been a consulting editor for the *American Journal of Sociology*, a commissioning editor for the ASA's public sociology blog *Work in Progress: Sociology on the Economy, Work, and Inequality*, and is currently an associate editor for the Race and Ethnicity section of the open access journal *Frontiers in Sociology*.

Kesler's main areas of research are international migration, social policy and the welfare state, and social stratification, with a focus on how social policies shape immigrants' experiences of incorporation into host societies in North America and Western Europe and how immigration-generated diversity affects social policymaking. Her work has appeared in a range of journals in the field, including the *International Migration Review*, *Social Science Research*, and *Social Forces*, as well as in edited volumes and policy reports.

Statement-Christel Kesler

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the ESS as a member of the Executive Committee. As a faculty member at a small institution that exclusively enrolls undergraduate students, I see ESS as a uniquely situated entry point into our discipline. I have invited a number of my top students to the ESS Annual Meeting over recent years, and due to the affordable fee structure, dedicated undergraduate poster sessions, and reasonable travel costs from our home institution, ESS has been far more accessible to them than larger, national conferences, while still providing programming at the cutting edge of our field. On the Executive Committee, I would be committed to the ongoing work of improving our organization's accessibility to sociologists from diverse backgrounds, with a range of institutional affiliations, and at different stages in their careers.

Prema Kurien is Professor of Sociology, Past Chair of the Sociology department, and Founding Director of the Asian/Asian American Studies at Syracuse University. She was the President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (study of religion from a social science perspective) in 2020-2021 and is the current Past President. She was also the Chair of the Asia and Asian American Studies section of the American Sociological Association (2017-2018). She received her MA degree and a PhD in Sociology from Brown University. She taught at the University of Southern California for 8 years before she joined Syracuse University in 2003.

Dr. Kurien is a scholar of international migration, race, ethnicity, and religion. Her current research examines the ways in which immigrants, with a specific focus on a variety of South Asian groups in the United States and Canada, get civically and politically engaged around community concerns in their new environments. She looks at how race, religion, and other group differences interact with the socio-political structures and cultures of the North American context to impact patterns of activism and advocacy. She adopts a transnational approach in my work (and has also done research in India) to show how

a variety of global factors, including developments in the country of origin, play a profound role in shaping community structures, cultures, and activism profiles of immigrants and even the second generation. She is the author of three award-winning monographs, *Kaleidoscopic Ethnicity: International Migration and the Reconstruction of Community Identities in India* (2002), *A Place at the Multicultural Table: The Development of an American Hinduism* (2007), *Ethnic Church Meets Mega Church: Indian American Christianity in Motion* (2017) and over 60 other sole-authored publications (including in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* and *Sociology of Religion*). She is currently completing her next book, "Race, Religion, and Citizenship: New Ethnic American Advocacy Organizations" and is also writing from her project, "Religious Minorities in the US and Canada: Divergent Patterns of Political Involvement and Activism." Her work has been recognized with a Contribution to the Field award (in Asian/Asian American Studies), three book awards, and three article awards and she has received postdoctoral fellowships and grants from a wide variety of sources.

Statement-Prema Kurien

The invitation to run for a position on the Executive Committee of Eastern Sociological Society came at the right time, just as I was thinking of getting more involved, having completed several other commitments that I had taken on. I recognize that the ESS can and should play an important disciplinary home to a range of scholars in the region -- my own first scholarly presentation was as a graduate student at the ESS meetings! I am committed to find ways to make ESS a more inclusive space that values and showcases the work (scholarship, teaching, and service) of scholars from a wide variety of backgrounds, working at a range of institutions, beyond just the ones at the top of the hierarchy. The ESS and its members can also play a greater role in shaping social policy in our region. I am interested in facilitating this process.