

# Welcome to the “City of Oaks” for the 2015 North Carolina Sociological Association Annual Meetings!

Downtown Raleigh



The upcoming NCSA meeting will be in Raleigh, NC on Friday, Feb 13, 2015.

2015 Annual Meeting will Focus on “Building Community in Hard Times”

By: William R. Smith

NCSA President Elect (2014-2015)

I am happy to announce that this year's annual NCSA meeting will be in Raleigh, the state capital, on Friday, February 13, 2015 at the McKimmon Center on the campus of NC State University. The general theme of the NCSA conference is "Building Community in Hard Times". The general idea of all NCSA meetings is that Sociology has several public "faces" in North Carolina, each with potentially many applications. Community building is one of them. This year the focus will be on "community building" issues. Despite the hard times experienced in the US due to inequities, community in various forms often manages to take place – sometimes by design! Building community can be broken into several areas. Below we identify several areas for which we think Sociology has something especially important to say for North Carolina. We invite graduate students, professionals and faculty to submit abstracts to the organizer or me ([wrs@ncsu.edu](mailto:wrs@ncsu.edu)) by December 1, 2014, for one of the following four "open" sessions of the meetings:

1. **Open Session: Community and Immigration.** The changing face of community is perhaps no more apparent than in the increase in the Latino/a population in NC. Here we invite scholars from across the state to present on this important trending phenomena. Session Organizer: Martha Crowley, at NCSU ([mlcrowle@ncsu.edu](mailto:mlcrowle@ncsu.edu)).
2. **Open Session: Urban Development.** Neighborhoods are the locales of community and are very much the product of decision making about zoning, mortgage approval, laws limiting outward expansion, gentrification, Mt. Laurel-like laws (laws that distribute poverty rather than concentrate it), and a host of other issues. We open the session to this broad range of issues in urban development. Session organizer is Kristin Williams, Wake Technical Community College ([knwillia@ncsu.edu](mailto:knwillia@ncsu.edu)).
3. **Open Session: Community, Health and Environment.** Environmental issues, including contaminants, climate change, challenge communities more so today than ever. How do communities face such challenges? What can be done to buffer the adverse impacts of such issues? Session Organizer: Tom Shriver NCSU ([tom\\_shriver@ncsu.edu](mailto:tom_shriver@ncsu.edu))

4. **Open Session: Rural Areas and Small Communities.** Community in North Carolina is largely about small communities and about communities in rural areas. We open the invitation to a wide range of studies of such communities. Session Organizer: Karl Jicha, NCSU ([kajicha@ncsu.edu](mailto:kajicha@ncsu.edu))

In addition to these four areas, we are finalizing the organization of invited sessions (so, not “open”, so no submissions please) on Public Space Utilization (William Smith, presider, Robin Moore, Myron Floyd, Perver Baran, Jason Bocarro, all of NCSU) ; Community and GLBTQ populations (Amie Hess, presider, of Meredith College; Katherine McFarland Bruce of WFU, and Melinda Kane of ECU); Community and Food (Sarah Bowen, presider, Sinikka Elliott of NCSU; Leslie Hossfeld of UNC-W); a Community Study of Textile Mill Workers (Beth Davison, ASU); and Community and Education (Toby Parcel, presider, of NCSU, Roslyn Mickelson of UNC-Charlotte, and Jonathan Livingston of NCCU). Details on these sessions will be in the program to be announced in January.

Those coming in for an overnight stay are recommended to contact the DoubleTree Hilton Brownstone Hotel. The hotel is not walking distance to the McKimmon Center (1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh 27606; 919-515-2277), and bus connections are complex, so plan on driving and enjoy the free parking at the McKimmon Center.

**The web page address for hotel reservations**

is: [http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RDUDNDT-NCS-20150212/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/R/RDUDNDT-NCS-20150212/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Group Name: NCSA meeting  
Group Code: NCS  
Check-in: 12-FEB-2015  
Check-out: 13-FEB-2015  
Hotel Name: [DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Raleigh - Brownstone - University](#)  
Hotel Address: 1707 Hillsborough Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
27605  
Phone Number: [919-828-0811](tel:919-828-0811)

## Submission Guidelines

To be considered for a place on the program, individuals should use the following guidelines:

--Undergraduate and graduate students, professors, and professional community members using sociological theory and research methods are encouraged to submit items for consideration. **Graduate students are highly encouraged to submit!**

--Submissions for any session listed below should include:

- The title of the paper, report, or presentation
- Names and affiliations and contact information for all authors
- An extended abstract.

--Extended abstracts should be approximately 450-550 words and must include the following sections: □objectives and theoretical framework, methods and data sources, □and findings.

**All submissions must be sent to the session organizer.** If you don't know where your paper may fit, contact Dr. William R. Smith (wrs@ncsu.edu).

See the NCSA web page for information on how to register for the meetings and initiating/renewing your membership: [www.ncsociology.org/new/index.htm](http://www.ncsociology.org/new/index.htm)