

**Position:** Diversity and Conference Climate Committee (DCCC) Chair

Umer Hussain is an Assistant professor at Wilkes University, PA, USA.

**Vision for NASSS:** I aspire to elevate NASSS into a global beacon for the sociology of sports, where diversity is not merely accepted but exalted. I foresee a future where NASSS pioneers as a paradigm for inclusive excellence, nurturing an environment where diverse voices are not only acknowledged but are pivotal in sculpting the organization's policy. To truly internationalize the reach of NASSS, I suggest forging collaborations and partnerships with academics and academic bodies beyond North America. In doing so, we will democratize access to knowledge and opportunities, particularly empowering scholars from developing regions who are often underrepresented in the global sociology of sports academia. Environmental sustainability will also be a key element of my agenda at NASSS. I will also advocate for NASSS to embrace more sustainable practices, such as reducing our carbon footprint through virtual and digital events. Furthermore, NASSS must broaden its impact beyond the academic circle. By engaging with policymakers, sport practitioners, and community leaders, we can ensure that our research and discussions translate into practical outcomes that benefit wider communities and inform public policy. I am also committed to developing policies that empower scholars from diverse racial backgrounds and the LGBTQ+ community to use the NASSS platform for advocacy and social activism. Together, we can address and combat the increasing presence of White supremacy in sports academia. Lastly, I am firmly devoted to championing the rights of indigenous groups within NASSS. I will actively work to ensure that indigenous scholars are represented, respected, and influential in shaping our policies and research agendas, thereby advancing their rights and visibility in the sociology of sports.

**Qualifications for Office:** I have been a dedicated member of NASSS since 2019, starting as a Ph.D. student. I have served on several NASSS committees in the past year: the Barbara Brown Outstanding Paper Award Committee, the Conference Program Committee, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Alliance Special Committee. At present, I am serving as a member of the Steering Committee and Scholars Enlightened Engaged Disrupting Structures (S.E.E.D.S) Program Committee Member.

**Summary of Publications:** My overall academic journey has been a quest to intertwine sport management and the sociology of sport scholarship with social justice. This path has led me to explore the multifaceted ways society intersects with sports and eSports. My research embodies an interdisciplinary approach by bridging social psychology with transnational scholarship. My dual expertise as a social psychology theorist and transnational scholar equips me with a unique lens to explore overlooked aspects of sport research, blending socio-individual and cultural analyses. This approach allows me to uncover how individuals' sporting experiences are intertwined with broader societal dynamics, thereby pioneering a holistic understanding of sport within its cultural context. My work has found a home in prestigious journals (e.g., *European Sport Management Quarterly*, *Communication & Sport*, *International Review of Sociology of Sport (IRSS)*, *Games and Culture*, and *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*) and at various international conferences.