

NASSS 2017  
Program Committee Report

Committee: Joshua Newman, Chair, *Florida State University*; William Bridel, *University of Calgary*; Kyle Bunds, *North Carolina State University*; Beth Cavalier, *Georgia Gwinnett College*; Tarlan Chahardovali, *Florida State University*; Cheryl Cooky, *Purdue University*; Melanie Dammel, *Florida State University*; Katelyn Esmonde, *University of Maryland*; Courtney Flowers, *Texas Southern University*; Michael Friedman, *University of Maryland*; C. Keith Harrison, *University of Central Florida*; Victoria Paraschak, *University of Windsor*; Allyson Quinney, *Florida State University*; Nancy Spencer, *Bowling Green State University*

1. Creating a theme. After reviewing previous conference themes as prepared by our archivist, Nancy Spencer, I decided on 'Sport Matters: Physics, Politics, Performances, Pedagogies' to reflect two major themes in our field: 1) the increased exigency and consequentiality of sport in contemporary cultural and political life and 2) the onto-epistemological shift in the discipline toward new 'materialist' approaches to the study thereof.
2. Constructing a committee. Several people volunteered to serve: Michael Friedman, Kyle Bunds, C. Keith Harrison. I invited Nancy Spencer and Cheryl Cooky as former presidents. I invited Melanie Dammel, Tarlan Chahardovali, Ally Quinney, and Katelyn Esmonde as graduate student representatives (three of whom are my students at FSU). I invited Algerian Hart as the Chair and Courtney Flowers as member of the DCCC. I invited Beth Cavalier due to her service on this committee in years passed. I invited William Bridel to join the committee given his important role as Conference Coordinator. Finally, Victoria Paraschak volunteered (before she could be recruited) to serve on the committee as a local host. Thank you to a very hardworking committee.
3. Soliciting support from Florida State. I met with my department chair and he indicated support for the cost of printing the program, for a graduate student worker in the summer, promotional material, and a \$1000 sponsorship of a plenary session. Altogether this totaled about \$3,000 in support.
4. Keynote speakers
  - a. Invitations to potential keynote and plenary speakers went out early 2017.
    - i. I invited Pirkko Markula to give the Alan Ingham Memorial Lecture. She accepted in January.
    - ii. At the advice of Victoria Paraschak, in January I invited Jesse Wentz (through his agent) to give the main keynote lecture. His work as a public advocate for social justice for Canadian First Nations peoples, and his activism in the area of sport, seemed highly relevant for our membership. His participation was confirmed through his agent in June.
  - b. Given the theme of 'Sport Matters,' I decided to create two 'plenary dialogues'—one themed around sport media and public sociology (feature prominent sport media personalities, ESPN's Kevin Blackstone and Kate Fagan) and one on the theme of social justice and sport institutions (featuring writers/academics focusing on how sport has produced various forms of social injustice, Jessica Luther and Jules Boykoff). All plenary speakers were contacted in January and February, with the last speaker to confirm participation in September.

- c. I arranged all transportation and accommodation logistics with the 6 plenary/keynote speakers (or their representatives).
  - d. I invited people to introduce the main keynote and the presidential address and to moderate the plenary sessions. Pirkko Markula asked that I contact Synthia Sydnor to introduce her Ingham lecture, which I did in June. Theresa Walton-Fisette asked me to introduce her for the Presidential address. In late summer I asked Cheryl Cooky and Michael Giardina to moderate each of the plenary sessions. In early fall, I asked student Program Committee members Tarlan Chahardovali and Melanie Dammel to introduce the plenary sessions.
5. Call for Sessions
- a. The Call for Sessions went out on March 4, 2017.
  - b. Jennifer McGovern, our Web Committee Chair, was able to create an online submission system, which worked well. The session submission portal was similar to the one used in 2016, with some changes based on advice from Jen McGovern and Theresa Walton-Fisette based on their experiences from last year.
  - c. 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 NASSM list serve, and the ISSA executive board (for distribution in their newsletter).
  - d. The deadline for submissions was April 1, 2017. All session organizers were notified of acceptance within one week of the deadline.
  - e. The call for submissions allowed for the possibility of different types of sessions to be submitted (paper presentations, panels, pre-constituted paper or panel sessions). All of these types of submissions were utilized by session organizers (35 open paper sessions, 2 pre-constituted paper sessions, and 10 pre-constituted panel sessions).
6. Call for Abstracts
- a. The Call for Abstracts went out on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - 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 NASSM list serve, and the ISSA executive board (for distribution in their newsletter).
  - c. Again, Jennifer McGovern was able to construct our online submission system on our website and it worked well. Again, there were a few suggestions for improvements, but overall the system worked smoothly and it was easy to download the submissions into an excel file.
  - d. Abstracts were due June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. There were roughly 315 total submissions, with nearly 100 of those submitted to the 'open' session. We did have a handful of late submissions, which I accepted through mid-July.
7. Completed Sessions and Abstract acceptance
- a. Session organizers were instructed to notify those submitting to their sessions of acceptance or rejection and submitted their completed sessions to me via email by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Some session organizers failed to notify participants, which I then did as needed.
  - b. I sent out abstract acceptance notification to all submissions to the open section. I also accepted all abstracts that did not get included because they were not a good fit to the sessions to which they were submitted.

- c. There were a few instances where the email notification of an abstract submission did not go to the session organizer. Once I discovered these on the excel of all of the submissions, I notified the session organizers. Most session organizers accepted these submissions. In the instances where they did not, I included them in the ‘open’ submissions.
  - d. In looking through the open submissions, I first tried to match them with sessions that did not get 3 papers, to fill out sessions and to place open submissions. In some instances, this meant that the focus of the sessions changed a bit.
  - e. I send formal acceptance letters to all those attendees who needed them for funding or visa approval.
8. Land Acknowledgement
- a. One critical mission we undertook as a committee was to identity an appropriate opening or acknowledgement for the conference. Given the event is taking place on a traditional territory of First Nations peoples, we strove to engage with existing protocols for acknowledging and raising awareness about the colonial legacies that weigh upon the event.
  - b. I consulted both NASSS members (Dan Henhawk, Victoria Paraschak, Audrey Giles) and local community and tribal leaders—namely Chief Miskokomon (Walpole Island First Nation) and Chief Hillier (Caldwell First Nations) and Russell Nahdee from the University of Windsor—about how to best provide an opening, land acknowledgement, or some statement (or performance) to address the fact that our event is taking place on the traditional territories of First Nations peoples. Vicky Paraschak helped lead our efforts here. We sought consultation from and dialogued with those individuals above in hopes that they could work with us or provide guidance as to how we might go about acknowledging the land and the colonial histories brought to bear thereupon.
  - c. After calling and emailing the chiefs, and speaking with Dan Henhawk and Russell Nahdee, we concluded that the best course of action would be to brief set of remarks on the politics of openings and land acknowledgments at the first full-member event (the Ingham Address). Dan Henhawk agreed to do this.
  - d. After consulting with Brenda Reimer, we also extended an invitation to members of both Walpole Island First Nation and Caldwell First Nations to join us for any part of the NASSS conference free of charge, most specifically the Jesse Wenté keynote.
9. Advertisements and Vendors
- a. Michael Friedman ran the ads and sponsorship portion of creating the program – contacting past advertisers, following through to get ads and payments. He was able to get 19 different advertisements for the program, some of which were vendors, some sponsors of keynotes/plenary sessions, and past and new advertisers from publishers and academic programs. William Bridel was able to secure an in-kind sponsorship for the Opening Reception. These were the final elements added to the program. All these advertisements were provided on the due date of October 1<sup>st</sup> (or shortly thereafter) and incorporated into the program document.
  - b. Melanie Dammel was in charge of contacting vendors for purchasing a booth, advertising space, or just donating books for the raffle. In total, she was able to get almost 100 books for this year’s conference.

## 10. NASSS Fellows

- a. At the direction of the Board, we also were charged with incorporating an induction ceremony for the 2017 (inaugural) class of NASSS Fellows into the program. I worked directly with Theresa Walton-Fisette to allocate time during the NASSS Members' Lunch (below) for this to take place.

## 11. NASSS Members' Lunch

- a. One major initiative we took on this year was to deliver a NASSS Members' Lunch. This was prompted by the member survey in 2016, whereby NASSS members generally agreed that they would like a full-member meal as part of the program.
- b. We were able to include this lunch as part of the conference registration at no additional cost to members. The lunch will be a 'sit-down' lunch, intended to engender social interaction between the members.
- c. In addition to the meal, there will be a short program where NASSS Fellows will be inducted and will feature a special memorial celebration of posthumous inductee Stan Eitzen (which will take place near the end of the meal).
- d. William Bridel coordinated all the logistics of the meal with the hotel.

## 12. Creating the Program

- a. My grad assistant, Tarlan Chahardovali, and I made index cards for each session, listing all presenters and organizers. We also created index cards for every open submission so that those could be organized into sessions. We created a program grid with all space and times. (Thanks to Theresa Walton-Fisette for this organizing idea. I concur with last year's report, an actual scheduling program might be more practical with this number of submissions). Because of the number of submissions, we had to extend the sessions into the ballroom space. I asked organizers to have sessions of no less than 3 and no more than 4—choosing to have more breaks and shorter sessions to encourage more interaction between session, to allow more flexibility for attendees to move between topics, and to allow more time to set-up. Because of late withdrawals, we have a few sessions of 2 papers. We organized all of the sessions by general topic to try to avoid conflicts between subjects and we tried to make sure there weren't conflicts for presenters and presiders. In some cases, we had session organizers with multiple themes and multiple sessions meaning that some organizers appear on the program up to 12 times (2 as author, 10 as session presider and/or moderator). Given there were only 12 session slots, this created an incredible challenge in trying to avoid scheduling conflicts.
- b. Meanwhile Tarlan Chahardovali was able to go through all of the submitted abstracts to find presenters who had more than one presentation as first author. Because of our submission process to session organizers, this check has to be done by the Program Committee. I contacted each of these presenters to find resolution.
- c. After creating the program, each session and person had to be manually entered into the Sched Program App (thanks to Tarlan Chahardovali for doing most of this work!). Related to this, I would suggest that we ask for emails of all presenters in the Abstract Submission form, to make this process easier in the future (if we continue to use a Program App). This was suggested by Theresa Walton-Fisette last year but I missed that suggestion, and it would be of great benefit next year.
- d. The program app was helpful for finding the remaining conflicts, so the program continued to be rearranged for the next few weeks.

- e. I kept a record of the entire program in excel, which is the program into which the abstract submission system downloads. This was helpful for double-checking that everything that got submitted was included in the program. I was able to cross check all information in excel, the printed program, Sched and the abstract document.
  - f. The last issue was finding presidors for all open sessions and for sessions where the session organizers indicated they would not be able to attend the conference. I had a short list of people who asked to be presidors and outside of that I asked regular NASSS members from within the session (particularly on papers with more than one author) to be the presidor of the session in which their papers were placed. In cases where I could find no presidor, I appointed a presenter in that session as presidor.
  - g. A draft of the printed program went out on the list serve and was posted to our website on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Tarlan create a book of all of the abstracts for each session that was posted to the NASSS website shortly thereafter.
  - h. Over 50 changes were requested to the program from the publication of the first draft (August 1) until the deadline for change (October 1), mostly in the form of changes to titles, adding or removing authors, etc. I would strongly recommend a shorter review window next year.
  - i. The program went to press on October 14, with an order for 400 copies.
13. Final numbers: 455 presenters with 342 total presentations (including individuals presenting in each session or panel) and 75 presidors in 112 sessions. Plus, the Alan Ingham Memorial Lecture, the main keynote address, the Presidential Address, and the two plenary dialogue sessions.