



Call for Sessions for Annual Conference

North American Society for the Sociology of Sport
La Sociedad Norte Americana para la Sociología del Deporte
Société Nord-Américaine de Sociologie du Sport

Call for Session Proposals

The 2022 Annual Conference for the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada November 9 – 12, 2022 at Harrah's Las Vegas and The LINQ Hotel & Casino.

The Conference Program Committee would like to invite session proposals for

Raising the Stakes on Representation

When discussing issues of representation in sport and societal institutions, it is often in the context of critiquing the hiring efforts of people from underrepresented groups and recognizing that those efforts were of mere compliance and exhibit minimal symbolic changes. At this moment, there is a need to amplify how the focus on representation can be leveraged to raise the stakes on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Consider this, in response to the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter Civil Rights movement, sports organizations reactively implemented policies, hired DEI personnel (i.e., staff, faculty, officers), and promoted initiatives, training, and education to exhibit solidarity. Arguably, some of these efforts were performative, while others did and are exhibiting an authentic commitment to social change.

The resurgence of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement promoted a racial awakening, illuminated culturally competent deficiencies, and encouraged a range of stakeholders from advocates, activists, legislators, political leaders, athletes, scholars, educators, non-profits, national and transnational corporations to reexamine their influence and impact in society. Power dynamics and differentials were further highlighted through webinars and open discussions, past social movements gained new traction (i.e., #MeToo), and policies, practices, traditions, and cultures were challenged to reimagine personal, social and sporting spaces. Yet with social change efforts, resistance grew more. For example, social change efforts were met with overt pushback in education (i.e., Critical Race Theory scholars, K-12 curriculum in the United States), sport federations and associations held fast to discriminatory policies (e.g., Rule 50), and individuals, groups, and communities (i.e., youth, women, LGBTQ+, people of color) were met with legislative responses to their representational and intersectional identities.

One way the interplay between representation, power, and inclusion is viewed is through Bailey and Jackson's *Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization*. The continuum suggests that being a fully inclusive organization in a transformed society should: 1) reflect full participation and shared power with diverse racial, cultural, and economic groups in

determining its mission, structure, constituency, policies, and practices; 2) ensure members across all identity groups are full participants in decisions that shape the institution, and inclusion of diverse cultures, lifestyles, and interest; and 3) actively works in larger communities (regional, national, global) to eliminate all forms of oppression and to create multicultural organizations. In concert, DeSensi (1994) asserts “Multiculturalism is not some politically correct concept that perpetuates actions that are still prejudicial but is rather the actuality of a true multicultural setting in sport organizations” (p. 63). Embracing organizational dynamics of DEI and multiculturalism is important, but there are deeper societal implications that encompass culture, identity, geographic location, language, legislation, ability, mental health and well-being, and moral and ethical interactions.

This 2022 NASSS Conference theme illuminates the continued need to raise the stakes on representation in every aspect of sports. We are seeking innovative sessions that advance conversation and challenge current opinions and viewpoints.

We encourage session organizers to elicit creativity and innovation in developing topics. We also encourage sessions that challenge dominant philosophies of the hegemonic structures. This call will generate session topics for conference participants to choose from during the Call for Abstracts in May. Session organizers for included sessions are responsible for accepting or declining participants to their sessions.

Session Formats

Proposed session topics are due April 30, 2022. Please note the following different format options:

- **Open Paper Presentation Sessions (3 - 5 papers per session):** These sessions will be open to submissions of well-developed research during the call for paper abstracts.
- **Completed Paper Presentation Sessions:** This session is pre-constituted (4 - 5 pre-selected papers fitting with the session topic). For these sessions, include the name, institutional affiliation, and title of each presenter and the session abstract. The individual paper abstracts for these sessions will be due at the same time as other abstracts. These sessions can also include a commentator, who should be listed in the session proposal.
- **Panel Sessions:** This session will have a focused theme to be addressed by a panel of discussants. Session organizers should include panel members’ names and institutional affiliations with the session abstract.
- **Roundtable Sessions:** This session is designed to include less developed, preliminary, or exploratory research. These sessions can consist of 4 - 5 presenters for 5-minute introductions of research, followed by discussion among those presenting and conference attendees who join the roundtable. These sessions can be open for abstract submissions or can be pre-constituted. Pre-constituted sessions should include the names and institutional affiliations of all presenters. Abstracts for pre-constituted sessions will be due at the same time as all other abstracts.

• **Student Poster Presentation Session:** These sessions will be open to undergraduate students and graduate (e.g., masters, doctoral) students' submissions of well-developed research presented in poster format during the call for paper abstracts.

Session submission reminders:

- All session proposals must include the name, institutional affiliation, and email address of the session organizer; a title (10 words maximum); and a brief abstract (150 words maximum) that describes the session and, ideally, how the session fits into the conference theme. In addition, indicate which type of session you are submitting for consideration.
- For pre-constituted and panel sessions, include the names, titles, and institutional affiliations of the presenters in the session.

Submission Process:

Submit session proposals online at: <https://nasss.org/call-for-sessions/> by Friday, April 30, 2022.

Questions

Direct any questions to the Conference Committee Chair, F. Michelle Richardson, at NASSSVegas2022@gmail.com

Timeline

- Session organizers will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed session on or before Friday, May 13, 2022.
- The Call for Abstracts will be released on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.
- Deadline for submission of individual Paper Abstracts is Friday, June 10, 2022.
- Upon session submissions and review, session organizers will then notify authors of abstract acceptance and submit their proposed completed sessions (4-5 papers/presentations) no later than Friday, June 17, 2022.
- Final completed session submissions are due Friday, July 1, 2022.
- All presenters must be a financial (dues paid in full) member of NASSS at the time of the conference.

Las Vegas +1 Initiative

In partnership with the Diversity and Conference Climate Committee Chair, Marques Dexter, the 2022 Conference Committee is pleased to continue the “+1” initiative. The + 1 Initiative aims to expand the NASSS conference attendance of those who have never attended the conference and the reclamation of members who have been absent for a while. NASSS members are encouraged to invite a +1; this can be a colleague, student, peer, or friend who has never been to NASSS and ask them to register and participate in the conference. As you are considering organizing a session and/or submitting an abstract, we encourage you to bring your +1 to Las Vegas, Nevada! We especially encourage bringing undergraduate students to get ambitious students engaged with NASSS early.

Share the Calls! Feel free to distribute this Call for Sessions and the coming Call for Abstracts with your colleagues, other academic networks, organizations, and listservs.