Date: October 2019
Committee: Program Committee
Chair: Jeffrey Montez de Oca

2019 Program Committee Members

Jeffrey Montez de Oca, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, **Paul Whitinui**, University of Victoria, **Stan Thangaraj**, City University of New York, **Tricia McGuire-Adams**, University of Ottawa, **Dan Henhawk**, University of Manitoba, **Molly Cotner**, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, **Sherry Mason**, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, **Chen Chen**, University of Alberta, **Algerian Hart**, Missouri State University, **Parissa Safai**, York University, **Jorge Moraga**, CSU Bakersfield, **Alexandra Arellano**, University of Ottowa, **Yuka Nakamura**, York University, **Rebecca Wood**, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, **David Leonard**, Washington State University, **Michelle Richardson**, Coppin State University, **Kenneth Sean Chaplin**, John Carole University, **Charles Crowley**, Olivet College, **William Bridel**, University of Calgary, **Akilah Carter-Francique**, CSU San José

1. **Creating a theme**: The theme for the conference developed out of discussions at the previous year's NASSS meeting. Conversations confirmed that a significant percentage of the membership was concerned about a political context that marginalized some scholars of scholar made them feel unwelcomed at the meetings. This led to adopting the "decolonizing sport sociology" theme to encourage self-reflection within NASSS.
2. **Constructing a committee**: Several people at the 2018 meeting volunteered to serve on the committee to help advance the decolonization theme, Paul Whitinui, David Leonard, Jorge Moraga, Michelle Richardson, Algerian Hart, Parissa Safai, Akilah Carter-Francique. Several more people were recruited because of their ability to contribute to the decolonial theme: Stan Thangaraj, Tricia McGuire-Adams, Chen Chen, Alexandara Arellano, Yuka Nakamura, Rebecca Wood. Molly Cotner, Sherry Mason and William Bridel were later recruited for expertise they could provide in organizing the conference.
3. **Soliciting support from UCCS**: I contacted my dean to secure funding towards the cost of printing the program. The College of LAS agreed to contribute $1500 of the Sociology department's surplus budget.
4. **Keynote speakers**:
    a. Given the decolonial theme of the conference, a goal was to only invite Indigenous scholars and activists to give keynote addresses. A list of potential speakers was generated December to January and invitation went out in January and February.
    b. I contacted a group of scholars that stereotypes of American Indians to recruit potential participants for the conference. It was suggested that John Little's film *More Than A Word* could be screened and that Amanda Blackhorse wo is featured in the film could be a potential speaker.
    c. I invited Amanda Blackhorse to act as a keynote speaker and she agreed.
    d. Matthew Gilbert was invited to give the Allan Ingham address and provide a historical perspective and he agreed to serve as keynote speaker. However, in September he cancelled owing to taking a new position.

    e. Paul Whitinui agreed to provide the Ingham address since he was so instrumental in conceptualizing the decolonial theme and had already organized a plenary session that would an opening statement on decolonization. In this way, Paul would provide bookends to frame the decolonial vision of the conference.
5. **Developing the theme**: Once the committee was largely assembled, the month of January was used to brainstorm and draft the specific focus on the conference. The program chair drafted an initial statement and then received commentary from the committee. Multiple iterations were circulated as the language of the theme was honed and refined until the entire (contentious) committee came to agreement on the language in late January.
6. **Call for sessions**: The call for session was circulated in February.
    a. Jennifer McGovern, our Web Committee Chair, was able to create an online submission system, which worked well.
    b. Members of the Committee shared the call with as many affiliated listservs and academic associations as possible. The chair shared it with the NASSS listserv, the NASSS Facebook page, and multiple other online academic forums.
    c. The deadline for submissions was April 1, 2019.
    d. In order to avoid a large "open session" that would be difficult to organize, I create several "generic" sessions, such as "sport & gender", "sport & decolonization", or "sport & development". I then assigned each of these sessions to different committee members so that they could accept abstracts and organize panels. This was a very effective way to organize submissions and keep committee members involved in the process of organizing the conference.
    e. The call for submissions allowed for the possibility of different types of sessions to be submitted (paper presentations, panels, roundtables, pre-constituted paper or panel sessions). All of these types of submissions were utilized by session organizers (1 pre- constituted roundtable, 2 open roundtables, 50 open paper sessions, 2 pre-constituted paper sessions, 10 pre-constituted panel sessions, & 3 open panel sessions). Additionally, the program chair organized 8 professional development workshops.
7. **Call for abstracts**:
    a. The Call for Abstracts went out in mid-April.
    b. Members of the Committee shared the call with as many affiliated listservs and academic associations as possible. The chair shared it with the NASSS listserv, the NASSS Facebook page, and multiple other online academic forums.
    c. Jennifer McGovern was able to construct our online submission system on our website and it worked well.
    d. Abstracts were due June 1st.
    e. The submission system went down just days before the deadline and that caused some abstracts not to go through the system properly. Once we discovered this, I followed up with submitters and made sure that their abstracts went to the correct session organizer.
    f. There were roughly 331 total submissions, with 104 of those submitted to the various 'open' sessions. We did have a handful of late submissions, which I accepted.
8. **Completed Sessions and Abstract acceptance**:

a. Session organizers notified those submitting to their sessions of acceptance or rejection and submitted their completed sessions to me via email by July 1.

9. **Creating the Program**:
    a. Molly Cotner and Sherry Mason met in a conference room on campus. I had already printed out all of the panel titles, presiders, and presenters on sheets of paper that were cut into individual slips of paper. We mapped out all of the rooms available for the conference and created time blocks across the three days that included keynotes, meetings, film screenings, and all of the other events on a white board. With a map of the time and space available for panels, we began laying the slips of paper onto the large conference room table according to available rooms and time blocks.
        i. We were careful to ensure that first presenters and presiders were not double-booked.
        ii. We broke up multiple panels in a single session across different time blocks and preferably days.
        iii. We also avoided to the degree possible scheduling panels whose focus and themes were similar in the same time block.
        iv. We created one hour time blocks for panels with three papers so that each presenter could have 15 minute presentations and 15 minutes of Q&A. We also created one hour and fifteen time blocks for panels with four or more papers so that each presenter could have 15 minute presentations and 15 minutes of Q&A unless the panel had five or more presenters. This allowed for the most equity and efficiency in time usage.
        v. Most of the three paper panels we scheduled for Thursday to accommodate a keynote and plenary panel.
        vi. A MS Excel spreadsheet was used to find people who were listed as first author on multiple presentations. I then contacted the presenters to resolve the conflicts.
        vii. In order to save money, I personally designed and laid out the entire program. I worked with the copy shop on my campus to get a lower print cost. I also minimized the number of color pages in program to keep costs down. I also used a format that would minimize the number of pages in the program. The program was significantly shorter and with less color than programs in recent years saving the organization a significant amount of money.
        viii. After creating the program, I used Excel templates to load panels and presenters into the conference app, Sched. The template from the panels did not work well.
        ix. Recommendation: I recommend discontinue printing a program. It is very expensive and time consuming. Plus, the quality of programs is inconsistent based on the resource available and design skill of the different president-elects. Further, I recommend investing more in a higher quality conference app than Sched so that we can have a better conference app in replacement of a printed program.
        x. A draft of the printed program and the link for the Sched App went out on the list serve stand was posted to our website in late July. Significant

revisions were needed to the program since some sessions were not included. This led to significant movement of panels and use of a smaller room that we had hoped to avoid, but all panels were roomed in the existing time blocks.

xi. William Bridel provided invaluable feedback on the program so that we cold time conflicts and work within the requirements of hotel staff to prepare rooms for their needed uses.

xii. Molly Cotner ran the ads and sponsorship portion of creating the program – contacting past advertisers.

10. Final numbers: 325 registrations as of 21 October 2019, 301 first presenters with 127 different session. Plus, the Alan Ingham Memorial Lecture, the main keynote address, a plenary session, 8 professional development workshops, and the Presidential Address.