

Candidate for President-Elect

For over 20 years, **Mark S. Schuster** first served as the Dean of Students for Rutgers University-New Brunswick for more than 50,000 undergraduates and now he is the Dean for Graduate Student Life for 14,000 students. He is an affiliate faculty in American Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Psychology and Educational Psychology for the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University. He has taught over 40 college courses on sport.

Vision for NASSS: On the first day of my course "*Transforming Bodies and Identities*," I tell my class I grew up too much of a "geek" to be a jock, and too much of a jock to be a geek! Since 1980, when I worked at NYU, I have self-identified as a "gender subversive" professional. I helped to create the *Standing Committee for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness* of the American College Student Personnel Association (ACPA). If selected President-Elect, I still promise to wear some version of Billy Porter's tuxedo gown, *unfortunately his just won't fit!* After having taught "*Intersection of Sport and Sexuality*" in Psychology at Rutgers for over ten years, a chair questioned my use of sociology journals. I argued Social Psychology was limited to interrogating culture with only situated cognition. I changed to teaching in American Studies since that discussion. I have taught in Women's and Gender Studies since 2000, and helped to create the Critical Sexualities minor: this past year the department added sexuality to its title. I would like one of the next NASSS themes to be the intersection of Sport, Gender, Race and Sexuality. I always felt my professional and intellectual "home" was NASSS. When I went back to graduate school in 1994, when I was almost 40, I was mentored by Dr. Susan Birrell at Iowa. I had already been a Vice President for a software company before the internet. I was one of the first presenters at NASSS to use PowerPoint instead of reading a formal paper (that was interesting). I feel we need to leverage social and digital media more as an organization. Although I consider NASSS the "geek scholars" of sport, our use of electronic and social media needs to match our intellectual and critical theoretical rigor. In 2010, I co-founded "*Project Civility*" at Rutgers *before* a young artist, Tyler Clementi, committed suicide because he was bullied due to his sexuality. *Project Civility*, produced over 30 short videos, and 70 major programs attended by over 70,000 people in two years. The Educational Advisory Board selected *Project Civility* as the best program on civility in the nation in 2012. My student videographer at the time, Scott Lazer, was most recently J Cole's director and now owns his own company. The format of our annual conference needs to evolve to utilize and encourage digital and video story telling regarding critical sport issues. We should peer review digital and online social media similar to our exceptional journal and distribute the best to a broader audience. I was also stunned last year when I mentioned E-SPORTS as an upcoming challenge to how we frame sports (there were crickets on the list surv). They are becoming wildly popular, but are also embedded with sexist and violent content. Rutgers University's E-Sports have won national titles more than once and the University just invested a major gaming space (over a space for my graduate students). The intellect, passion, and critical lens of the NASSS, needs to expand to on-line seminars, webinars, and formalizing a Speaker's Bureau (because we have exceptional scholars and it could be a source of revenue) on a diversity of sport topics. I hope to translate the skills I have proven in technology, student affairs, administration, and over 30 years of teaching courses on sport in higher education to maintain a tradition and *extraordinary legacy of past University of Iowa NASSS Presidents*.

Qualifications for Office: I have chaired or co-chaired nine regional conferences, and two national conferences, including hosting the *Big 10 Threat Assessment Conference* at Rutgers in 2017. I have championed LGBTQAI+ elite athletes since the 1980s, including being on the board of GLAF at MIT in 2004 (the first US conference on sport and sexuality). In 2010, I presented to the NCAA national convention in Atlanta with Pat Griffin, Helen Carroll, and Laurie Priest. Last year, Israel Gutierrez interviewed me for two hours (Yikes!) for his 90 Min ESPN documentary on Sport and Sexuality (not yet released). I will ask him to screen it at NASSS. Even though I self-identify as a cyborg who negotiates space differently, I had to go to Paris and present at ISSSA to learn that I am living and subverting "Crip theory" *because I refuse to take on the deficit label of a disability*. Fifteen years ago, after teaching skiing and roller skating during rush hour in Manhattan, I now have a prosthetic leg due to MRSA. What is the race version of "Crip Theory?" "Pigmentation Theory?" I have presented at over 100 national and international conferences, including 18 keynote addresses on sport, sexuality, androgyny and creativity, to civility, threat assessment, and transgender service in military.

Summary of Publications: As a board member of the NJ Gender Center's Medicine and Humanity series at Rutgers Medical School and RWJ, I am editing a book on health and sexuality with Dr. Gloria Bachmann. We are also writing an article for AMA with Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, the President of the Board of Trustees of AMA, on "*The Hippocratic/Hypocritical Oath*" ...when medical providers refuse to treat patients for religious or ethical reasons. Jesse is also the keynote for our October Colloquium. My interrogation and critique of sport has been mostly through digital media. I have told the stories of lived experiences of elite LGBTQAI+ athletes in a digital series on *sport and sexuality* at Rutgers, the NCAA, ISSA, the *OUTGames* and *GAYGames*. I feel NASSS needs to embrace digital story telling as a format.

President-elect:

Robert J. Lake is in the Dept. of Sport Science at Douglas College, New Westminster, BC.

Vision for NASSS: Diversity measured quantitatively is meaningless unless it is matched with inclusion experienced qualitatively. I am truly inspired by the notion of a diverse NASSS 'community', but this term implies more than just a collection of individuals who share a passion for the sociology of sport. Rather, a 'community' is where members feel welcomed, supported, respected, empowered, cared for, listened to, appreciated and, above all, included. As scholars, this translates to demonstrations of support for colleagues, a sense of collective purpose, the freedom to challenge other's views and be challenged, and accountability for one's words and actions. Above all, an inclusive organization is one that sets, as its benchmark qualities, mutual respect and kindness in approach. Findings from numerous studies in organizational research show that the strength of any organization can be measured in how effectively its members work together. If we want to be effective in our knowledge dissemination and advocacy efforts and leverage our incredible talents as scholars in our new (soon to be post-pandemic) world, we must *pull together* as a community. This means there is no room for elitist practices, exclusive traditions or superfluous hierarchical structures that merely reproduce traditional power dynamics. These are products of a (white, patriarchal) colonial worldview where status is privileged over substance, and where rank is valued more highly than deeds or words. Within NASSS, I believe we should be judged according to what we say and do, rather than what university we work at or what our position/rank in that institution is. If we want to decolonize NASSS, we must start by shedding elitist practices. An oft-repeated complaint of NASSS conferences is that they can be cliquey, but if the present lockdown has taught us anything, it is the need to show more patience and kindness toward others. Only then can we realize the beautiful promise of a truly inclusive and strong NASSS 'community'.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a NASSS member since 2012 and presented at every conference since then. The 2020 conference will be my eighth in a row. As Member-at-Large, I chaired the 2019 Outstanding Book Award committee, and the 2020 Barbara Brown Student Paper Award committee. I also co-chaired (with Algerian Hart) the NASSS Member Retention ad hoc committee, from 2018-2020. I served on the 2018 Vancouver conference organizing committee and before that I helped write the position paper denouncing Donald Trump's travel ban. In all my NASSS roles, I have been an effective administrator, working competently and seeing projects through to their conclusion. As an enthusiastic member of NASSS's social scene, if I can call it that, I lead by example in my efforts to create a friendly and welcoming environment for all NASSS attendees.

Summary of Publications: Most of my research has focused on tennis and issues related to class/social exclusion, gender, race/whiteness, nationalism, talent development, coaching and policy. I have published 3 books – most recently, *The Routledge Handbook of Tennis: History, Culture and Politics* (Routledge, 2019) – and over two dozen articles across 12 different journals in sport sociology, history and media/communications (incl. *Int. Rev. for the Soc. of Sport*; *Sport in Society*; *Comm. & Sport*; *Int. Journal of Sport Communications*; *Nations and Nationalism*; *Journal of Sport History*; *Int. Journal of the Hist. of Sport*). I am an Associate Editor of two journals (*Int. Journal of the Hist. of Sport*; *Sport in History*) and am on the editorial board for *Engaging Sports*, our online journal.

Treasurer

Michael Friedman is a Lecturer in the School of Public Health, Department of Kinesiology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Vision for NASSS: As Treasurer, my vision for NASSS includes three priorities: 1) maintaining the financial viability of the organization; 2) engaging in strategic planning to assess current financial needs and future opportunities; and 3) developing additional financial resources to enable NASSS to better serve its membership. First, I plan to maintain the financial security of NASSS through prudent management of the organization's resources in the tradition of Brenda Riemer. Second, as it is essential that NASSS continues to have sufficient resources to survive difficult times, I plan to assess the organization's current and future financial needs to ensure that membership dues and conference fees are appropriate. Finally, with a secure financial base, NASSS could begin to explore ways to develop new resources that would enable NASSS to provide additional benefits to its membership and expand access to our organization and conferences.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2002 and have attended each conference since. I have usually presented a paper and have frequently organized sessions. In addition to volunteering to serve as Treasurer in Spring 2019, I have served NASSS as a member of the Barbara Brown Outstanding Paper Award Committee and the Conference Program Committee. Outside of academia, I have served on several boards and committees of different nonprofit organizations, including terms as President and Treasurer of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

Summary of Publications: I am a cultural geographer, currently working on a book about baseball stadiums that is under contract with Cornell University Press. In 2008, I won the Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Paper Award (Doctoral Level) and have published four articles in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*. I have also published articles in several other journals, including the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, the *Journal of Sport History*, *City, Culture & Society*, and the *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Secretary

Kyoung-yim Kim is an Assistant Professor of the Practice in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at Boston College in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Vision for NASSS: NASSS has been my academic and intellectual home since I joined as an international student member. Some great NASSS members' continuous mentorship made me feel at home, as one mentor put it, "I'm helping you because I got help from other members." While individual assistance is great, it is more important and sustainable when we offer institutional support. Thus, I envision NASSS as an organization that offers established mentorship programs and services to its members, and that promotes the diversity, visibility, and vitality of the discipline. It seems that welcoming and inclusive policy programs in our community that aim to improve the diversity of membership at all career stages are the way to ensure that our community is visible and vibrant.

Qualifications for Office: I attended NASSS in 2003 and have missed few conferences since. I have been active as a presenter, session organizer, workshop panel for grad student, and committee member. I have served on a number of NASSS committees over the years: the Diversity & Conference Climate Committee for two terms, the Conference Program Committee, the Outstanding Article Award Committee, and the editorial board of the *Sociology of Sport Journal*. I currently serve on the editorial board of the *Korean Journal of the Sociology of Sport*

Summary of Publications: My research focuses on sport's transnational power relations in environmentalism, civic solidarity and activism, labor migration, and media. My earlier work explored transnational golf labor migration, anti-colonial sport language translation, and intersections of race, gender, and nation in media. Currently, I am working on sport and environmentalism in three geographic locations of Korea, Japan, and the U.S. I have published original research papers and reviews in the *Sociology of Sport Journal* resulting in an outstanding article award. Recent publications include book chapters in the anthologies *Sport, Development and Environmental Sustainability* (Routledge, 2020), and *Sport and the Environment: Politics and Preferred Futures* (Emerald Publishing, in press).

Secretary – Rachel Allison

Rachel Allison is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and affiliate of Gender Studies at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. She joined MSU in 2014 after receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Vision for NASSS: NASSS is the conference that I prioritize attending every year because of the opportunities it offers for mentorship, professional development, and community. My vision for our organization continues and strengthens the things that NASSS does well: the embrace of multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives; opportunities to hear and present research; and supports for graduate students that include Take a Student to Lunch, the graduate student luncheon, and silent auction for graduate student travel support. I think that NASSS would benefit from conversations about improving accessibility and reducing the environmental impact of our meetings, perhaps by including options for virtual research presentations. I would also like to see NASSS maintain an updated website, as well as an active social media presence, and continue to support the *Engaging Sports* blog in continued efforts to communicate with a public audience. I would like to better advertise opportunities for graduate students and junior scholars to get involved in NASSS, continue to offer workshops and panels on professional development topics such as publishing and teaching pedagogy, and open space for the NASSS membership to weigh in on important issues related to our organization. Finally, I am often the only person from my university attending NASSS and I think about how we can organize the meetings to allow for new connections while recognizing that NASSS is often a space to reconnect with existing friends and colleagues.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2011 and have attended every meeting since with the exception of 2012, when I was in the field collecting data for my dissertation. In addition to presenting research, I have organized and presided over sessions. I served as a NASSS Member-at-Large from 2015-2017. In that capacity, I chaired the book award (2016) and student paper award (2017) committees. I have also served on the student paper award committee (2015), SSJ article award committee (2018), and early career researcher award committee (current). I am also currently a member of the *Sociology of Sport Journal* editorial board. Beyond NASSS, I review posts for the *Engaging Sports* blog on The Society Pages, organized sessions on sport for the 2019 meeting of the American Sociological Association, and served as newsletter editor for the Sport, Leisure, and the Body section of the Society for the Study of Social Problems from 2013-2018.

Summary of Publications: I am a gender and sport scholar whose research to date has focused on women's professional soccer in the U.S. I am the author of *Kicking Center: Gender and the Selling of Women's Professional Soccer* (Rutgers University Press, 2018). I have published articles on sport in journals such as *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Sport in Society*, and *Social Currents*. In 2019 I was awarded a FIFA Research Scholarship to study fans attending the 2019 Women's World Cup. I work to bring my research to a public audience through op-eds, blog posts, and media interviews. For instance, during the 2019 tournament I wrote an op-ed for the *Washington Post*, was interviewed for an article in the *New York Times*, and spoke on CBC Radio Canada.