

Member-at-Large (Canadian)

Judy Liao, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, Camrose, Alberta.

Vision for NASSS: As a member-at-large, I will be an active participant in cultivating a more equitable, diverse, and accessible NASSS, and continuing to foster the culture of mentorship for junior scholars. When I was an international student in Canada, I benefited greatly from various initiatives of NASSS that enabled me to develop meaningful relationships with supportive senior scholars. I have also met many like-minded colleagues who are inspiring in their stances against institutional whiteness and settler colonialism, and advocacy for decolonization through social and culturally progressive sessions. These people have been instrumental in my professional and personal growth. This is a key reason that I want to be involved in NASSS at the Board level, to help maintain and build upon these traditions. As the leading international conference organization in the sociology of sport, NASSS has the grounding to create an influential community where people can be empowered to create meaningful engagements with the goal of a more equitable, diverse, and accessible field, and I intend to be a part of creating this community

Qualifications for Office: I attended my first NASSS in Vancouver, BC in 2006, when I was a master student at the University of British Columbia. Since then, I have attended and presented at NASSS regularly, and served on committees for the *Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Paper Award* and *Gary Sailes Graduate Diversity Scholarship*. Besides, I have worked on organizing forums at my University Campus for faculty members, staff, administrators, and students to discuss how to implement the University's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity initiative; unofficially, I have been active in the development of a supporting network for minority students on my campus. Furthermore, I have collaborated with my colleagues from other universities to revise the mission, goals, and public-facing materials of a professional association to move beyond gender binaries and unintentional trans-exclusions. I intend to continue this advocacy to create a more equitable and accessible environment, especially for minority junior scholars, at NASSS.

Summary of Publications: Overall, my research interest is located in feminist sport media studies. Particularly, I am interested in gender politics enacted in media representations of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). I have published in the *Sociology of Sport Journal* on the doping allegation of a WNBA superstar, Diana Taurasi, to explore discourses of American exceptionalism on (sport) science and commercialized female athleticism, and collaborated with Dr. Meredith Bagley at the University of Alabama to examine the intersection of race and gender through a case study of the WNBA athletes' Black Lives Matter protest in 2016. Currently, I am analyzing the inclusion of women's sport in mainstream sports-themed video games, such as inclusion of the WNBA contents in *NBA Live* and *NBA 2k* franchises.

Member at-Large

Christina M. Gipson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology, Water's College of Health Professions, and Graduate Coordinator of Sport Management at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA.

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is an organization that continues to grow and offer a safe space for students, researchers, faculty, staff, and practitioners to discuss topics relevant to the organization. The NASSS membership represents diversity in research, membership, and status. My ideal NASSS will encourage a diverse, inclusive network where members can engage in healthy conversations, mentor and be mentored in the profession, and create a supportive community.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS off and on since 2009. Since in the academic profession, I have attended most conferences. I have presented each time, participated in workshops, and engaged in organization community building sessions (like running with the president). I have served on NASSS committees over the years: the Diversity Committee and the Sociology of Sport Journal (SSJ) Outstanding Article Award Committee. At Georgia Southern University, I am the chair of the department diversity and inclusion committee and a member of the College of the diversity and equity committee. I am also an affiliate faculty member of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Summary of Research: I am a practitioner-based researcher who examines people and access within CrossFit. I run a non-profit organization for at-risk youth to give participants access to CrossFit. I study body image concerns of CrossFit women. I am studying ways in which faith can be used alongside CrossFit to develop at-risk youth. I have two manuscripts about recommendations and lessons learned from running a CrossFit afterschool program. I have one manuscript about developing partnerships between at-risk youth programs and local community organizations. I am working on three manuscripts about body image concerns and female CrossFit athletes based on social media, societal expectations, defining femininity through CrossFit.

Member-at-Large (American)

Lars Dzikus is an Associate Professor (sport studies) in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He received his master's and doctoral degrees with a specialization in cultural studies in sport from The Ohio State University. As an undergraduate he studied chemistry, physical education, and education at the Universität Hamburg, Germany.

Vision for NASSS: I support our organization's mission "to promote, stimulate, and encourage the sociological study of play, games, sport and contemporary physical culture." When I think of NASSS and its members, here are some qualities I envision: welcoming, diverse, productive, engaged, thoughtful, thought-provoking, inspiring, critical, and creative. Individual and collectively, I want us to make a positive difference in the world (of sports). I pledge to do more to support that vision. I believe it is imperative for all members support NASSS, especially during the current global COVID-19 crisis and the impending economic challenges.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSH since the late-1990s and a member of NASSS since 2010. At conferences for both organizations, I have been a presenter, session organizer, and session moderator. I have also served on NASSS's election committee. At the institutional level, I have been able to hone my leadership skills in a variety of ways. In the role of Director of Graduate Studies, where I have been able to support the department's day-to-day operations since 2012. I have also served as Co-Director for the Center for the Study of Sport and Religion housed in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies since 2017. Further duties have included service on the Department Leadership Team, the department's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Chancellor's Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People. Further, I have served on my university's Faculty Senate's Graduate Council committee and the associated Academic Policy Subcommittee since 2013. This opportunity has significantly increased my knowledge about the university's policies and procedures, which has benefited my efforts as Director of Graduate Studies for the department. I am looking forward to applying and expanding my leadership skills in serving NASSS and its members.

Summary of Publications: My primary research interests lie in sport and globalization (e.g., diffusion of American football to Europe), sport and religion (e.g., collegiate sport chaplains), and sport and violence (e.g., sexual abuse in youth sport). I have published in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Sportwissenschaft*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, and *The Sport Psychologist*, among others. I generally teach graduate courses in Sport Studies including Sociological Aspects of Sport, History of Sport in America, History and Sociology of International Sport, and Social Theories of Sport.

Member-at-Large

Marques R. Dexter is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Georgia, pursuing a Ph.D. in Kinesiology with a specialization in Sport Management & Policy (expected completion August 2020).

Vision for NASSS: With a bold mission to “...promote, stimulate, and encourage the sociological study of play, games, sport and contemporary physical culture” NASSS exists as the premiere professional and scholarly organization for those of us who often exist at the margins within academia. At a time when divisiveness and ignorance run rampant, NASSS exists as a second home. Progressing from a graduate student into the realm of faculty life I recognize the importance for [soon-to-be] students to remain engaged with the organization, so that our ideas, talents, and skills can be infused with more senior members in efforts to continuously innovate and grow. The intersectional and diverse perspectives, identities, and experiences I possess can be strategically leveraged to expand our growth. Should I have the privilege of serving as a Member-at-Large, I would work with the board to enact their vision and goals for our future but also be a nexus for our graduate student population. A prime opportunity for us to continue to grow is through engaging undergraduate students, specifically through their participation at our annual conference, as well as submitting for our awards. We are only as strong as our membership and must seek new ways to strengthen our long-term sustainability. All the while, we must look toward the future, identifying possibilities for a more prominent place amongst society. In particular, I foresee an opportunity to have a greater impact and voice through the media. We—as a collective—can and should be a place popular press and other outlets reach out to for us to weigh in on events and issues.

Qualifications for Office: Since the discovery of this organization in 2008 during my master’s degree and in 2016 at the start of my doctorate, my passion for engaging with all levels of members has provided me opportunities to grow as an emerging scholar and professional. Insights afforded from graduate student representatives to former President, Dr. Carter-Francique, I’ve come to discover what it truly means to be a member of this organization. My service to NASSS has evolved from participant and presenter at conference meetings to membership on the Service Excellence Award, Communications, Gary Sailes Award, and Diversity Conference Climate Committees. The former president of my institution’s Graduate and Professional Scholars organization, I’ve also served on my college’s Dean search committee, chaired and coordinated two separate student yield programs, serve on UGA Athletic Associations inaugural Diversity & Inclusion Council, a four-year member of our college’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Conference Planning Committee, and other service positions. Evidently, service broadly is more than a passion of mine.

Summary of Publications: A sociocultural scholar, my work centers around the experiences and identities of Black male athletes, particularly those who are academically and athletically high achieving. More specifically, I investigate how their experiences affect their racial, athletic and academic identities. I have co-authored chapters in the edited book, *Recruiting, retaining, and engaging African-American males at selective prestigious research universities: Challenges*

and opportunities in academics and sports (2018) and have several publications forthcoming within gifted education journals on support gifted Black male athletes. Lastly, I have given presentations at conferences and institutions across North America relating to sport, social justice & activism, as well as topics relating to masculinity, track & field, coaching, and others.

Member-at-Large (USA)

Michael Dao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at San Jose State University in San Jose, California, USA.

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is to support and build upon the current discussions related to fostering diversity and inclusion, and highlighting great academic scholarship from various disciplines and traditions. In regard to diversity and inclusion, I hope to see NASSS consider different approaches to engaging a diverse group of academics. As scholars of gender studies, indigenous studies, critical race studies, disability studies, and other fields I believe NASSS is a place in which an intersection of ideas and experience can coalesce. In my very early career, it seems that while the organization is open and friendly, there are still moments of division. I do hope I can be a part of remedying this. For example, as a collection of critical scholars, I believe it is possible to work harmoniously to engender an environment where we all *feel* welcome. And this will take a conscious effort to ensure that all that who attend NASSS feel welcome and accepted. Moreover, I believe NASSS would be strengthened by building relationships with colleagues from the international community. For example, I hope NASSS will build connections with sport studies scholars from Asia overall, and more specifically, the growing academic circles of Southeast Asia. In doing so, I believe the stories of NASSS will grow and create thoughtful discussion for all. Overall, my vision for NASSS is to create a space that is welcoming of various thoughts pushing boundaries of sport studies scholarship while also forging ongoing relationships beyond the circles of academia.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2015 and have attended the conference annually since then (one year off in 2016) presenting papers, organizing sessions, and participating in workshops. I am fully aware that I am an early career researcher; however, I feel that this makes me a suitable candidate for being a member-at-large. That is to say, with fresh eyes and experiences, I possibly have insight from other early career or junior faculty NASSS members that may improve the NASSS experience. I hope that by bringing a newer and freshly minted PhD as myself into the fold further discussions on the future of NASSS will be had.

Summary of Publications: I am an interdisciplinary scholar forged by a relationship intersecting historical sociology, development studies, and participatory epistemologies. Currently, I am working on an oral history project examining how sport and physical activity were implicated in the Vietnamese struggle for liberation against French colonialism and American occupation. Furthermore, my work has been grounded in the area of Sport for Development in which my doctoral dissertation examined through Freire-ian education, figurational sociology, and the Capabilities Approach how Sport for Development was implemented, understood and practiced in Vietnam. My recent sport-related publications have appeared in *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Global Sport Management*, and the *Journal of Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*.