

Daniel Mann is a doctoral student in Sociocultural Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

Vision for NASSS: I am running for NASSS graduate student representative to ensure that as graduate students—the future of both academia as well as our organisation—we have a voice in the places where decisions are being made, specifically, the NASSS board. Following the violence encountered at the previous conference in New Orleans, I believe it is vitally important that this organisation sees both a strategic and cultural reset, with an emphasis on the latter. We all have something to offer, and we can only make use of all our skills in an atmosphere of kindness and collegiality: as your graduate student representative, I will ensure that everyone has not only a voice on the NASSS board, but also that all graduate students feel empowered to fully engage with and participate in NASSS.

Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience: My research focuses on amateur rugby, masculinity and colonialism, using autoethnographic methods. Originally from New York, I have worked previously at the City University of New York for several years teaching sociology and urban studies, during which time I served in various capacities in academic governance as well as the faculty union. I currently serve as the union delegate for PSAC 610, the UWO graduate teaching assistants union. Outside of academia, I have been fortunate enough to play rugby in four different countries, enjoy travelling, food, and spending time with family and friends, and also serve as the Secretary, Fixtures Director and Communications Director for the Toronto Dragons Rugby Football Club.

Summary of Publications/Presentations: I have presented at NASSS in 2022 and 2023, as well as at other conferences throughout my decade-long career since doing a Masters degree over a decade ago. I am currently working on an article which has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Emergent Sport Sociology, which discusses rugby and (de)colonial autoethnography. I have also produced a short documentary looking at demographic change in Astoria, Queens, entitled “Astoria Stories: Gentrification, Culture and Community in the World’s Borough.”

Autumn Martin is a second-year doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Louisville.

Vision for NASSS: Being a graduate student can be an overwhelming experience. The need to keep up with the daily program requirements as well as adventuring out to conference can be intimidating, especially as a graduate student without prior conference experiences. I had the opportunity to attend NASSS back in November 2023. It was a wonderful experience, and they had many opportunities to network. As a graduate student representative, I would like to help in continuing this momentum while catering to graduate student experiences. I think it is important to have the graduate student panels and Take a Student to Lunch. It offers graduate students like me a supportive area to learn from each other, as well as other academics who have more experiences. I would like to continuously work on these areas to continue to promote this academic arena for future graduate students.

Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience: As a PhD student I have worked with the University of Louisville graduate department in their endeavors to promote a better experience for graduate students. In 2023 I served on the NASSS UNDRIP and Political Advocacy Committee. On the UNDRIP committee I helped with advocating for a more inclusive NASSS experience that aligns with UNDRIP's mission. In 2023 I have also served as a delegate for SWS (Sociology of Women in Society) at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). I listened to speakers on current issues surrounding women on a global level and reported back to SWS. In 2022 I did a summer fellowship with the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), where we looked at preexisting data collect at CIIS to examine queer student's experiences in the higher education setting.

Summary of Publications/Presentations: I attended NASSS for the first time in 2023. I presented with a fellow graduate student Jennifer Snelling and professor Dr. Roberto Fernández Morales. We presented a paper presentation looking at how martial arts, specifically Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Aikido, has been used for trauma healing. We are currently working on the manuscripts from this study for publication. Below I have outlined the presentations that I have participated in during my graduate career.

PhD

- Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) - Paper Presentation (2022)
- International Association of Maternal Action + Scholarship (IAMAS) - Paper Presentation (2023)
- Gender, Work & Organization Conference (GWO2023) - Paper Presentation (2023)
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (ASA 118th Annual Meeting) – Roundtable (2023)
- North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) – Paper Presentation (2023)

Graduate

- Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA) Paper Presentation (2021)
- Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Roundtable Presentation (2022).
- College of Liberal Arts Scholars Day Graduate Presentation (MTSU) (2022).

● Women's Symposium Flash Talk Speaker (Vanderbilt University) (2022)

Kayla Martinez is a second-year doctoral student in the Sport Administration Program at the University of Louisville

Vision for NASSS: The annual NASSS meeting is a unique space for graduate students as it provides a welcoming opportunity for us to share our own work as we are starting to define our research lines, while engaging with and learning from established scholars in our field. As I experienced my first NASSS in NOLA 2023, this synergy between established and emerging scholars was refreshing and inspiring. I believe this community has done great job cultivating a space that not only uplifts new ideas in sociology and sport, but also in the development of individuals who want to exist in this space. Initiatives implemented by previous Students Reps such as the Take a Student to Lunch initiative, graduate student panels, and graduate student luncheons have significantly influenced the development aspect of graduate students in NASSS. My vision for NASSS is to imagine how we can continue these initiatives beyond the bound of our annual meeting. I would like to develop a NASSS Mentorship Program that can provide organization and structure to support the continuation of professional relationships established at our annual meetings. I foresee this program being a valuable resource and opportunity to encourage students and scholars to collaborate, learn for one another, support one another, and navigate the academy together which can continue to foster unity in our field.

Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience: Throughout my graduate career I have engaged in a plethora of service opportunities that have prepared me for leadership experiences. At the department level I have been the Program Advisor for our student organization, Sport Administration Association. In this role, I have supervised and implemented the leadership development of the association's Student Executive Board. Additionally, through my work with the Sport Administration Alumni Council, I was able to assist in the partnership of the two organizations to increase participation of the Alumni Mentorship Program. Through this program we have connected 35 students with alumni currently working in the industry. Within UofL's College of Education and Human Development, I am the student rep in the Diversity Committee, Academic Grievance Committee, and the Dean Hiring Committee. Finally, at the professional (industry) level, I was elected as the Louisville Athletics Internship Program Communications Chair and was a participant in NASSS's S.E.E.D.S program.

Summary of Publications/Presentations: I attended my first NASSS conference in 2023 as a first-year doctoral student where I presented as a first author for the first time. This study examined the pedagogical aims of, what I coined, DEI specific conferences in college athletics (NCAA inclusion Forum, Black Student Athlete Summit, and Athlete Ally's Athlete Activism Summit). Since then, I have also presented at Applied Sport Management Association (ASMA), International Association for Communication and Sport (IACS), and College Sport Research Institute (CSRI). These projects addressed topics such as crisis communication following student athletes' suicides, gender inequities in interscholastic and professional sport, legitimacy work in the new age of women's basketball, and whiteness influencing 'gatekeeper' behavior by leaders. Additionally, I have submitted a conceptual manuscript applying gendered logics to explain transphobia in sport in Sociology of Sport Special Issue: "Sports and the Limits of the Binary: Trans and Nonbinary Athletes and Equity in Sport. All these projects and those in progress align

with my overarching research line that seeks to examine athlete experiences and development through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Emily Nothnagle is a first year MSW-PhD student in the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University working with [LiFEsports](#).

Vision for NASSS: Each year, I look forward to NASSS as an opportunity for professional, academic, and interpersonal growth because it allows graduate students to share their research and connect with colleagues, peers, and established scholars in sport sociology. I enjoy attending the grad student-specific events each year that have been successfully coordinated by the Graduate Student Representatives (GSR), such as the Take a Student to Lunch initiative and the Graduate Student Luncheon. Each event allows for a unique networking opportunity with scholars across North America – either with renowned faculty or with fellow grad students from other universities. As a GSR, I will continue building on the momentum of creating a unique and memorable experience for grad students. A program I would like to implement is a grad student professional development NASSS conference session. This might include a panel discussion with early career scholars and grad students sharing their experiences at different stages of their careers and recommendations for the future as well as suggestions and ideas for grad students to become more involved with NASSS. I believe that NASSS, like any organization, is only as strong as its membership; it is our collective responsibility to foster a community of respect and inclusion to create positive experiences for grad students and faculty alike. I intend to contribute to an inclusive environment that encourages grad student participation in NASSS to promote continued growth, scholarship, and community.

Qualifications for Office/Leadership Experience: Over the years, I have served in multiple leadership positions. As an undergrad, I was a student-athlete at The Ohio State University, where I served in many leadership roles. I was elected by my teammates to be a team captain for three consecutive years where I served as a liaison between team members and coaches or athletic staff to coordinate schedules and resolve conflicts; I also created a motivated and enjoyable team environment that contributed to winning multiple national championships. Additionally, I served as the pistol team representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council where I advocated for the needs of my teammates to athletic leadership and staff. Finally, I served as the president of the Student-Athlete Peer Educators, a group of varsity student-athletes dedicated to promoting student-athlete mental health and well-being. As a Peer Educator, I helped organize and implement the inaugural Buckeye State of Mind mental health summits and 8 Finals Week Stress Relief events for student-athletes. As a grad student, I serve as a Doctoral Student Committee member for the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). In this role, I help coordinate conference programming at the annual SSWR meeting specifically for doctoral students. I look forward to refining my leadership skills by serving my graduate student colleagues and peers as a NASSS GSR!

Summary of Publications/Presentations: I presented in my first NASSS as an undergrad where I shared findings from my honors thesis examining sport participation and the development of grit over the life course with my co-author and advisor, Dr. Chris Knoester, in addition to the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum and the Sports and Society Initiative Forum. We published this study in *Leisure Sciences* (2022). I have since returned to NASSS to present research on sport participation and violence over the life course with Dr. Knoester in addition to presenting research in other academic conferences (Alliance for Social Workers in Sport, SSWR, Midwest Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium). Recently, I was awarded first place in the Hayes Advanced Research Forum for examining how coach education impacts coach self-efficacy to promote holistic student-athlete well-being. I have also published in journals including *Sport Social Work Journal*; *International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching*; and *Sport, Society and Education*. My research spans both quantitative and qualitative methodology, and I am currently involved in community-based participatory research regarding coach education.