

2021 Member at Large Candidate Biographies

5 Candidates, Listed in Alphabetical Order

Beth Cavalier is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Human Development and Aging Services in the School of Liberal Arts at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Vision for NASSS: When I first came to a NASSS conference in Vancouver in 2003, I felt that I found my intellectual home. It is my vision for NASSS to continue to provide that space for burgeoning sport scholars, and provide an ongoing community for members of the wide, interdisciplinary sport studies field. As a trained sociologist who is the only one in her department who studies sport, I rely upon NASSS members as my sounding board, and have found our community to be so important to my professional development. NASSS benefits from a vibrant and diverse membership, and as member-at-large I would continue to support the Board efforts to ensure enfranchisement and participation to all who fit under the NASSS umbrella.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2003 and have attended and presented at NASSS at every conference since 2005. I have served on several NASSS committees, including the SSJ Outstanding Article Committee, the Program Committee (2012, 2016, 2017), and the Conference Planning Committee (2017). I was a member of the editorial board of the *Sociology of Sport Journal* from 2017 – 2020. I was also a member of the ad hoc Student Travel Funding Committee from 2017 – 2019, which helped fund graduate student travel scholarships. From 2018 – 2020, I was the Secretary of the NASSS Board. In addition to my NASSS volunteerism, I was also the Chair of the Sport, Leisure and the Body section of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) from 2013 – 2015.

Summary of Publications: I have published about sport and political activism in *Sport and Society*, and about gay men's experiences in sport in the *Journal of Homosexuality*. I have contributed multiple book chapters: on gay men in sport (*Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Sport: Queer Inquiries* edited by Vikki Krane), on San Francisco Roller Derby (*San Francisco Bay Area Sport* edited by Maureen Smith and Rita Liberti), on Native American mascots in sport (*Focus on Social Problems* edited by Mindy Stomblor and Amanda Jungels) and about sexual identity disclosure in sport (*Handbook for Sport, Gender, and Sexuality* edited by Eric Anderson and Jennifer Hargreaves).

Bryan Clift is Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department for Health, and Director of the Centre for Qualitative Research at the University of Bath in Bath, UK.

Vision for NASSS: Since Andrew Yiannakis's call for the formation of a sociology of sport society in 1978, NASSS has served as a vital resource and node for the promotion, stimulation, and encouragement of the sociological study of movement practices. Over the last 40 years, NASSS has ebbed and flowed in focus and emphasis based on the needs of its members, academic and intellectual changes, and important political projects of the moment. It is with this history, legacy, and people that I wish to contribute. Recent pushes for more open and transparent governance, strategies for fostering inclusion, societal recognition for members, and careful navigation of challenging social and economic times have demonstrated the society's capacity to adapt. Key in these changes have been the support of new and diverse voices. I believe NASSS is underpinned by and gives strength to its North American contingencies but also its international outlook. For my part, I hope my experience as a scholar in the United States and Europe, and with my South American foci and colleagues, can assist in broadening NASSS internationally. In so doing, I also wish to encourage pushing the boundaries of sport into other disciplines that further connect our work academically and intellectually. The last five years, especially, has seen several publicly oriented communication forms that strive to reach further audiences (e.g., revised website, podcasts from members, and increased public writing). Upon these efforts I would value expanding our communication forms (e.g., digital interviews and openly available seminars, podcasts, and a YouTube channel) and contributors, which I believe would assist in working toward NASSS's mission.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2010 and have attended the NASSS conference annually through 2015 and semi-annually since, including presenting and organizing sessions. Having studied in the US and now working in the UK with a research agenda also including South America, I bring a relevant international perspective on movement practices in society. Since arriving at University of Bath, I have developed a new (as of 2020) Centre for Qualitative Research (CQR), which fosters interdisciplinary conversations on qualitative inquiry, and become a member of the British Sociological Association's Leisure and Recreation Study Group.

Summary of Publications: My research is inspired by the notable ways in which sport, physical activity, and popular cultural practices contribute to examining the structure and experience of contemporary social formations and issues. I have recently published two co-edited books: with Alan Tomlinson, *Populism in Sport, Leisure, and Popular Culture* (2021, Routledge), and with colleagues at the CQR, *Temporality in Qualitative Inquiry: Theories, Methods and Practices* (2021, Routledge). My work has been included in edited volumes on the sociological study of sport as well as qualitative methods. My sport-related publications have also appeared in: *Body and Society; Sport, Education, and Society; Sociology of Sport Journal; Qualitative Inquiry; and Cultural Studies Critical Methodologies*.



Lars Dzikus; Associate Professor; Director of Graduate Studies; Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies; University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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. Individually 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, political tensions, and 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 Sport and Religion Research Alliance 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.

Oliver Rick is Assistant Professor in the *School of Physical Education, Performance and Sport Leadership*, at Springfield College in Springfield, MA.

Vision for NASSS: The organization faces some core challenges as it looks forward. The obviously significant impacts of the pandemic need to be addressed, with specific consideration of what reengaging with the membership looks like. This has been an enforced period of reset and the current board has made considerable efforts to consider what NASSS should be within the current context. The vision I have for the organization is centered on this resetting, taking time to make a strategic and considered more forward for the benefit of the whole membership. Firstly, there needs to be an ongoing effort to consider the ways in which NASSS can serve its membership in the midst of this pandemic and its effects. How can the organization aid members in navigating challenging professional environments? Where can NASSS reach beyond the professional bounds of its mission to support members with the personal challenges this type of event has brought with it? Can more be done to move the informal aspects of the NASSS experience into remotely accessible formats, through things like mentoring or platforms for topic discussion? Additionally, the newfound comfort we have all developed with distanced forms of interaction should be a major factor in shaping how the organization functions. There has been a push to embrace new technology and media outlets, but as we all have honed a new set of skills and knowledge with online and distanced platforms, the organization has the chance to utilize these more going forward. There is a new potential for international reach and accessibility that was previously difficult to achieve when largely constructed around in person annual meetings as the primary mode for engagement. Lastly, the organization continues to reckon with many of the same problematic dynamics that surround us in society. There has been great steps and important work done by many in a number of areas. However, a further investment in these efforts is needed for the organization to do better. For some NASSS represents a space of comfort and a place to be surrounded by like-minded colleagues, however this is simply not the case for everyone. Until we can all feel like NASSS is an inviting place, there is more work to be done. Frankly, there are many better placed to spearhead these efforts than myself, but I am willing to do the work and happy to take direction from the whole membership as how to best make these changes. It would be a pleasure to serve you all and do what I can to help.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2010 and through that time have attended the annual conference almost every year. Since joining I have had the opportunity to serve on the Outstanding *SSJ* Article Award committee in 2017, on the Outstanding Book Award committee in 2018, and on the Barbara Brown Student Paper Award committee. These are three committees I have become familiar with and that will inform my ability to potentially serve as their chair in the Member-at-Large position.

Summary of Publications: My research has aligned with three main areas: 1) Global sport and sport policy; 2) Urban physical cultural practices; 3) Sport Media and Digital Audio. These publications highlight some of that work: **Rick, O. J., and Bustad, J. J. (2020).** *Physically Active in the Flattened City*. In J. I. Newman, H. Thorpe, and D. L. Andrews (Eds), *Sport, Physical Culture, and the Moving Body: Materialisms, Technologies, Ecologies*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. // **Clevenger, S. M., Rick, O. J. C., and Bustad, J. J. (2020).** *Critiquing Anthropocentric Media Coverage of the COVID-19 Sports "Hiatus"*. *International Journal of Sport Communication*. Of additional interest and relevance to my work is the project I co-founded: www.somaticpodcast.com

Zachary T. Smith (he/him) is an Assistant Teaching Professor of Kinesiology in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education at Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg.

Vision for NASSS: At its best, I have found NASSS to be an encouraging and nurturing environment for a young scholar, and an organization dedicated to an emancipatory vision. At its worst, I have found it to be a parochial organization that is hard to break into without the right connections—a feature that I’m certain others have experienced to a greater degree than I have. My hope for NASSS is that we can continue the reflective and deconstructive work of uncovering the ways that our organization is built on a model of the academy which we know is both deeply extractive and exclusionary. I am encouraged by the conference themes and pre-conference workshops offered in recent years; and I hope that we can find ways to expand on these initiatives, continuing to imagine what the future of NASSS might look like.

As a specific vision, my hope for NASSS is to further develop one of its best features—mentorship. I believe that one of the best uses of our organization is to foster relationships between scholars. We already do this in the form of the take-a-student to lunch initiative, as well as the recently announced Junior Scholars of Color Mentoring Program. I would like for NASSS to consider additional ways that we can leverage our individual expertise, experiences, and networks for the mutual benefit of our members, and beyond.

In the same spirit I would also like NASSS to consider how we can support contingent and/or precarious scholars in an environment which is increasingly hostile to humane working conditions. While this is a concern for many academic societies, based on the employment market of the past few years it is growing particularly acute for scholars who consider NASSS their primary scholarly home. One initial step might be to designate an executive council position for a contingent scholar. In this vein, how else can NASSS be a practical resource for meeting the needs of our contingent and precarious members? What tools can we provide for advocacy at the institutional level?

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2017 and have attended annually since, both presenting research and organizing sessions. As an early career scholar in a contingent non-tenure track position, I do not have the breadth of experience or extended networks within NASSS that many have. I view this as an opportunity to use my subject position to represent similarly situated members.

Summary of Publications: Primarily I study the nexus of religions and physical cultures. My current project is a “carnal” ethnography of evangelical Christian mixed martial artists, a phenomenon which I understand as an emergent expression of a racialized counter-insurgent tradition in US politics, a tradition available both men and women as part of a modern multicultural “military metaphysics.” To date I have published articles on the study of religions and sports in journals such as *Sport in Society* and *Quest*, as well as research in other outlets such as the *International Journal for Qualitative Methods* and *Annals of Leisure Research*. I have also had work published in an anthology on Critical Event Studies, and forthcoming in an anthology on religion in the US.