

# 2021 Graduate Student Representative Candidate Biographies

## 3 Candidates, Listed in Alphabetical Order

**Md Saidur Rahman** is a first-year international Ph.D. Student at the Department of Kinesiology, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE) at the University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is to facilitate a more inclusive and accessible environment for graduate students involved in research and study of the sociology of sports across North America and beyond. NASSS has already made a positive impact on providing information about graduate programs and connecting with researchers to prospective graduate students; as a Graduate Student Representative, I will continue and expand the network during and outside the annual conference. During the conference, I, with the support of the NASSS Executive Committee, will aim to manage additional resources to increase the participation and financial support for the graduate students and devise an effective strategy to disseminate the information of the annual conference to a broader audience. Even though NASSS listserv is an amazingly resourceful platform for sharing information about recent research and publications, call for papers, academic positions, and graduate programs, I will explore optimizing the platform to utilize the network to share ideas, resources, and knowledge among the graduate students effectively and to create continuous dialogues and discussions regularly throughout the year, beyond the conference. Finally, as an international student, and especially in the middle of a pandemic, the feeling of alienation and exclusion has increased rapidly, and we know the future would be different; my earnest goal would be to ensure that we build the future NASSS as an effective and robust platform to reach out and incorporate diverse group graduate students to engage with NASSS community.

Qualifications for the Position: I signed up for the NASSS listserv in 2018 and connected with the NASSS Facebook group since 2019; however, I have registered as a member recently with NASSS. In 2019, I served as a Coordinator for the International Conference on “Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: Challenges and Sustainable Solutions” (<http://institutions.northsouth.edu/rohingya-2019/>), which has been the largest conference on Rohingya issues (185 oral presentations in 37 parallel sessions on different thematic areas). I have also served in various capacity in my previous job as a Lecturer at the Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, North South University (NSU), Bangladesh, namely Faculty Advisor of International City/Country Management Association NSU Student Chapter; Convener of the Sub-Committee for Undergraduate Curriculum Development for Major in International Studies; Member of the Sub-Committee for Graduate Curriculum Development for Master of Global Studies; and Member of Improvement Plan Implementation Committee (IPIC), Dept. of Political Science and Sociology.

Summary of Publication: I have an interdisciplinary background, comprising Geography and Environment, Development Studies, and Public Administration. As a Kinesiology student, I am currently working on exploring the link between sports, politics, and society. My specific focus is to explore, in the context of Bangladesh, how a colonial sport (e.g., cricket) emerged as a vehicle to express nationalism while indigenous sports (e.g., kabaddi) withered away from people’s imagination. I have published one book chapter titled “Social Movement and Public Policy in Bangladesh: The Case of No VAT on Education Movement in Bangladesh”. In: Society and Public Policy. Dhaka: Public Policy and Governance Program, North South University. Currently, I am awaiting a response for the submission of another book chapter as the first author titled “Women Empowerment through Sports in South Asia: Gender and Sport-for-development Programs in India and Bangladesh” for a forthcoming book Global South Voices on Sport for Development and Peace.



**Eric A. Stone** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Physical Cultural Studies Research Group located in the department of Kinesiology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Vision for NASSS: As the Graduate Student Representative (GSR), my vision for NASSS looks to stand on the shoulders of those who have served before me, to continue that tradition of serving as a voice for graduate students on the executive board, as well as delivering opportunities for us to grow into our future careers (both inside and outside of academia), and grow as people invested in making the world of sport (and thus, society) a healthier and more equitable space for all. Former GSRs have put forth incredible opportunities for us, such as meeting with scholars who share our passions (such as in the Take a Student to Lunch initiative); hosting the graduate student luncheon (where issues related to our experiences and needs can be discussed); and helping students to find cost effective ways of attending the conference (like the roommate partnering initiative) – all of which I intend to continue and build upon. If chosen as the incoming GSR, I aim to implement a voluntary monthly online journal club for all NASSS graduate students wherein we invite a guest speaker to talk to us about their work, their career experiences, and tips and tricks for making it through a graduate program. Having seen this implemented before at my own institution, my colleagues and I have found these meetings to be rewarding not only for their rich networking opportunities with scholars invested in the success of graduate students, but also as spaces where we are able to directly engage with researchers whose work may speak to or provide new avenues of interest to our own.

Qualifications for Office: As a graduate student, I have played a major role in the Physical Cultural Studies (PCS) Graduate Student Association at the University of Maryland (UMD), and have served three years as president, and one year as treasurer. During this time, I have helped to organize and lead our annual graduate student conference (13 years and counting). To broaden the reach of this conference, I also implemented a program for graduate students from around the world to present their work remotely while networking with like-minded colleagues and obtaining valuable presentation and research opportunities. I have also served on our department's graduate student council for two years, wherein we as graduate student representatives shared issues, concerns, and feedback to the graduate chair of our department. I have also had the opportunity to work closely with the leadership of the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland over two years as a graduate student representative and worked to ensure that the school's leadership incorporated the perspective of graduate students in their decision-making processes. I have been a member of NASSS since 2017 and have attended the NASSS conference annually for the last four years and have presented three times.

Summary of Publications/presentations: My work has focused on understanding the experience of physical culture within the contemporary city. Past presentations at NASSS have looked to explore how Young Urban Professionals are reshaping the urban core through their physical activity practices, while my current work focuses on examining sport for development programs and their emergence in the city of Baltimore. Last year, I published a piece examining the role of park evaluation tools in perpetuating inequitable park use in the *Journal of Nature and Culture* and have written opinion pieces on my embodied injury narrative, and current events in sport and US society on UMD PCS' Corpus Blog.

**Cristine Vlcek** is a second year Masters student in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba (Go Bisons!)

Vision for NASSS: As a Black, Canadian female, my vision for NASSS is to be as inclusive and progressive as respectably possible. To me, inclusivity extends to being welcoming and offering uncomplicated virtual options to conferences and events for those who cannot attend physically, which will also present an option for a lower registration fee. It could further attract professionals from different backgrounds and intersectionalities, not only in terms of personal identity, but also with regards to research and scholars from various nations. We are influenced through multiple avenues of engagements of physical cultures, from the recreational to the professional level, through multimedia, fashion, wearable technology to digital gaming; bridging the gap between the social sciences and STEM is an important aspect to address. My vision is to facilitate more opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in academic and professional discussions as part of a circle of professional development, and with those who hold doctorates and titles of authority of various organizations, both nationally and internationally. My belief is that by building a longer table to welcome and seat current and burgeoning professionals' whose fields might divide them as qualitative or quantitative, will promote an expanded vision of diversification and inclusion.

Qualifications for Office: I am currently the graduate student representative for a number of committees within my faculty: Awards Committee, Indigenous Engagement Circle, Academic Recruitment Committee, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee (EDI), Research Ethics Board Committee (REB 1), Risk Management Committee and Graduate Council.

In addition, I am a teaching assistant for two courses: Sociology of Physical Activity and Leisure and Culturally Relevant Pedagogies. I am fortunate to be a research assistant for a number of projects in which I have examined physical education and culturally relevant pedagogy, conducted an examination of all Canadian provincial and territorial physical and health education curriculums, examined physical education and community service learning, as well as physical activity and diabetes. Furthermore, I have been an invited guest lecturer regarding racialized bodies and culturally relevant pedagogy and have been an invited student presenter by the Associate Dean (Research) Dr. Leisha Strachan as part of a faculty seminar series Black Female Athletes and the Politics of Resistance presented by Dr. Delia Douglas in which I presented my own research, Sport as a Pathway to Sexual Health Education: An Exploratory Study.

I am also one who actively attends as many events for my own growth from industry LeadHERship series regarding sports, development and opportunity to various series hosted by faculties other than my own. After all, I believe to become inclusive and well learned is to listen to the voices of others in areas in which I may not have developed an earlier understanding. For me, as a front line worker within the judicial system in Winnipeg, I have witnessed and challenged the institutional and casual racism that negatively impacts all of us when those who choose to remain actively ignorant maintain resistance to inclusivity and diversity.

Summary of Publications: As a Masters student, I have had the privilege of expanding my skill set as a co-author and external reviewer for several pending articles.