

Sociologists for Trans Justice Annual Meeting

September 16, 2020 | 7:00pm EST | Zoom

Meeting is Called to Order 7:05pm by S4TJ Chair, Daniel Laurison

Welcome and Opening Remarks (Daniel Laurison)

- Ground Rules for the Meeting:
 - Please leave yourself muted unless speaking.
 - During the open part of discussion - will use chat to make note of who wants to speak. Folks will be called on.
 - If anyone comes on or is disruptive, we will kick them out immediately.

Overview of S4TJ Accomplishments (Daniel Laurison)

- Full detailed report was made available to listserv and posted [on the website](#). Highlights provided during the meeting.
- This marks the 5th annual meeting for S4TJ. S4TJ began in 2016 by Eric Grollman and Laurel Westbrook. Daniel Laurison served as the third co-chair of S4TJ (with Laurel 2018-19) and sole chair (2019-20)
- Newly instituted this past year was the executive council/committee (EC).
 - EC comprises seven members: current and past chairs of the organization, and committee chairs.
 - This structure has provided more voices at the table to help organize the organizations.
- On behalf of S4TJ, the EC crafted 2 public statements this year
 - In a reaffirmation of S4TJ's commitment to racial justice, S4TJ published the [Sociologists for Trans Justice Statement on Racial Justice and Black Lives Matters](#). This commitment promised the reworking of the #TransJusticeSyllabus to be more centered on racial justice and representation.
 - In response to a transphobic piece published by a sociologists on measuring sex and gender in survey methodology, S4TJ published the [Sociologists for Trans Justice Statement on Sex and Gender within Survey Methodology](#).
- Will take questions on the report after additional reports.

Reports from S4TJ Committees (facilitated by Daniel Laurison)

Committee on Supporting Trans, Non-binary and Intersex Scholars (presented by Anthony Williams)

- Co-Chair Introductions
 - Alex Hanna (she/her)- Research Scientist at Google
 - Anthony James Williams (they/them)- Doctoral Candidate UCLA, Sociology
- Thanks members who helped contribute to the committee/group. Named members during the call to note that it is members who do the hard work for S4TJ.

- Conferences, Grad Student Survey, Mentorship sub-committees
 - Pandemic created many barriers for committee, as it is unknown when/if conferences may occur again
 - Grad Student Survey group cleaned survey data and have a draft manuscript about non-cis graduate students experiences. Many findings in some ways are unsurprising (i.e. having all-gender affirming bathrooms makes quality of life better on campus) but important to be stated.

Committee on Advancing Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Scholarship (presented by Maggie Nanney)

- Co-Chair Introductions
 - Maggie Nanney (they/them)- Visiting Instructor Hollins University, Gender Studies
 - Blu Buchanan- Doctoral Candidate UC Davis, Sociology [absent from call]
- Thanks members who helped contribute to the committee/group. Group has grown and has many members, so chairs are appreciative of all the hard work!
- Syllabus
 - Trans Syllabus is being reorganized, in accordance with S4TJ Statement on Racial Justice, to focus on intersection of racial and trans justice.
 - Trans Justice Bibliography will be new addition and compile entire list of scholarship relating to trans justice.
 - Publication of the [#BlackTransLivesMatter Reader](#)- a short primer on Black trans scholarship specifically.
- Writing committee
 - Hard at work and dedicated to running writing groups - including a [Facebook trans writing group](#). Join if you haven't already
 - Recently ran a 2-day workshop "Publish Me" about publishing trans work. Great success and hoping to run again!
- Experts and Grants Committee:
 - Lots of behind the scenes work, communicating with journals about trans peer review on trans scholarship.

Committee on Advancing Public Understanding on Trans Issues (presented by Daniel Laurison)

- Co-Chair Introductions
 - Sam Scovill (they/them)- Doctoral Student University of Arizona, Sociology
 - Daniel Laurison (he/him)- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Swarthmore College
- Publicized a lot of the other work occurring in S4TJ.
- New Twitter Account and have been posting on it (@sociologists4tj).
 - Working on a social media policy for this
- Sam has maintained and updated our amazing website so that things are archived and easily accessible.

Leadership Transition (Daniel Laurison)

- Many thanks to all members and the hard work of the EC for all their great work
- Laurel Westbrook stepping down as past chair and off EC

- Many many thanks to Laurel for years of TREMENDOUS service!!!! Integral to everything S4TJ has accomplished. So many people are thankful for your amazing work! S4TJ wouldn't be without you!
- Letters from Eric Grollman and Maggie Nanney read to thank Laurel
- Daniel Laurison becomes past chair, Maggie Nanney new chair for 2020-2021
 - Kit Meyers (Roanoke College) joining EC as the co-chair of Advancing Scholarship committee

This part of the meeting ends at 7:25.

Open Discussion for Comments and Questions of Report

- None raised.

Open Discussion for Comments and Questions for S4TJ Work

- Dustin Rollins (S4TJ Secretary and Treasurer) introduced dues as an idea for the group?
 - S4TJ Dues could cover website costs, paper awards scholarships, etc.
 - Cost? Following LGBTQ Caucus dues could range from \$5 for grad students to \$15 for tenured faculty
 - Comments in chat: some folks thought that might be reasonable. Can move forward and discuss options.
 - There will be the ability to allow someone to sponsor someone else's students, etc.
 - Open to how we categorize (e.g. postdocs) so we don't limit access or gatekeep.
 - Built in ability to always provide access (pay as you can, pay it forward) so anyone can be a member.
- Natalie Ingram (Mentorship sub-committee) asked how we (as a group) have capacity for running a mentorship program this upcoming year.
 - Everyone is experiencing heavy loads and overwhelm, but this is a time when mentees need support the most. Is there a way we could meet the need for everyone?
 - Ideas?
 - Group mentorship chats via Zoom as one possibility
 - Peer support networks or groups
 - Workgroups
 - Some sort of graduate student connection group beyond the writing group - maybe more social and connecting around shared struggles, in general.
- Jess Goldstein-Kral (Survey sub-committee) asked about how to publicize committee materials
 - Infographics from subcommittee available here: <https://s4tj.com/tigradsurvey/>
 - No immediate ideas posed, Daniel recommends using a collaboration between multiple committees (particularly Advancing Public Understanding) to promote materials .
- Daniel Laurison: Getting all of the sociology journals to be able to have gender neutral options for those publishing without a faculty or researcher title. Could end up being an option across multiple manuscript platforms in the long-term.
 - Also focus on author pronouns
 - Discussion of name-change policies for journals
 - Could depend on the publisher in terms of their willingness off the bat

- We have looked at this in previous years, but perhaps we need to renew our push on this.
 - Lots of questions on what the best practices should be...but we can try to find where we share common ground and move that forward.
- Sonny Nordmarken: What are the results from having an expert list so far?
 - S4TJ manages two lists: List of experts for public scholarship (press/media) and list of expert reviewers
 - Meg Osborn (Experts and Grants sub-committee): focus has been on working with journal editors for peer review
 - Possible form on the website where folks could report back to track how often experts are contacted or utilized?
 - If you ever get sent a review request and you can't do it, look at the experts list for ideas of who else could review the piece (Laurel)
- Sonny Nordmarken: Project idea on healthcare insurance companies and gender categorization (among other Healthcare Insurance Issues)
 - Do we know of any sociologists in which this is their specific area? No names raised, Maggie recommended looking at expert list

Meeting Conclusion

- Maggie thanked all for attending and reminded everyone to sign up for committees for upcoming year (begins October)
 - Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/hANzm4GnWWCKvQt6A>

Thanks everyone for coming! Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.