

## **MSS Spring 2018 Committee Report**

**Committee Name: Sociological Practice**

**Committee Chair:** Priya Dua

**Date of Report:** 4/21/18

### **Sessions or programs offered by your committee at the annual meeting (2018).**

Session 19 - Sociological Practice Outside the Classroom

#### **Main issues and agenda items discussed at committee meeting.**

The committee discussed how it fits into the MSS strategic plan. The committee co-sponsored a session - Session 19 - Sociological Practice Outside the Classroom – and the committee discussed the need for the committee to continue to co-sponsor sessions of interest to applied sociologists.

The committee noted that there were several sessions that could have been sponsored by the committee if the committee had been aware of them prior to the program book being printed. Priya said that she would look through the draft of the 2019 program once it was posted to identify potential sessions the committee could co-sponsor.

Some committee members suggested that it might be beneficial for there to be an “applied sociology track” to identify sessions of interest to practitioners similar to what is done at ASA in the hopes of drawing more of them to the annual meeting.

The committee suggested scheduling applied sociology sessions on the same day or consecutive days in order to make it easier for practitioners to attend them since they usually solely responsible for covering the costs of attending the meeting.

The committee suggested reducing the registration fee for applied sociologists or possibly waving it for the first year.

The committee discussed the possibility that people may be reluctant to identify themselves as applied sociologists out of fear of missing opportunities to work with top faculty in their departments.

Becoming an applied sociology is often done by choice rather than necessity and it is important that our sessions be framed in a way that recognizes that distinction.

Asha asked the committee to think about how we can make non-applied sociologists see the value in the practice of the discipline, in particular how we see the application of sociology and how that can be communicated to others. How can we make sociological practice relevant to people exclusively in academia? How can we make applied sociology marketable and how do we frame this in the sessions we offer?

The committee suggested having co-sponsoring a session about how to navigate USAJOBS at next year’s meeting, specifically how to convert a vita to a resume. Other potential sessions could focus on grant writing and program evaluation.

Raeda noted that there is not a lack of interest in applied sociology at other association meetings, citing that a recent session on applied sociology at SWS had standing room only.

At this point, Tom Gerschick dropped by to discuss the theme for next year’s meeting.

After his visit, the committee talked about surveying MSS members to determine what sorts of sessions may draw more applied sociologists to the meeting.

Melissa and Raeda mentioned that meeting tours could include visits to local survey research organizations or centers in host cities such as NORC in Chicago or the University of Nebraska.

Another idea was having themed dinners for applied sociologists which would also be a good networking tool. This would allow people to trade skill sets, meet others in their field, and learn about various job opportunities.

**How did committee work relate to the strategic plan?**

No response

**Are there specific resources you need to meet goals for the coming year?**

No

**Will your committee be seeking funds from the board in the next fiscal year?**

No

**Is your committee interested in having the Chair complete a 2-year term?**

Yes

**Do you have nominations for the Board to fill positions on your committee (they must be MSS members)?**

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