



## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



**Significant Sociology:  
Sociologists Advocating for a Better  
World**

**Tampa, Florida**

**October 26 – 28, 2023**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Trenita Childers, PhD**

Dear AACS Membership,

On behalf of the AACS Leadership Team, I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of our members joining us in Tampa this year! The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology is a wonderful opportunity for practicing sociologists to come together, expand our networks, and learn from one another.

Our conference theme for this year is: “Significant Sociology: Sociologists Advocating for a Better World.” Conference events include regular paper sessions, professional development workshops, student-centered sessions, poster sessions, as well as networking opportunities with clinical and applied sociologists. We are also excited to welcome sociology students as they engage at the annual conference in different ways. Take a minute to encourage our talented students – the future of the profession – as they share their work, participate in the annual client competition, and serve as student presidors during conference sessions.

Conference sessions cover a range of engaging topic areas including equitable evaluation, community research partnerships, and systemic inequality, among others. There are professional development opportunities related to CAPACS accreditation, applying for federal grants and contracts, working outside of academia, and more! Our invited speakers, Dr. Jillian Powers and Dr. Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman will share insights that will surely foster meaningful discussion among members. And if you would like to share your thoughts about AACCS's future direction, check out the workshop "Visioning the Future for AACCS" to make your voice heard. We hope that you find time to chat with someone new at the reception, ask an engaging question after a presentation, or meet someone who could be a thought partner on a future project.

If you're looking for things to do during your down time, check out some [minority-owned businesses](#) or [LGBTQ-owned businesses](#) to support while you are in Tampa. We look forward to this time together as we find ways to collectively use sociology to advocate for a better world. Thank you for your membership and for your willingness to put your sociological training into practice.

Sincerely,

Trenita Childers, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trenita Childers". The script is cursive and elegant.

AACCS President, 2022-2023

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Welcome to the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Tampa, Florida

Dear AACS Members and Florida Colleagues,

As we navigate through these challenging times in the state of Florida, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the crucial role that applied and clinical sociology plays in addressing the unique issues facing communities.

Florida has always been a region of extraordinary diversity and resilience, and in recent years, Floridians have faced an array of complex adversities, including natural disasters, rising sea levels



that intersect political, social, healthcare immigration, economic and food insecurity. Systemic inequality has intensified the resolve of Floridians as they navigate extreme difficulties. Standing united with our members and colleagues during these unprecedented times, we resisted

attempts to relocate the 2023 annual meeting, determined to deliver expertise from global sociologists who are committed to profound impact. AACS remains steadfast in its mandate to promote applied and clinical practical applications to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities, in Florida, and across the world.

We gather in Tampa to demonstrate the value of clinical and applied interventions in the face of adversity. **Sociologists Advocating for a Better World** make a difference in Disaster Preparedness and Response, Healthcare Equity, Immigration and Social Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, Economic, Gender, Race, Class and LGBTQ+ Inequalities and exclusion. It is

through our collective efforts that we can assemble to support and sustain positive change in Florida. I encourage our members, guests and panelists, to collaborate and support initiatives that advance fundamental human rights, grounded in the principles of ubuntu, we are because of each other.

Thank you for your unflinching support, we wish you well as we work together to advance the intellectual project.

Sincerely

**Professor Mariam Seedat-Khan CCS**  
Vice President

## LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS MESSAGE



University of Tampa  
Applied Sociology Faculty  
From left to right: David  
Zeller, Katie Cooper,  
Damien Contessa, Ruth  
Chananie, Bruce Friesen.  
(Local Arrangements  
Committee: University of  
Tampa Applied Sociology  
Faculty)

Welcome to the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference, and welcome to Tampa! We have been working diligently to prepare for a successful conference for all attendees. Consider starting the conference off by taking the free Thursday afternoon shuttle from the hotel to nearby Plant Hall at the University of Tampa. If you arrive at the University before 5 pm you will have time to take in a little history as you tour the Plant Hall Museum (only \$7 admission if you show your conference badge), located at the south end of Plant Hall. Plant Hall is the former 550 room grand Tampa Bay Hotel, built

between 1888 and 1891. Dr. Jillian Powers will deliver her Keynote Address in the luxurious Fletcher Ballroom at 5 pm, followed by a reception from 6 to 8 pm. Kudos to the Dean of the College of Social Science, Mathematics, and Education at UT, Dr. Holley Tankersley, for sponsoring the reception! The same shuttle runs until 9 pm to return you to the hotel.

We are aware many attendees share our concerns about the impact of recent draconian laws passed in Florida. Two special panels have been organized to help assess the situation. One consists of representatives from Florida activist organizations on Friday at 1:40 pm and the other is comprised of faculty at Florida universities which meets on Saturday at 10:30 am.

Amid the stimulating conference sessions in the newly renovated historic Hotel Flor (formerly the Floridian Palace Hotel), we hope you will find time to explore our fine city. Head west from the hotel for a few blocks to find Curtis Hixton Park on the banks of the Hillsborough River, across from which you will see the beautiful University of Tampa campus. Take a trolley down to Ybor City or catch a water taxi to tour the downtown area by Hillsborough River. No matter how you take it in we believe your time here will be invigorating, relaxing, and inspiring.

**Genuinely,  
Local Arrangements Committee Members**

*Cover Photo Credit: Lindy Hern (University of Hawaii at Hilo)*



*While this is a photo of a beach in Hawai'i, the program committee thought it was fitting for our near beach conference in Florida – with the double rainbows and rays of sunshine*

*coming through grey clouds symbolizing our hope and enthusiasm for the future of AACCS in the midst of turbulent (stormy) times.*



1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Getting Published in a Scholarly Journal: The Inside Information  
on How Journals Work

Bruce Friesen

Jan Marie Fritz

Mezzanine Left

University of Tampa

University of Johannesburg

Federal Grants and Contracts: An Overview

Augie Diana

National Institute of Nursing Research

Mezzanine Right

2:30 – 4:00 PM

Working Outside Academia: Three Different Perspectives

Roger Straus

William Burr

Trenita Childers

Mezzanine Left

Roger Straus Consulting

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Institutes for Research

5:00 -- 8:00 pm      **Welcome Reception**

**With Keynote Address and Poster Presentations**

The welcome reception is our first chance to come together as a full conference community. It is a time to eat good food, catch up with old friends, and meet new colleagues while learning about research projects presented in poster form. There will be finger foods for everyone. This year our opening reception is at the University of Tampa in the Fletcher Ballroom of Plant Hall and is generously sponsored by the Dean of the College of Social Science, Mathematics, and Education at UT, Dr. Holley Tankersley. There is a free shuttle from The Flor Hotel to Fletcher Ballroom – you will find the shuttle in Lot 1 located behind the Valet. The shuttle will run continuously from 4 – 8 pm. You are encouraged to take the shuttle over early and show your conference badge for discounted entry into the Plant Hall Museum.



5:00 pm – Introduction of Dean by Bruce Friesen

5:05 pm – Welcome by Dean Holley Tankersley

5:10 pm – Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Mariam Seedat-Khan

5:15 pm – **Imagining the Possible and Getting Paid: The Praxis of a Sociology at Work**

**Dr. Jillian Powers**

Dr. Jillian Powers, PhD (she/her/hers) is an applied sociologist who specializes in ethnographic research and strategy for digital transformation, UX design, technology engineering and data modernization. This means Dr Powers applies her sociological imagination and methodological toolkit to foster qual/quant conversations and collective understanding of people, society, and what value can mean past profit for organizations about their technologies. She works at JP Morgan Chase in Responsible AI and has previously worked at Cognizant Technology Solutions, Idea Couture, and Red Associates. Before going corporate, she held academic positions at Brandeis University and Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her PhD from Duke University and lives in Brooklyn, NY.



6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Poster Session

**“The Resilience Path to Career Success: Interviews of women in Appalachia who survived Child Sexual Abuse”**

Lilly Meade

University of Virginia's College at Wise

Christa Moore

University of Virginia's College at Wise

**“Terminological (In)Justice: Terminology vs Reality in a Coordinated Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence”**

Julio Montanez

University of Central Florida

Amy Donley

University of Central Florida

**“Knowledge and Practices of Adolescents Towards Managing Reproductive Health: A Sociological Analysis”**

Sumbal Aschig

Fatima Jinnah Women University

Adeela Rehman

Fatima Jinnah Women University

**“The Impact of COVID-19 on Online Student Engagement in Social Sciences Methods Classes”**

Janis Prince

Saint Leo University

Keith Burton

Saint Leo University

Kathleen Collelo

Saint Leo University

Amy Harris

Saint Leo University

Maridelys Detres

Booz Allen Hamilton

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th**

**8:00 – 9:00 am      Networking Breakfast      Floridian Ballroom**  
Breakfast is included with your conference registration. This is a time for informal discussion and networking with other conference participants.

**9:00 am – 10:20 am**

**Session Period One**

***Session 1: JASS Board Meeting***

**Cass Room**

*Chair: Bruce Friesen*

*University of Tampa*

***Session 2: Workshop – CAPACS: Accrediting Your Undergraduate or Graduate Program in Sociological Practice***      **Crystal Lounge**

Norma Winston

University of Tampa

J.E. Sumerau

University of Tampa

**Session 3: Collaboration, Care, and Compassion in Applied and Clinical Sociology Panel Session** **Crystal Room**

Chair: Daniella Jauk-Ajamie

University of Akron

Panelist: Sharon Everhardt

Troy University

Panelist: Yvonne Vissing

Salem State University

**Session 4: Curriculum Development** **Mezzanine Left**

Chair: Colin Suchland

Lincoln Land Community College

- “How Our Graduates Use Sociology in Their Careers”  
Sophie Nathenson Oregon Institute of Technology
- “Doing Sociology" in Support of General Education Outcomes”  
Colin Suchland Lincoln Land Community College
- “Ungrading" for Equity: Evaluation and Reflection in the Classroom”  
Gina Finelli Anne Arundel Community College
- “Promoting Collaborative Problem-Project Based Learning, Transforming Actors and the Academic Environment, and Augmenting Students’ Socioemotional Maturity Through Decreasing Apathy Towards Academic Learning”  
Ty Terrell McNeese State University  
Muhammad Haque McNeese State University

**Session 5: Macro-Clinical Sociology** **Mezzanine Right**

Chair: Veronica Medina

Indiana University Southeast

- “Mandatory Retirement and Involuntary Retirement: A Social Justice Issue”  
Jan Marie Fritz University of Cincinnati
- “Applied sociology in Iran's rural development; Practical and Applying case”  
Maryam Alsadat Hosseinifar ISA  
Seyyed Pourazar ISA
- “Community voices, relationships, and the true value of lived experience in academic-community

partnerships: Are we REALLY putting our money where our mouths are?"

Anne Scheer Southern Illinois University

- "The Battle for Reality: Macro-Clinical Interventions"

Roger Straus Roger Straus Consulting

10:30 am – 11:50 pm

Session Period Two

***Session 6: Certification Demonstration 1: Jano Coetzee***

Cass Room

Chair: Melodye Lehnerer College of Southern Nevada

Chair: Tina Uys University of Johannesburg

Demonstrator: Jano Coetzee

***Session 7: Designing Interventions: Problem Analysis and Program Design Workshop***

Mezzanine Left

Linda Weber

SUNY Polytechnic Institute

***Session 8: Teaching as Care Work: Collaboration, Relationships, and Community Panel Session***

Mezzanine Right

Chair: Christa Moore University of Virginia's College at Wise

Chair: Heidi Williams University of Virginia's College at Wise

***Session 9: Clinical Sociology in Florida: Four Therapists Describe Improvements Among Clients with Sociological Therapies***

Crystal Room

Chair: Bruce Friesen University of Tampa

Panelist: Jose Marinez Els for Autism

Panelist: Katie Schubert Cypress Wellness Center

Panelist: Alison Meyers Tampa Bay Art Therapy

Panelist: Chuck Kanner Sociotherapy Association

***Session 10: Applied Sociology in Higher Education Leadership (Workshop)***

Crystal Lounge

Chair: Kathleen Krueger Anne Arundel Community College

Panelist: Lindy Hern University of Hawaii at Hilo

Panelist: Michael Hirsch Huston-Tillotson University

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm      Presidential Awards Luncheon  
*Floridian Ballroom*

**“Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: Creating Connection in Divisive Times”**

***Trenita Childers***

***AACS President***

Dr Trenita Childers is a senior researcher at the American Institutes for Research. Her work focuses primarily on health equity, social determinants of health, and communicating health information to broad audiences. Dr. Childers also examines how structural barriers – such as discriminatory policies and practices – worsen inequality. In her book, "In Someone Else's County: Anti-Haitian Racism and Citizenship in the Dominican Republic", Dr. Childers uses ethnography to connect race, labor, and immigration. She has extensive expertise conducting community engaged research, especially among marginalized populations including racial and ethnic minorities and immigrant communities. Dr. Childers is a Davidson College graduate with a PhD in sociology from Duke University.

***AACS 2023 Awards***

The Robert Ezra Park Award

The Alex Boros Award

President's Award

The Paul Wellstone Award

William Julius Wilson Award

Lester F. Ward Award

1:40 pm – 3:00 pm

Session Period Three

***Session 11: Client Problem-Solving Competition Student***

***Workshop***

***Crystal Lounge***

***Chair: Cynthia Cook***

***Creighton University***

**Session 12: Florida Non-Profit Work and Activism Panel Session**

**Crystal Room**

Chair: Katie Cooper

University of Tampa

Chair: David Zeller

University of Tampa

Panelist: Sarai Portillo

Florida Rising

Panelist: Luis Soria

Church World Service

Panelist: Nikki Rivera

Families for Strong Public Schools

**Session 13: Developing an Applied Sociology Track at A 2-Year Institution (Workshop)**

**Cass Room**

Chair: Jenny Chamberlain

South Texas College

Chair: Cristian Mandujano

South Texas College

**Session 14: Migration, Immigration, and Assimilation**

**Mezzanine Left**

Chair: Opeyemi Akinade

Alabama State University

- “Refugee Camps as Inherently Marginalizing Settlements”  
Janet Mancini Billson  
Group Dimensions International
- “Coping with intergenerational trauma: How second-generation immigrant students navigate the transition out of college”  
Tharuna Kalaivanan      George Mason University  
Kellie Wilkerson      George Mason University
- “A Theoretical Approach to the Marginality of Refugee Status”  
Janet Mancini Billson  
Group Dimensions International

**Session 15: Global Health Equity**

**Mezzanine Right**

Chair: Lindy Hern

University of Hawaii at Hilo

- “The Problem of Transportation-Equity and Publicly Funded Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Solutions”  
Danielle Gadson Villanova University
- “Building a Table Together: Reaching into Communities to Improve Health Disparities – The Work of “Engaging Alton for Equity”  
Anne Scheer Southern Illinois University
- “Genocide and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: Individual and Cultural Trauma and Resilience in Nanjing Massacre Child Survivors”  
Dan Tan California Neurosociology Research Center  
Charles Kaplan University of Southern California  
Roger Straus Roger Straus Consulting
- “Assessing the impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities in South Africa and the potential for TfD solutions”  
Isaiah Smith Durban University of Technology  
Sam Usadolo Durban University of Technology  
Pamela Theresa Durban University of Technology

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Session Period Four

***Session 16: Sociology in the Workplace: Student/Alumni Round Table***

***Cass Room***

*Chair: Damien Contessa*

*University of Tampa*

***Session 17: Institutionalized Systemic Inequality***

***Mezzanine Left***

*Chair: Taylor Wurm*

*South Texas College*

- “How Practicing Applied Sociologists Make a Difference: An Examination of Identity Development and Careers”  
Chloe Bird Tufts Medical Center  
Catherine Mobley Clemson University
- “AWARE: Advancing Women’s Achievements in Research and Education”

Mariam Seedat-Khan      University of KwaZulu Natal  
Ramnund Mansingh

Durban University of Technology

- “Stop Bleeding Out and Plug-In: Lessons and Insights Gathered Doing Digital Navigation Services with a Bi-POC Community Organization of Folks Impacted by the Criminal System”

Gina Castillo      Kernel of Hope

- “Rates and Mediators of Race-Ethnic Oppression in Organizations”

Olu Oyinlade      University of Nebraska - Omaha

***Session 18: Community Research Partnerships      Crystal Room***

*Chair: Kathleen Krueger      Anne Arundel Community College*

- “Doing Sociology in U.S. Prison Settings: 13 Years and Counting”

Brenda Gill      Alabama State University

- “Are the Locusts Coming Next? Community-Based Research Practices After the Pandemic and Man-Made Political Attacks”

Jeffrey Will      University of North Florida

- “The Ethnic Directory Project: Working toward a harmonious community.”

Mieko Yamada      Purdue University Fort Wayne

Adam Stucky      Purdue University Fort Wayne

***Session 19: LGBTQ+ Rights Panel***

***Mezzanine Right***

*Chair: J.E. Sumerau*

*University of Tampa*

- “Transgender Older Adults, Mental Health, and Applied Sociology”

J.E. Sumerau      University of Tampa

Nik Lampe      University of South Florida

Alexandra Nowakowski      Florida State University

- “The Demography of Manhood”

Pina Holway      University of Tampa

J.E. Sumerau      University of Tampa



**Session 20: Building Positive Internships for Students with  
Community Organizations Session**

*Chair: Jenny Chamberlain*

**Crystal Lounge**

*South Texas College*

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Spooktacular Student Mixer**

**Crystal Room**

Students are invited to attend and interact with other students, AACS board members, and interested AACS conference attendees. Student participants are encouraged to invite their faculty or AACS mentor to the mixer also. There will be food and refreshments provided. Make sure to arrive by 5:30 pm and bring your mobile device so that you can play Halloween themed Trivia using the Kahoot App – no need to download anything ahead of time. There will also be a Halloween costume contest with prizes! The more costumes the better! We hope to see you there!

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 – 9:00 am      Networking Breakfast      Floridian Ballroom**

Breakfast is included with your conference registration. This is a time for informal discussion and networking with other conference participants.

**9:00 am – 10:20 am**

**Session Period Five**

**Session 21: Exploring The Possibility of Forming a Florida  
Sociological Association Panel**

*Chair: Bruce Friesen*

**Cass Room**

*University of Tampa*

**Session 22: Education Access**

*Chair: Linda Weber*

**Mezzanine Left**

*SUNY Polytechnic Institute*

- “Improving Graduate Student Engagement: A Needs Assessment of a Student-Run Organization”

Tharuna Kalaivanan

George Mason University

Kellie Wilkerson

George Mason University

- “Using Surveys to Connect Students to Resources and Build Our Applied Sociology Track”  
Cristian Mandujano                      South Texas College  
Jenny Chamberlain                      South Texas College
- “The Unofficial Curriculum: Psychoactive Drugs, 'Plugs,' and Pressures in Nigerian Higher Education”  
Abiodun Adeyombo                      Federal Polytechnic Nigeria
- “3 Minute Thesis: Developing and Administering a Student Needs Survey to Help Build the Applied Sociology Program at South Texas College”  
Cristian Mandujano                      South Texas College

### ***Session 23: Political Structural Systemic Inequality***

#### **Mezzanine Right**

*Chair: Veronica Medina                      Indiana University Southeast*

- “Research For "Doing": Engaging Reciprocal Partnerships That Produce Truly Useful Work”  
Melissa Fry                      Indiana University Southeast
- “The room where it happens: Community trauma, racial disparities and why true change is only possible if we REALLY listen to children and youth.”  
Anne Scheer                      Southern Illinois University
- “Tall Poppy Syndrome (TPS)”  
Mariam Seedat-Khan                      University of KwaZulu Natal
- “Race-Ethnic and Gender Oppressions in Organization and Job Performance Quality”  
Olu Oyinlade                      University of Nebraska - Omaha

### ***Session 24: Advancing social justice through Human and Animal well-being programs Panel Session***

Crystal Lounge

*Chair: Karlyn Emile                      Global Advocates and Allies Inc*

*Panelist: Alina Luna*

*Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity*

*Panelist: Sloane Hawes*

*Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity*

10:30 am – 11:50 pm

Session Period Six

**Session 25: Client Problem-Solving Competition Student  
Workshop**

Chair: Cynthia Cook

**Crystal Lounge**  
Creighton University

**Session 26: Florida Faculty Panel Session: Precarity and  
Resilience**

Chair: Katie Cooper

Chair: David Zeller

Panelist: Mandi Barringer

Panelist: Sarah Hernandez

Panelist: Alejandro Márquez

Panelist: Deana Rohlinger

**Crystal Room**  
University of Tampa  
University of Tampa  
University of North Florida  
New College of Florida  
University of South Florida  
Florida State University

**Session 27: Partnering with Communities for Research**

Chair: Brenda Gill

**Mezzanine Left**  
Alabama State University

- “Volusia County, FL Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Gap Analysis”  
Caroline Austin                      University of Central Florida  
Amy Donley  
UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science
- “Analyzing and Responding to Unintentional Fatal Overdoses in Hotels and Motels in Orange County, FL”  
Alexandria McClarty      University of Central Florida  
Amy Donley  
UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science

**Session 28: Social Justice and Social Movements**

Chair: Melissa Fry

- “Hail to Thee, Blithe Spirit! Developing Community While Tasting Bourbon”  
Sean Dunne                      Shawnee State University

**Mezzanine Right**  
Indiana University

- “Testimonies and Legislation: A Sociologist’s Experience Advocating and Passing Legislation in Kentucky”  
Donielle Heron-Lovell Western Kentucky University
- “Performing Trauma-Informed, Movement-Relevant Research with Sex Worker Organizers in the United States”  
Emily Coombes University of Nevada

***Session 29: Unequal Partnerships - Are we truly working with communities? (Workshop)*** ***Cass Room***  
*Chair: Anne Scheer* *Southern Illinois University*

**12 – 1:30 pm Keynote Luncheon Floridian Ballroom**

**“Diversity with Adversity: Politics, Policy, and the Future of DEI”**  
**Elizabeth Hordge Freeman** **University of South Florida**

Dr Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of South Florida. She received her B.A. from Cornell University and her M.A./Ph.D. in Sociology from Duke University. She is the author of *The Color of Love: Racial Features, Stigma, and Socialization in Black Brazilian Families* (2015, UT Press), which received three book awards including from the American Sociological Association Section on Emotions, ASA Section on Body and Embodiment, and the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interactionism. *The Color of Love* is the topic of her 2015 TEDx talk and has since been translated into Portuguese. Additionally, she has published widely in leading journals including the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and *Qualitative Research*, among others. In 2016, she co-edited the book *Race and the Politics of Knowledge Production: Diaspora and Black Transnational Scholarship in the USA and Brazil* (Palgrave). With the support of a Fulbright grant to Brazil and the ASA Funds for the Advancement of the Discipline, Hordge-Freeman recently published a new book in 2022, *Second-Class Daughters*:



**Client:** Dr. Joyce Hamilton is the Senior Strategy and Special Projectors Advisor and Interim Political Director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. Dr. Hamilton has held leadership positions in the nonprofit sector and in academe. She is an activist for racial and social justice, works tirelessly to amplify the voices of underrepresented and marginalized groups, and encourages involvement in the civic and political process.

She joined the ACLU of Florida in 2008 and has worked in the areas of policy, advocacy, and development. She has worked at the local, state, and national levels on a range of civil liberties and civil rights issues including felon enfranchisement, voting rights, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, juvenile justice, criminal justice, racial justice, and police practices. (read more about Dr. Hamilton and the ACLU of Florida on the AACS Website).

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Session Period Eight

***Session 31: Visioning the Future of AACS Panel Session***

***Crystal Room***

***Chair: Bruce Freisen***

***Incoming President***

Panelist: William Burr

Vice-President Elect

Panelist: Augie Diana

Treasurer

Panelist: Lindy Hern

President Elect

Panelist: Fonda Martin

Executive Director

Panelist: Colin Suchland

Incoming Secretary

Join us for another special full conference session in which we will discuss how we will work together as a community to build upon the strong foundation of AACS history and work to overcome the challenges present in our current era.

Like many organizations, AACS has been challenged to survive and flourish these past few years during and following the COVID 19 Pandemic. Dr Trenita Childers' leadership has kept AACS intact this past year. Thankfully, we now have a new



In the coming year I hope you'll feel a similar sense of being home in your dealings with AACS. What binds us – practicing professionals, researchers, clinicians, academicians, students, and others – is the sense that we're changing the world, one piece at a time. This is the place we can come to “talk sociologically,” to share the joys and challenges of engaging in life-changing work in our corner of the world. Take a drink of whatever is in the air at the conference that helps foster mutual respect and curiosity about each other's endeavors. What we learn from each other is applicable in a variety of contexts and it empowers us to be our best selves. Conferences re-energize, inform, and invigorate us for our tasks in the coming year.

You're invited to be an integral part of all of this. There are many opportunities – on the Board, as a reviewer for our Journal of Applied Social Science, as a facilitator of an online workshop, and more. Feel at home: nesting behavior is encouraged! The world needs more people like you. AACS aims to be the organization that simultaneously provides rest, career development, training, and invigoration.

I am humbled to be a part of all of this. Here's to a better world!

Bruce Friesen

Before you go, please consider participating in the,

## AACS Mentoring Program

**Description:** AACS would like to begin a program to connect students, early-career sociologists, and mid/late career sociologists exploring new career paths with more experienced mentors. Individuals will be paired based on their needs and experience levels. Mentors may provide support around a range of issues such as research methods in applied and clinical sociology, applying to and presenting at conferences,



publishing, selecting and applying to graduate programs, navigating the academic job market, navigating non-academic job markets, and writing for professional and public audiences.

**Program Goals:** 1) mentors can provide guidance to students and sociologists, drawing on their experiences as applied and clinical sociologists; and 2) mentees can expand their professional network and receive tailored support that meets their individual needs

**Program Expectations:** Paired mentors and mentees are welcome to figure out what works best for them. We encourage meeting every 3-4 months to share updates and provide/receive support. Mentors and mentees commit to regular check-ins for one year.

**Program Participation:** If interested in participating in this program, please complete the form found via this QR Code.



