

MSS 2012 Sociological Understandings of the Global Transformation

Marking the 75th anniversary of our first annual meeting, MSS 2012 brings to the forefront the global connections that increasingly inform our sociological work, especially related to social change. The sociological truism that serves as the thematic foundation for MSS 2012 is a deceptively simple one: We are globally *connected* in a single economic, social, and environmental space, but we certainly are not *united* in the space we share. You are invited to join colleagues in Minneapolis to explore the many facets of our discipline's globalized discourse to better understand the global transformation that has profoundly influenced all levels of our social and individual lives.

Our thematic exploration also allows us to capitalize on the synergy generated by the most recent 5 years of innovative and successful MSS programs. Viewed through a global lens, each program offers a myriad of provocative, meaningful streams of sociological inquiry. These include questions posed by:

- Mary Zimmerman (2011) on intersecting inequalities that are systematically global: How do we analyze dynamics of globalization that widen existing inequality and counter development efforts at poverty reduction, especially for women?
- Peter Kivisto and Debra Swanson (2010-NCSA) on the social transformation of communities: How are communities and neighborhoods reinventing themselves in light of new forms of diversity fueled by globalization?
- Diane Pike (2009) on teaching sociological scholarship: How do we demonstrate that our discipline offers a necessary conceptual foundation and skill set to successfully maneuver the global economy?
- Susan Stall (2008) on making sociology more public: How can we communicate our powerful, structurally-based explanations for global transformation to audiences outside the academy who largely rely on media-inspired, individualistic-based views?
- Helen Moore and Jay Weinstein (2007-NCSA): How is social policy shaped by a financially integrated global economy that may eclipse public sector goals to those of the private (corporate) sector? How does a globalized Main Street/Wall Street divide play out in policies related to immigration and migration, outsourcing and globalized labor, health care, human rights, and security and peace initiatives?

MSS 2012 is a celebratory year. Highlighting questions from selected programs with an eye to their global overlay cannot do justice to our long and illustrious 75-year history. Delve into our online archives at www.TheMss.org to discover more. Then join me in Minneapolis to share in the results of this discovery.

Serve as a session organizer for MSS 2012! Go to the online portal at www.TheMSS.org before the August 31 deadline. Enter proposed session title, session format, and preferred sub-disciplinary category. Send comments, questions, or suggestions to me at: llindsey@maryville.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

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