

SSSI NOTES

SSSI Officers

PRESIDENT

Michael Ian Borer
Department of Sociology
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89154
E-mail: michael.borer@unlv.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Natalia Ruiz-Junco
Department of Sociology, Anthropology,
and Social Work
Auburn University
7060 Haley Center
Auburn, AL 36849
E-mail: ncr0007@auburn.edu

SECRETARY

Stacey Hannem
Department of Criminology
Wilfrid Laurier University
73 George St.
Brantford, ON N3T 2Y3
E-mail: shannem@wlu.ca

TREASURER

Jillian Crocker
Department of Sociology
SUNY Old Westbury
P.O. Box 210
Old Westbury, NY 11568
E-mail: crockerj@oldwestbury.edu

CHAIR, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Eric Silva
Department of Sociology
Georgia Southern University
1332 Southern Dr.
Statesboro, GA 30458
E-mail: eosilva@georgiasouthern.edu

EDITOR, *Symbolic Interaction*

Lisa-Jo van den Scott
Department of Sociology
Memorial University of Newfoundland
230 New Elizabeth Ave.
St. Johns NL A1C 5S7
Canada
E-mail: lvandenscott@mun.ca

EDITOR, *SSSI Notes*

William Ryan Force
Department of Sociology & Criminal
Justice
Western New England University
1215 Wilbraham Rd.
Springfield, MA 01119
E-mail: william.force@wne.edu

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *SSSI Notes*

Jacob Crawford
E-mail: jacob.crawford@wne.edu

President's Statement

One of the most boring things to read about is other people's writing struggles. But I'm going to ask you to indulge me and to hear me about my own struggle with writing the very words you're reading write now. Please know I'm not asking for your pity, though in between the lines and even through them, I'm asking for your help.

Writing is a solitary act, as our fingers plod away on compliant keyboards, but that doesn't mean we do it alone. How could we? Even the very language we use comes from others. And there are voices in our heads of those we know well, for better and for worse, and from those we've yet to meet, again for better and for worse. Those voices move from the backstage to the frontstage with each keystroke. An audience exists for all writers: an imagined community of readers picking up our words, interpreting them, judging them, and, most likely, ultimately forgetting them. But we hope they hold on to at least some piece of information that we're trying to relay, restate, or reimagine.

But what is it that I want you to remember? Maybe it's more about what I want you to forget? Maybe for just a little bit. Maybe reading this is a break from thinking about COVID and the pandemic, which still carries on despite the relaxing of restrictions on mask mandates and the like. As we enter year number three of the pandemic, it seems we've gotten used to things we're accustomed to, like continually rising death tolls or knowing some people only by the bridge of the nose to top of their heads, subconsciously filling in the blanks of their hidden faces.

Maybe this statement can offer some sort of break from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has shown us the best and worst of human affairs in its first weeks. We've watched as a proud leader doesn't run or hide but rather stands up to a brutal authoritarian as people flee to the safety of bordering nations. Yet within the confines of Russia, calling this a "war" or "invasion" could result in a 15-year jail sentence for

Russian citizens. The Russian government deems any such declarations as "fake news" whereby this war is being fought on the ground and via the news cycles.

Maybe I'm offering some time away from the rampant anti-Blackness, anti-Asian hate, and antisemitism that continue to permeate seemingly all sectors of social life. There are also the anti-LGBTQIA+ bills that have been proposed and are making their ways through multiple U.S. state's legislatures.

Maybe what I'm actually trying to acknowledge is to not forget about any of these things. Maybe this is a reminder of our privilege to remember or, more to the point, our duty to do so and act accordingly. But what does that mean for us as an organization and for us as members of said organization. Do we write statements condemning certain behaviors and actions? Or are such statements just "virtue signaling" and do more about repairing our own spoiled identity rather than repairing the world? Should we also write statements celebrating the positives in the world that are so hard to see in the murky waters of conflict and fatigue? I'm not sure. Again, I'm struggling.

Fortunately for us, we will have a chance to gather as a community in Newfoundland for the Couch-Stone Symposium, which is a paired with the Qualitatives and hosted by Memorial University in late June. This will give attendees a chance to discuss some of the things that I've had such trouble writing about here as we can literally and figuratively roll up our sleeves and get down to the business of making sense of the ways people make sense of the worlds they live in, with, and near.

Michael Ian Borer
SSSI President (2021-2022)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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COUCH-STONE 2022

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER AND BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PROGRAM IS MAY 15!

CLICK [HERE](#) OR GO TO [HTTPS://EVENT-WIZARD.COM/QAC/0/REGISTER/](https://event-wizard.com/QAC/0/REGISTER/)

Registration Fees

(all prices in Canadian Dollars, and include HST)
Couch-Stone is a joint event this year with the Qualitative Analysis conference. Be sure to click the correct registration category on the linked site.

- ◆ Full-Time Faculty: \$215
- ◆ Full-Time Faculty who are SSSI Members: \$175

- ◆ Retired/Underemployed: \$125
- ◆ Retired/Underemployed who are SSSI Members: \$100

- ◆ Graduate Students: \$75
- ◆ Graduate Students who are SSSI Members: \$50

- ◆ Undergraduate Students: Free

- ◆ Day Passes for non-presenters are available at a cost of \$25 per day.

Banquet

The Conference Banquet will be the evening of June 23rd at the Delta St. John's. Tickets are \$55 each and can be purchased on the registration page.

Participants also have an option to sponsor a banquet ticket for a student.

Last Call for Submissions

The final abstract submission deadline is April 15, 2022. New submissions will be monitored and considered as time and programming allows. Submit abstracts [here](#) or go to <https://www.qualitatives.ca/submit-abstract>

Lodging

To book your room at the Delta St. John's Hotel—the conference venue—please visit the link below. This will guarantee your base rate of \$169/night (CAD) per room - a great deal in downtown St. John's. As a courtesy, the hotel has extended this rate a few days before and after the conference (June 19-28) so that you may enjoy all St. John's has to offer while you are here!

Bookings must be made by May 21, 2022 to guarantee these rates. Book your group rate for Qualitative Analysis Conference [here](#) or go to <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1638299393354&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

PLENARIES AT COUCH-STONE

Keynote Address

"Group Life: A Case for Local Sociology"
Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University

Gary Alan Fine is the James E. Johnson Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University. His B.A. degree is from the University of Pennsylvania where he was a student of Erving Goffman. He received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Harvard University, and has taught at the University of Minnesota and the University of Georgia. He is known as an ethnographer, a sociologist of culture, and a social theorist with a focus on the dynamics of interaction. Fine has served as editor of *Symbolic Interaction* and of *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and has been President of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. He has been the recipient of the SSSI Mead, Cooley, and Lopata Awards. Among his many ethnographic projects are studies of Little League baseball, fantasy role-playing games, restaurant kitchens, art schools, meteorology offices, competitive chess, and senior citizen activism. His most recent book is *The Hinge: Civil Society, Group Cultures, and the Power of Commitment*.



COUCH-STONE 2022

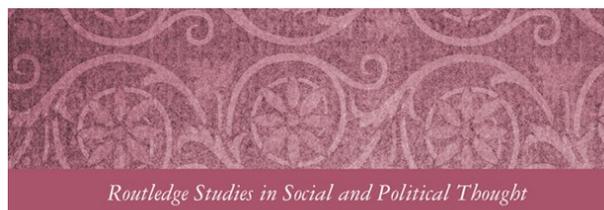
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Featured Speaker

Waverly Duck, University of California, Santa Barbara

Waverly Duck is an urban ethnographer and the 2021 incoming North Hall Chair Endowed Professor of Sociology at the University of California-Santa Barbara. He is the author of *No Way Out: Precarious Living in the Shadow of Poverty and Drug Dealing* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), a finalist for the Society for the Study of Social Problems 2016 C. Wright Mills Book Award. His new book on unconscious racism, *Tacit Racism*, co-authored with Anne Rawls (also with the University of Chicago Press), was the 2020 winner of the Charles Horton Cooley Book Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He also co-authored and curated a new book with Anne Rawls and Kevin Whitehead, titled *Black Lives Matter: Ethnomethodological and Conversation Analytic Studies of Race and Systemic Racism in Everyday Interaction* (Taylor and Francis, 2020). Like his earlier work, his current research investigates the challenges faced by socially marginal groups. However, his work is more directly concerned with the interaction order of marginalized communities and how participants identify problems and what they think are viable solutions.



THE SOCIAL LIFE OF NOTHING

SILENCE, INVISIBILITY AND EMPTINESS
IN TALES OF LOST EXPERIENCE

Susie Scott



Plenary Session

"Knowing Next to Nothing: How to Study Unlived Lives and Things That Don't Exist"

Susie Scott, University of Sussex

Susie Scott is Professor of Sociology at the University of Sussex. She specializes in the micro- sociological theoretical perspectives of symbolic interactionism, Goffman's dramaturgy and phenomenology, applied to questions of self-identity. She has conducted studies of shyness, swimming, asexuality, performance art and total institutions. Susie is the author of *Shyness and Society* (Palgrave, 2007), *Making Sense of Everyday Life* (Polity, 2009), *Total Institutions and Reinvented Identities* (Palgrave, 2011), *Negotiating Identity* (Polity, 2015) and *The Social Life of Nothing: Silence, Invisibility and Emptiness in Tales of Lost Experience* (Routledge, 2019). Susie is currently working on a second project, funded by the Leverhulme Trusts, to develop her innovative "sociology of nothing."

Please visit <https://www.qualitatives.ca/home> for more information. See you there!

CALL FOR NEW EDITOR OF *SSSI NOTES*

SSSI Notes needs a new editor! The newsletter publishes three issues a year (Fall/November, Spring/March, and Summer/June). The newsletter editor also serves as an ex officio member of the Executive Council of SSSI. If interested, please email Eric Silva at eosilva@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

SYMBOLIC INTERACTION VOLUME 45 ISSUE 2

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Transgender Possibilities and the Cisgendering of Family among Cisgender Women

J. E. Sumerau

The Silicone Self: Examining Sexual Selfhood and Stigma within the Love and Sex Doll Community

Kenneth R. Hanson

Dressed for Death: Gender, Respectability, and Resistance at the Gallows

Annulla Linders

"I don't say that I'm a who's who:" Negotiating Identity through Humility Work

Sunah Laybourn

From Engagement to Disengagement in a Psychiatric Assessment Process

Anssi Peräkylä

Review Essay: Moving Beyond Underdog Sociology and towards Critical Interactionism

Christopher T. Conner

BOOK REVIEWS

Managing Clients and Making Sales: Exploring Agent-Client Relations

Scott Grills

A "High Lonesome Sound" Calling you Home

Lee Robert Blackstone

The Robots Are Coming

Dirk vom Lehn

Creative Visions in New York City's Contemporary Art Scene

Henrik Fürst

Performing Authenticity, Multidimensionality, and Mobility

John C. Pruitt

Garfinkel's Careful Examination of Parsons' Theory of Social Action as a Solution for the Problem of Social Order

Nozomi Ikeya

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

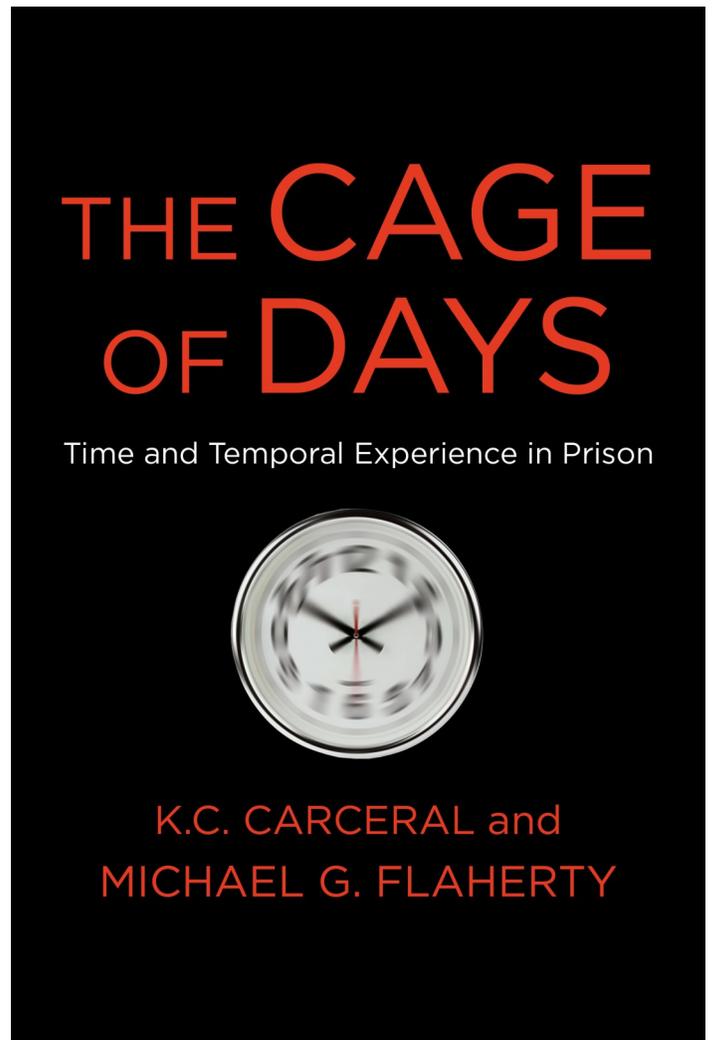
The Cage of Days: Time and Temporal Experience in Prison
by K.C. Carceral and Michael G. Flaherty

Prisons operate with the clockwork logic of our criminal justice system: we punish people by making them “serve” time. *The Cage of Days* combines the perspectives of K. C. Carceral, a formerly incarcerated convict criminologist, and Michael G. Flaherty, a sociologist who studies temporal experience. Drawing from Carceral’s field notes, his interviews with fellow inmates, and convict memoirs, this book reveals what time does to prisoners and what prisoners do to time.

Carceral and Flaherty consider the connection between the subjective dimensions of time and the existential circumstances of imprisonment. Convicts find that their experience of time has become deeply distorted by the rhythm and routines of prison and by how authorities ensure that an inmate’s time is under their control. They become obsessed with the passage of time and preoccupied with regaining temporal autonomy, creating elaborate strategies for modifying their perception of time. To escape the feeling that their lives lack forward momentum, prisoners devise distinctive ways to mark the passage of time, but these tactics can backfire by intensifying their awareness of temporality. Providing rich and nuanced analysis grounded in the distinctive voices of diverse prisoners, *The Cage of Days* examines how prisons regulate time and how prisoners resist the temporal regime.

The webpage for our book can be found at this link:
<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/the-cage-of-days/9780231555050>

Columbia University Press is offering a 20 percent discount with this promotional code: CUP20



FUTURE ISSUES

Don't forget to support the SSSI by joining the organization! Memberships include a year's subscription to the flagship journal--*Symbolic Interaction*--and start as low as \$33.

The next issue of Notes will be in June 2022. Please direct any future announcements, updates, or additional content you would like to see in the next issue of *Notes* to William Force at william.force@wne.edu or Jacob Crawford at jacob.crawford@wne.edu by May 23, 2022.