

## **2017 MSS-Minority Scholars Committee Report**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Ted Thornhill – presiding.**

The MSC enthusiastically nominates 3 new committee members for membership – Paul Croll, Augustana College; Derrick Brooms, University of Cincinnati (formerly University of Louisville); and Lisa Covington, University of Iowa. We are grateful for the service and support of Layana Navarre-Jackson, Tanya Gladney and Chavella Pittman who are rotating off the committee this year. We are continuing our efforts to diversify the membership of the MSC committee and will reach out to Native American and Asian American MSS members to join the committee this year. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Minority Scholars Committee, please contact Regina Dixon Reeves, [regina.dixonreeves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:regina.dixonreeves@sbcglobal.net) or request nomination to the MSC committee through the MSS Executive Office at [themss@unomaha.edu](mailto:themss@unomaha.edu). If you request nomination by August 31, 2017, the board will review your request at the upcoming MSS Fall Board Meeting and you will receive notification by the end of this calendar year.

During our committee meeting, Friday, March 31, 2017, the MSC committee debriefed the 2017 annual meeting and discussed the best ways to support the long-range goals of the Midwest Sociological Society. Four goals were identified that the Minority Scholars Committee would work toward in the coming year:

1. Propose a robust schedule of professional development and Race, Ethnicity and Inequality sessions for the 2018 annual meeting (Strategic Direction #5)
2. Actively recruit ethnically diverse faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students to join MSS and attend the annual meeting (Strategic Direction #1)
3. Increase the scholarship around issues of race, ethnicity and inequality by proposing a Certificate in Race, Ethnicity and Inequality (Strategic Direction #5)
4. Offer a networking reception for ethnically diverse faculty, students, and allies at an off-site venue at the annual meeting (Strategic Direction #1)
5. Compile a membership directory of self-identified persons of color in the Midwest Sociological Society (Strategic Direction #1)

The following decisions were made by consensus during the meeting:

1. Committee would like to invite **Paul Croll, Augustana College; Lisa Covington, University of Iowa; and Derrick Brooms, University of Cincinnati to join the Minority Scholars Committee.**
2. MSC would **alternate every other year between our 3 signature sessions and invited paper sessions that focus on Race, Ethnicity and Inequality.** This rotation would allow us to generate papers that could be used in the Race, Ethnicity and Inequality certificate program.
3. Organize **off-site reception at minority-owned venue at future conferences.** If no committee members live in that city, a sub-committee would be convened to organize the networking session. For the 2018 meeting, Ted Thornhill and Darren Wheelock will identify/organize the off-site reception. *Request \$150 from MSS toward reception.*
4. **Propose Faculty Certificate in Race, Ethnicity and Inequality.** Certificate subcommittee members will review, organize and award certificates – Regina Dixon-Reeves, Derrick Brooms, Pernevelon Ellis, Veronica Newton, and Lisa Covington.
5. Work with MSS Executive Officer to **compile directory of minority scholars.** Other than asking permission of the membership to be listed within the directory, are there other things we must do to complete this task?
6. Suggestions of **panels in response to next year's theme** - Sociology and the Public's Health
  - a. **Movie screening of documentary with facilitated discussion**
    - i. **Suggestions for documentaries - - The Waiting Room and Rural Medicine**
  - b. **Convene thematic Session on the physical and mental health of people of color**
    - i. **Invite William Smith, University of Utah to participate in session on racial battle fatigue**
    - ii. **Dr. Goosby, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**
    - iii. **Harold Neighbors – Man Down: How black men access mental health service**
  - c. **Undocumented immigrants**
  - d. **Gerontology session – death and dying**

e. Ethiopian/Somalian community living in Minnesota

7. Feedback about 2017 meeting – overall committee members thought the meeting was well-organized and offered lots of opportunities of intellectual engagement.
8. Encouraged members who organize paper sessions to list MSC as a co-sponsor to increase visibility of the committee
9. **Regina Dixon-Reeves would remain committee chairman during 2018 year.**

During the 2017 meeting, MSC offered its 3 signature sessions: (1) ***Mentoring Diverse Populations: Successful Models & Effective Strategies for Working With Unique Populations of Students Including Underrepresented Minority Students, Athletes, Older Adults, Veterans, and Students With Disabilities***; (2) ***Teaching and Learning While \_\_\_: How Marginalized Identities Shape the Classroom Experiences of Faculty and Students***; and (3) ***Building A Diverse Campus: Recruiting and Retaining Students, Faculty, and Administrators of Color***.

MSC also sponsored 2 professional development sessions geared at graduate students and early career scholars – ***Conducting a Peer Review for an Academic Journal and Giving a Job Talk***. Both professional development sessions were especially well-attended and received. We have received requests for copies of both presentations and people have begun asking which professional development sessions will be offered by the Minority Scholars Committee in the future. We have developed a reputation for facilitating highly interactive and informative professional development sessions.

Next year's meeting will have the theme – *Public Sociology and Public Health*. MSC members have agreed to submit sessions and graduate student members have committed to organizing a session of graduate students from their school for next year's meeting. ***All current MSC members have committed to encouraging their departmental colleagues to join MSS, encourage their undergraduate and graduate students to enter the MSS paper contests, and bringing groups of students to the 2018 annual meeting.***

All members have agreed to reach out to colleagues from the Minneapolis area to encourage them to join MSS, invite their colleagues to join, and bring their

students to the conference. We will also use these contacts to organize another off-site reception for the 2018 meeting.

### **Formal Requests**

In response to the MSS Board and Long Range Planning Committee's call for proposals for Certificate Programs, the MSC makes a ***formal request that a certificate program be added in Faculty Certificate of Professional Development in Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality***. We believe that each year MSS receives sufficient panels, workshops, and plenary sessions to warrant a certificate program. Offering a certificate of Professional Development in Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality will help to increase the visibility of these sessions and encourage MSS participants to attend a full complement of these sessions. A certificate program in this area would be of particular interest to faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and applied sociologists. A subcommittee of MSC members is ready to manage this process should it be approved. The 2018 MSS Certificate Proposal accompanies this report.

We will attempt to have an off-site reception at every city the conference visits in the future. The receptions in previous years have been very successful. We will organize a small committee to identify a minority-owned venue to host MSC members and ally friends. Subcommittee members will consist of MSC members who live in the conference city or members from nearby cities. We are committed to creating a space for networking and support for underrepresented members of the MSS during the annual meetings. We make a ***formal request for \$150 in support of appetizers and 1 soda per attendee at a local venue near the 2018 conference hotel***. A cash bar will be available for participants who would like to purchase alcoholic beverages. We will identify the venue early enough that an announcement of the reception (along with date, time and location) can be published in the online conference program and on the MSS website so potential participants may plan to attend. The *purpose* of the reception is to encourage networking among the members, and provide a space for existing MSC members to get to know other ethnically diverse faculty and students in the region. The reception is also a good tool to recruit future members to the MSC committee.

We continue our work to develop a ***MSS Faculty of Color Directory***. We are committed to the MSS Long Range Planning objectives of supporting a diverse

membership and developing scholarship that promotes the professional development of faculty and students who attend MSS. Regina Dixon-Reeves will work with the Executive Officer to compile that directory using self-identification data on MSS membership forms.

The Minority Scholars Committee invites you to come to our sponsored events at the 2018 MSS Annual Meeting. We are working hard to become more visible and active within the MSS. Our goal is to continue to integrate ethnic minority faculty and students into the profession and the leadership ranks of the MSS. Increasing the diversity of MSS is consistent with both MSC's and MSS' commitment to social justice and equality. A special thanks to the MSC committee members who have volunteered their time, energy, and helpful ideas to make the past year's MSC committee meeting a success!

**2017-2018 Committee Members**

Regina Dixon-Reeves	Jennifer Andersen	<b>Derrick Brooms</b>
Erika Busse-Cardenas	Pernevelon Ellis	<b>Lisa Covington</b>
Miguel Ceballos	Ted Thornhill	
Darren Wheelock	Juyeon Son	
Angela Nelson	Ronald Ferguson	
Veronica Newton		

**Regina Dixon-Reeves** 2018 MSS Minority Scholars Committee Chair

## 2018 MSS Certificate Proposal

Please complete this form and return to MSS Executive Director ([themss@unomaha.edu](mailto:themss@unomaha.edu)) for review and approval. Proposal submissions for a 2018 certificate are due **October 4, 2017**.

<p>Name of Committee Year Certificate Program Started:</p>	<p>Minority Scholars Committee 2017</p>
<p>Title of Certificate and Purpose</p>	<p>Faculty Certificate on Race, Ethnicity and Inequality</p>
<p>Please provide or a brief statement of the criteria used for inclusion of sessions serving the purpose of offering the certification.</p>	<p>The MSC proposes a faculty certificate in Race, Ethnicity and Inequality to highlight the scholarship in this area. We are particularly interested in panel sessions, workshops, and plenary sessions that are centered on racial and ethnic inequality – how it is produced, reproduced, and resisted through individual efforts and institutional structures. Because this is the first time this certificate is being proposed, we highlight sessions that might have been featured in this certificate program had it been available during the 2017 Annual Meeting. Besides the sessions that MSC sponsored: the following sessions/papers would have been included in a certificate on Race, Ethnicity and Inequality:</p> <p>Anti-Refugee and Immigrant Sentiments Globalization; Inequalities and the Struggles of Africa and the African Diaspora; Racism Across Borders: Race and Ethnicity in Global and Transnational Contexts; The Intersectional Experiences of Students of Color on Campus; Tilling the Ground: Disrupting White Racism on College and University Campuses through Strategies of Resistance; Race, Diversity and Inclusion? Social Identities and Their Meaning; Black Lives Matter: Representations and Constructions; Race Relations, Immigration and Social Contexts; Immigration and Communities; The Great Divide? NCAA Division I Athletic Revenues and Student-Athlete Graduation Rates; International Brothers and Sisters: Migrating Race and Racist Ideals in a Global Context; and Intersectionality and Education</p>

If applicable, how many certificates were awarded at the last annual meeting?	No certificates have been awarded to date
Describe the process the committee has in place for sustaining the certification program. Identify how the roster sessions will be completed and by whom.	MSC will convene a subcommittee yearly to review the preliminary and final MSS programs to identify qualifying sessions to be included in the certificate program. The committee will work virtually to agree on the slate of sessions and will present these sessions to the MSS Executive Officer for approval prior to the conference. Subcommittee members will collect applications at the close of the conference and will collate and review the completed applications (certification sheet and reflection paper). Committee members will send an electronic copy of the certificate to all awardees and a copy of certificates and corresponding documents to the Executive Officer of MSS.
Describe how the certification will be validated.	Certification will be validated through signatures of attendance by the session organizer at a minimum of 5 sessions and applicants will need to write a brief statement of reflection of their learning. We will ask applicants to submit their certification sheet on-site by the close of the conference and their reflection paper electronically within 30 days of the conference to be eligible for the certificate
Will an actual certificate be awarded?	Yes      No XX
If so, how will the committee get those certificates to awardees?	Certificates will be emailed to successful awardees
Indicate any budget needed to support the certification program. (TBD: Will there be a charge for participating individuals?)	No budget is requested. Subcommittee members will meet virtually and during the annual meeting. Certificates will be produced electronically and emailed to awardees

Status: Approved      Sent back for revision      Denied Date \_\_\_\_\_