



# 2019 Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

*New York, NY  
August 9-11, 2019  
Westin New York at Times Square*

**The Program Planning Committee of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction is pleased to call for papers that address this year's conference theme or that engage with any other aspect of symbolic interaction:**

## **“Power, Structure, and Intersectionality in Symbolic Interaction”**

Symbolic Interactionism has long been plagued (fairly or unfairly) with accusations of having an astructural bias and failing to adequately engage with the dynamics of power. Many symbolic interactionist scholars have defended the SI perspective against this charge and some have put forward explicit arguments for interactionist conceptions of both structure and power (see, notably, Fine and Kleinmann, 1983; Prus, 1999; Athens 2015). However, the “myth” of the astructural bias has continued to loom over SI and has had a marginalizing effect on the perspective (McGinty 2016). Current socio-political concerns about identity, representation, and marginality are ripe for analyses rooted in the SI tradition: analyses which attend carefully and explicitly to issues of power, structure, and intersectionalities. Indeed, these concerns involve many of the “underdog” groups that symbolic interactionists, as ethnographers and qualitative researchers of the margins, have long been concerned with. The theme of this year's annual meeting encourages symbolic interactionists to face the criticisms of astructural bias head-on and to engage with issues of power, diversity, social structure, and conflict as they are interactionally realized and experienced by individuals and groups and implicated in social life.

We encourage the submission of individual papers and complete thematic panels (3-4 papers) that engage with the conference theme including, but not limited to, such topics as:

Gender Relations  
Gender Diversity and Identity  
Race and Racialization  
Sexualities  
Domination and Subordination  
Conflict in social life  
Agency and constraint

Social stratification  
Power in ethnographic research  
Media and power in discourse  
Stigma and Marginalization  
Self and Identity in the Context of Power Relations  
Social institutions and power

**As always, we are also interested in and will accept papers and panels that engage with any and all aspects of symbolic interactionism, including theory, method, pedagogy, and symbolic interactionist analyses of any and all substantive topics.**

### **Submission Process:**

Please make your submission to the conference organizers by sending the following information to [symbolic.interaction2019@gmail.com](mailto:symbolic.interaction2019@gmail.com) by April 1, 2019.

Paper Title

Abstract (maximum 250 words)

Author(s) Name(s) and Institutional Affiliation(s)

Contact email and telephone number

If you are submitting a complete thematic panel, please include a panel title as well as individual information for all presenters and their papers.

Inquiries and questions may be addressed directly to Stacey Hannem at [shannem@wlu.ca](mailto:shannem@wlu.ca) or at the email above.

### **Accommodations and Planning to Attend:**

A limited number of rooms has been reserved at the [Westin New York at Times Square](#) for conference attendees at a special rate of \$255 (single/double occupancy), \$285 (triple occupancy), and \$315 (quad occupancy). To access this rate you must book your room by July 18, 2019.

[Click Here to Book the group rate with Westin Times Square New York](#)

### **Registration and Membership:**

All presenters will be required to be members of SSSI at the time of the conference. Information about Membership and Conference Registration will follow.

### **Program Planning Committee**

Stacey Hannem, Vice President SSSI, Wilfrid Laurier University (Chair)

Thaddeus Muller, Past-Vice President SSSI, Lancaster University

Tim Hallett, Vice President elect SSSI, Indiana University Bloomington

Lisa-Jo van den Scott, Treasurer SSSI, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Thomas DeGloma, Past-President SSSI, Hunter College and CUNY Graduate Center