

Position: DCCC Chair

Ron Mower is Senior Lecturer in the Physical Cultural Studies (PCS) Program in the Department of Kinesiology, School of Public Health, at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Vision for NASSS: While I do not have a well-defined vision for what NASSS “should” be, I think our greatest strength, our “unity in difference” if you will, is found in our shared commitments to ethical, dialogic, and collaborative energies applied in pursuit of making sport and society better, more equitable, accessible, healthy, and diverse. Since my first NASSS in 2009 as a doctoral student (attending sporadically over the years depending on finances and employment), I have always appreciated the organization as a space for advancing a vibrant, critical, and intellectually robust dialogue on sport, physical culture, and the body. Speaking truth to power and producing scholarship that challenges systems and structures of inequity, building coalitions and community based initiatives for the public good, and using our collective voice in support of the marginalized and oppressed has always seemed to me, what NASSS is about. I would like to see this amplified with more international, intercultural collaborations, clear strategies for increasing membership diversity, and leveraging new technologies to connect our members and share the critical work we do as public intellectuals to produce meaningful change across the world.

Qualifications for Office: If anything, my qualifications for leadership reside in the fact that I do not aspire to lead, but to work alongside those communities I serve. I am humbled by the invitation to run for this position and it should be noted that I have never held office in NASSS previously. Friends and colleagues who know me are well aware of my background and commitment to building intersectional solidarities for racial justice and equity. In the tumultuous run-up to the 2016 election, and in response to several acts of anti-Black violence and intimidation, I formed the Social & Physical Justice Group (SPJG) at my previous institution in upstate NY, to build an interracial coalition of students to pressure university administration to act on behalf of students of color. After returning to my hometown in MD in 2018 and being hired as an instructor at UMD, I continued with student organizing and coalition building, creating the Action Assemblage for Justice, Equity, and Peace (AAJEP), working on Anti-Racism initiatives to revise Kinesiology program learning outcomes, creating new courses on social justice, and speaking on panels about advancing Anti-Racism, Intersectionality, and Interdisciplinarity. I have also served as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (DEIA) Committee in the Kinesiology Department since 2021.

Summary of Publications: Much of my scholarly focus has involved critical examinations of the racial and cultural politics of sport, challenging racial essentialisms in the discursive and material contexts of physical cultural practice, and using critical pedagogy to facilitate collaborative intercultural dialogue and critical self-awareness. Some recent and relevant pieces include a 2022 article in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*, “A Baltimore Benevolence Thing? American Philanthropy, Neoliberal Fitness, and the Persistence of ‘Colorblind’ Racial Silencing” and in the Interdisciplinary *Leisure Sciences Journal* in 2023, “Conformity and Delinquency: Surveillance, Sport, and Youth in the Charm City.” However, some of my more pedagogically driven scholarly contributions appear in a couple book chapters entitled, “On the subject of race and sport: Covid-19, Zoom, and the necessity of antiracist dialogic pedagogy” in Andrews, Thorpe, & Newman’s (2022), *Sport and Physical Culture in Global Pandemic Times*, and “Confronting America: Black commercial aesthetics, athlete activism, and the nation reconsidered” in Dolan & Connolly’s (2019), *Sport and National Identities: Globalization and Conflict*.