



MICHIGAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Sociology and Social Justice: The Scholar as Activist

Saginaw Valley State University | October 18 – 19, 2013

The theoretical principles underlying sociology assist in the development of an informed perspective and allows for social activism, hence, addressing injustice and how it manifest in our communities. Sociology as a discipline has a number of unique lenses through which to view the world based on social justice. The theme of **Social Justice and Social Activism** is an attempt to move scholars to consider the role of justice and activism in the social sciences. To each question our responsibility, as producers and consumers of social science research, to engage in conversations that address the importance of equality amongst our diverse society.

This year we invite contributions that address various approaches to Social Justice and Activism. With the understanding that social justice is based on principles of equality, solidarity, human rights and the dignity of every human being, we encourage submissions that broadly address these topics. While this year's theme is focused on Social Justice and Activism, we welcome papers that highlight and address a broad range of sociological topics.

On Friday, October 18 the conference begins with a reception and presentation by **Dr. Brian Thomas**, Associate Professor of Sociology at Saginaw Valley State University. At this free event, Dr. Thomas will discuss "Service-Learning as a Form of Activism: Transforming Students into Social Change Agents."



This year our **Keynote Address** will be given, on Saturday October 19, by **Dr. Monica White**, Assistant professor of Environmental Justice in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin Madison. Her research investigates communities of color and grassroots organizations that are engaged in the development of sustainable community food systems as a strategy to respond to issues of hunger and food inaccessibility. Her most recent publications include, "Sisters of the Soil: Urban Gardening as Resistance Among Black Women in Detroit" and "D-Town Farm: African American Resistance to Food Insecurity and the Transformation of Detroit."

CALL FOR PAPERS

Additional information on conference registration and on how to submit abstracts for paper, poster and roundtable sessions is available on the MSA Website (www.michigansociology.org). Deadline for abstracts and conference registration is September 6, 2013.