

2025 NASSS General Board Slate of Candidates

[Listed alphabetically by last name/surname]

President-Elect (vote for one)

Rachel Allison

Treasurer (vote for one)

Michael Friedman

Member at large (CAN/US vote for 2)

Stacey M. Alvarez Flores (US)

Chen Chen (US)

Michele K. Donnelly (CAN)

Courtney Szto (CAN)

Position: President-Elect

Rachel Allison is an Associate Professor of Sociology and affiliate of Gender Studies at Mississippi State University.

Vision for NASSS: I am running for President-Elect at a time of tumult and uncertainty for U.S. academics, as well as many others. As I feel acutely, American higher education is under attack, with real implications for how we research, teach about, or engage sport in society. I have always thought of NASSS as my academic home, a space where I found support, mentorship, and critical engagement with ideas. I feel that these things are needed now more than ever. My vision for the organization is centered around community through intentional intellectual engagement. I also want to build on the important work of others in creating an inclusive, welcoming environment for the members of NASSS. I expect NASSS to continue its supports for graduate student members, intend to continue opportunities for virtual presentation and attendance, and I give my full support to the SEEDS program. I value transparency and accountability to the NASSS membership and appreciate the recent attention we have paid to financial solvency and efficiency in organization. Ultimately, I plan to lean in to who I am in the world of sport sociology as NASSS President, platforming scholars of gender and women's sport to push forward important conversations about theorizing and studying women's sport.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2011 and have attended every meeting since, except for 2012 when I was doing fieldwork. I have previously served NASSS in a wide variety of roles, including as a member of the Barbara Brown Student Paper Award Committee, Outstanding SSJ Article Award Committee, and Human Kinetics SSJ Early Career Researcher Award Committee. I was elected as NASSS Member-at-Large from 2015-2017 and as Secretary from 2022-2024. In addition, I served as Associate Editor of *Sociology of Sport Journal* between 2020-2023 and am currently an Associate Editor of *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*. I am also currently serving on this year's Outstanding Book Award committee.

Summary of Publications: I am a gender scholar whose research has focused on women's elite sport in the U.S. I am an ethnographer at heart and have conducted several ethnographic and interview studies, although I have also undertaken collaborative projects using quantitative data. I am the author of *Kicking Center: Gender and the Selling of Women's Professional Soccer*, published in 2018 as part of Rutgers University Press' Critical Issues in Sport & Society series. My research has also been published in journals such as *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Communication & Sport*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Leisure Studies*, *Sport in Society*, and *Soccer & Society*.

Position: Treasurer

Michael Friedman is a Lecturer in the School of Public Health, the Department of Kinesiology and the Physical Cultural Studies program at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Vision for NASSS: As Treasurer, my vision for NASSS includes three priorities: 1) maintaining the financial viability of the organization; 2) engaging in strategic planning to assess current financial needs and future opportunities; and 3) developing additional financial resources to enable NASSS to better serve its membership. First, I plan to maintain the financial security of NASSS through prudent management of the organization's resources. Second, as it is essential that NASSS continues to have sufficient resources to survive difficult times, I plan to assess the organization's current and future financial needs to ensure that membership dues and conference fees are appropriate. Finally, with a secure financial base, NASSS could begin to explore ways to develop new resources that would enable NASSS to provide additional benefits to its membership and expand access to our organization and conferences.

Qualifications for Office: I have served as NASSS Treasurer since November 2019 and have been a member of NASSS since 2002. Chicago marked the 23rd NASSS conference I have attended. I have usually presented a paper and have frequently organized sessions. In addition to volunteering to serve as Treasurer in Spring 2019 and being elected to continue in the role in Spring 2020, I have served NASSS as a member of the Barbara Brown Outstanding Paper Award Committee and the Conference Program Committee. Outside of academia, I have served on several boards and committees of different nonprofit organizations.

Summary of Publications: I am a cultural geographer. My book, *Mallparks: Baseball's Cathedrals of Consumption*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2023. In 2008, I won the Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Paper Award (Doctoral Level) and have published four articles in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*. I have also published articles in several other journals, including the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, the *Journal of Sport History*, *City, Culture & Society*, and the *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Position: **Member-at-Large (US)**

Chen Chen is an Assistant Professor of Sport Management in the Department of Educational Leadership, Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut, CT, USA.

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is predicated upon the uncheerful but honest recognition that it is an academic organization that physically operates in two imperialist settler colonial states, the US and Canada. This means that from a materialist standpoint, the activity of NASSS is sustained/subsidized by both the ongoing dispossession/desecration of Indigenous land on Turtle Island and the superexploitation of labor and ecologies of the Global South, enabled by the decaying capitalist world system and patrolled by the declining U.S. military hegemonic power. As the Danish activist and thinker Torkil Lauesen (2024) boldly predicts that capitalism will not survive this century, the task for the global progressive forces becomes even more urgently clear: socialism or barbarism. This brings up a series of uncomfortable questions: What's the role and function of NASSS as an apparatus of knowledge (re)production and dissemination, as a congregation of academics, under the above-mentioned conditions? How can NASSS be accountable to its vulnerable and marginalized members, as well as communities beyond its membership? How can collective power be built and sustained when "the chickens have come home to roost"? As George Jackson forewarned more than half a century ago in *Blood in My Eye* (1972):

"Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act."

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2016 and have attended all but one NASSS conferences in the last 8 years as presenter, session organizer, workshop panel speaker, and moderator/chair of plenary sessions. I have served in NASSS in various capacities over the years: as a graduate student, I volunteered for the conference on-site and served on the Conference Steering Committee and the Conference Program Committee. I organized the NASSS's first BIPOC Caucus in 2019 and served on the inaugural committee that established the Junior Scholars of Color Mentoring Program in 2021, currently known as the "S.E.E.D.S." program. As a NASSS Research Fellow (2024), I was an editorial board member for the *Sociology of Sport Journal* (2021 - 2024), and I am an inaugural editorial board member for the *Journal of Global South Sport Studies*. I am part of the founding collective of Sport Scholars for Justice in Palestine (SSJP). At the University of Connecticut, I served as the inaugural Faculty Affiliate for Inclusive Excellence at the UConn Graduate School (2022 - 2024).

Summary of Publications: My scholarship draws from critical theoretical and movement traditions (e.g., Global South Marxism, the Black radical tradition, Indigenous studies, critical environmental studies) to examine sport as a site for global class struggle, and its various forms of manifestations (anti-racism, women's liberation, anti-colonialism and national liberation, environmentalism, etc.) across time and space. To date, my research comprises 24 peer-reviewed journal articles in outlets including *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health*, *European Journal for Sport and Society*, *Journal of Sport Management*, *Event Management*, *European Sport Management Quarterly*, *Leisure/Loisir*, *The International Journal of the History of Sport, Quest*, *Settler Colonial Studies*, and *Cities*. Workers of the world, unite! No one is illegal on stolen land!

Position: **Member-at-Large (US)**

Stacey M. Alvarez Flores is a PhD Candidate in Sociology in the School of Family and Human Dynamics at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is to continue to build on the work I have done over the past two years as NASSS Graduate Student Representative: strengthen connections and opportunities for graduate students and continue to improve organization effectiveness while improving connectivity with our members. It is particularly important to me that NASSS is a welcoming space because I remember what it was like when I attended my first conference. Had it not been for a few people who took me under their wing and have continued to be a support system, I am not sure I would have returned or run for my first position. My vision is to create opportunities for us to be in community with each other and I don't think it should only be once a year. We have an opportunity to re-envision how we connect and present by creating virtual sessions and/or regional conferences at different points throughout the year. I would be remised if I didn't mention the current situation and the need to hold space and keep each other as safe as we can. I envision a NASSS where this is the norm.

Qualifications for Office: I joined NASSS in 2022 and attended and presented at my first conference in Las Vegas. Immediately following the conference, I knew I wanted to get more involved. I was selected to SEEDS, a program that provided me with a great support system, and I was elected as a graduate student representative, a role I have served in for two years. During this time, I have organized sessions and presented at NASSS each year. I co-hosted graduate student listening sessions to get a better pulse on the needs of our students. I have advocated for more consistent board meetings to improve organization effectiveness, advocated for greater representation of Latinx scholars and scholarship at the conferences, advocated for the importance of SEEDS, advocated for the use of Robert's Rules at meetings to have a smoother process for meetings, and advocated for the continued financial support of graduate students through volunteerism at the NASSS conference. In addition to my experience on the NASSS board, I have significant leadership experiences as president of my school's graduate student organization, as president of my sorority alumni association, and as the current scholarship chair on an educational nonprofit board where we award over \$100k in scholarships annually to name a few. I believe I can continue to contribute to NASSS and its members.

Summary of Publications: I am a sociologist who studies sport, race, and gender. I am currently working on publications that focus on the barriers to sports participation for girls of color and the impact of sleep apnea on former Black collegiate and NFL football players. My dissertation focuses on the experiences of Latinx girls in sports. I have three published co-written book chapters: "Race and Sport: Fear of a Black Planet" in *Racism's Impact on White Americans in the Age of Trump*, and "On the Frontlines: Black Boys and Injury in Basketball" in *Palgrave Handbook: Sport, Politics and Harm*, and "Social Capital and Academic Success" in *Handbook on Inequality and Social Capital*. In addition, I have co-authored published works on human rights activism and graduate education.

Position: Member-at-Large (Canadian)

Michele K. Donnelly, Associate Professor in the Department of Sport Management (affiliated with the Master's in Critical Sociology, Master's in Social Justice and Equity Studies, and the Women's and Gender Studies program), Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

Vision for NASSS: My vision for NASSS is an organization that provides an academic home for scholars from a variety of disciplines and sub-disciplines who see their work as relevant to the sociology of sport, broadly understood. As such, NASSS offers space for scholars working with diverse perspectives, while always promoting critical, empirical, and sociologically informed research about sport and physical culture. NASSS only exists because of the contributions of the Board and volunteers, whose work provides a strong foundation for the future. I believe NASSS can be a role model for transparent and inclusive governance by continuing to improve decision-making processes and communication with the membership. In the current moment, it is necessary that we are able to disagree with each other while working as a collective to promote diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility in both sport and academic spaces. My ideal for NASSS is an organization that is engaged with its members year round, in addition to the annual meeting. NASSS is its members, and those members include folks in a variety of roles in and outside academia. Ensuring that our actions as an organization recognize and promote that diversity is crucial, as is encouraging as many NASSS members as possible to be involved in the organization.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a member of NASSS since 2002 and, with few exceptions, I have attended the NASSS annual meeting since then. While I was a PhD student, I served as an elected graduate student representative on the NASSS board, and I have been a member of the editorial board of the *Sociology of Sport Journal*. I have regularly presented at the annual meeting, participated in workshops, and organized sessions.

Summary of Publications: I am a sociologist of gender and sport, currently working on projects related to gender equality and the sport programmes of major multi-sport events, as well as girls' and women's experiences of understudied physical cultural practices such as roller derby and skateboarding. In each of these projects, I am interested in the intended and unintended consequences of policies and practices implemented to promote gender equality and/or inclusion. In 2022, Routledge published my book: *Gender Equality and the Olympic Programme*. With NASSS member, Michael D. Giardina, I have co-edited two books: *Physical Culture, Ethnography and the Body: Theory, Method and Praxis* (2017) and *Youth Culture and Sport: Identity, Power, and Politics* (2008); and with Mike and Devra Waldman, the forthcoming *SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research in Sport & Physical Culture*. I have also published articles in the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, and the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*.

Position: **Member-at-Large (Canadian)**

Courtney Szto, Associate Professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, and cross-appointed to Cultural Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Vision for NASSS: NASSS faces a precarious future with the rise of normalized right-wing populism and fascism. We are everything that Trump-era politics loathes. Thus, my vision for NASSS is that we lean harder into our values than ever before. We need to be intentionally anti-racist, feminist, anti-colonial, accessible, and pro-LGBTQ+ and environment while others cower to fear tactics. We need to ensure that NASSS remains as low-cost for both graduate students and academics as possible because the cost of conferences is becoming unreasonably astronomical. This might mean that we have to create more opportunities for hybrid participation and attendance, or even sessions that are only hosted online to allow virtual attendees the opportunity to fully engage with each other. What I have always appreciated about NASSS is how welcoming the space is for graduate students and young scholars; thus, I think initiatives like SEEDS and the graduate student lunch are opportunities that need to be prioritized in our budget. My vision for NASSS is ultimately to live the values that we write and present about every year.

Qualifications for Office: I attended my first NASSS since 2009 as a first year Master's student and have since presented 12 times, and organized 6 sessions. From 2014-2016, I served on the NASSS Board as a Graduate Student Representative. I have been a member of the editorial board of the *Sociology of Sport Journal* since 2021, and I have been an Associate Editor for the NASSS-affiliated blog, *Engaging Sports*, since its inception in 2016. In 2021, I won the NASSS Outstanding Book Award for *Changing on the Fly: Hockey through the voices of South Asian Canadians*; then in 2024, I won the SSJ Early Career Researcher Award. Over the past few years, I have led numerous anti-racism sessions for hockey teams and organizations including the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) from 2020-2023. I supported the Black Girl Hockey Club on its Advisory Board from 2020-2024 and consulted with the Hockey Diversity Alliance from 2021-2024. I have also volunteered on the Canadian Sport Film Festival programming committee for the past two years.

Summary of Publications: My work spans various areas but is most consistently tied to the areas of anti-racism, intersectionality, and environmentalism. I have 13 published articles that appear in the following journals: *Sociology of Sport Journal*, *International Sport Coaching Journal*, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, *The Journal of Social Media in Society*, *Sport in Society*, *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise, and Health*, and *Third World Quarterly*. My book, *Changing on the Fly: Hockey through the voices of South Asian Canadians* was published in 2021 by Rutgers University Press. I also executive produced a short-documentary, *Revolutions*, about bike waste that is now publicly accessible via the University of British Columbia's Centre for Sport and Sustainability website. My colleague and I also recently released a podcast series called "[Just Eats](#)" that features narratives from racialized chefs and food activists in Canada.