

Eastern Sociological Society 2025 Conference
Mini-Conference Descriptions

1. Military Sociology

This MC invites papers addressing the themes of military, war, and society. The organizers welcome theoretical, empirical, or applied papers that address, but are not limited to, the following topics: speed, violence, and war; the military's role in building solidarity to break cycles of repression; solidarity in and around military service; military science in an era of (anti)national populism; soldiers, veterans, and families breaking cycles of repression; role of expeditionary/global military in context of increasing ethnic repression; diversity, inclusion, and solidarity in the military: active duty, guard and reserve; regional security challenges and joint operations; multinational cooperation for environmental security; teaching and learning military sociology; active duty and veteran policies: trajectories and life chances; influence and psychological operations, and cyber warfare; humanitarianism and the military: disaster relief, peacekeeping, and the soft uses of the military for national interests domestically and globally; cultural representations of the military in a changing geopolitical environment; military families, solidarity, and repression.

2. Decolonizing Sociology

This MC invites papers that seek to decolonize the social sciences and explore what decolonizing praxis truly entails, particularly in terms of theory, methodology, and professional practice. The organizers welcome theoretical and empirical papers that address, but are not limited to, the following topics: coloniality, decoloniality, and the ecological crisis; interrogating the sociological canon; investigating foundational decolonial thought; the relationship between academia and broader political struggles; decolonial approaches to land, indigeneity, territory, border, and migration; decolonial social movements; understanding power and hierarchy in academic structures and practices; theoretical engagements with decolonial epistemologies, theories, and concepts; decolonizing methodologies; reparations and justice; and historical sociological analysis of sociology.

3. The Sociology of Reproduction

This MC invites papers investigating the dynamics and processes related to U.S.'s current reproductive policy milieu. The organizers welcome submissions from a diverse set of scholars in the subfields of medicine, family, population, reproductive rights, politics, organizations, social policy, and communications. Topics of interest include, but not limited to: abortion, fertility intentions, childlessness, pregnancy, birthing experiences, contraception, infertility, surrogacy, and assisted reproductive technologies.

4. Sociology of Health Professions Education

This MC invites papers examining how health professionals learn about and build solidarities with other professions, communities, and patients. The organizers welcome submissions from a diverse set of scholars from both traditional sociology departments as well as health professional schools and organizations. They seek papers that address how health professionals (learn to) build cohesion and manage conflict across different medical occupations (and institutions) as they collectively care for patients.

5. From Polarization to Solidarity

This MC invites papers examining how national political and cultural divisions shape our social worlds. The organizers seek investigations at different scales and geographies including social movements, urban neighborhoods, rural areas, community organizations, classrooms, workplaces, etc., that help us understand how different national political and cultural divisions influence our communities and institutions, and the implications of those divisions. Scholars may apply a variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks to examine their research questions. This MC is relevant to sociologists working across an array of subfields, including Community and Urban, Rural, Political, and Cultural Sociology, and to scholars who study how national political divisions shape racial, social class, gender, religious, and sexual identities. Papers that outline new models for bridging connections across political and cultural difference are especially welcome.

6. Environmental Sociology

This MC invites papers that center on emerging questions concerning environmental sociology in the 21st century. The organizers seek investigations from a wide range of scholars on topics including, but not limited to one of these five broad categories: 1) environmental justice, racism, and inequality, 2) global climate change, 3) environmental governance, politics, and regulatory regimes; 4) science communication and public engagement, and 5) work, organization, and sustainability.

7. Race, Class, Culture, and US Politics

This MC invites papers that bring together sociologists, political scientists, and political practitioners who study US electoral politics with attention to race, class, inequality, and the importance of social and cultural forces. This MC seeks paper submissions on a range of topics, including but not limited to: 1) how people's cultures and social groups shape their approach to politics, 2) how issues of race, class, and other forms of inequality influence political engagement, and 3) how behind-the-scenes actors in political institutions and marginalized citizens impact politics. The organizers want to spark conversations to address the interlinked crises of rising authoritarianism, increasing inter-group hostility, and steepening economic inequality. They also plan to include a session analyzing the November 2024 election results and the aftermath.

8. Transnational Asian/America

This MC invites papers that identify solidarities and affinities beyond contemporary national borders within the Asian/American community. The organizers seek paper submissions outside of conventional or popular imaginings of Asian America, including, for instance, that on Asian investors in America, not-quite-immigrants temporarily in the US, and returnees back to Asia. They especially encourage submissions that address previously under-researched topics, such as the social and economic dimensions of spirituality and religion both within and outside organized religious institutions; temporary migration and labor dynamics between Asia and the Americas; Afro-Asian solidarity and cooperation in the struggle against White supremacy; the gaps and blind spots in statistical data concerning Asian American experiences, among others.

9. Teaching Sociology

This MC invites papers from faculty and students interested in innovative sociology pedagogy and creative and inclusive teaching activities and strategies. A central goal of the MC will be to create strategies for building solidarity within the classroom, leveraging our positions as instructors to engage students intellectually and joyfully. Topics of interest include but are not limited to: creatively facilitating classroom conversations; incorporating art and media in the classroom; integrating active learning, including problem-based learning, into contemporary courses; confronting faculty and student burnout and (re)introducing joy in the classroom; the politics of inclusion in syllabi; social distance learning; teaching social justice and inclusion in neoliberal institutions; and examining the role of oppression, joy, and solidarity in reproducing and subverting unequal terrains of learning and creating more just communities in society.

10. Wealth and Global Elites

In an era of growing wealth inequality, this MC invites submissions on the topic of wealth and global elites. The organizers welcome theoretical and empirical papers in a broad range of areas which examine the upper-class in the United States and, especially, the global context. Topics will focus not only on the wealthy, but the ramifications of the concentration of wealth for other social groups. Papers topics might include analyses of the size and scope of wealth inequality across racially diverse groups, wealth inequality and housing, education, politics, health care, and other spheres, wealth and immigration, the impact of wealth on policies and politics, wealth and the family, wealth and cultural practices, the production and management of wealth, and other fields.