Sociologists to Explore Top Issues Facing LA and More at ASA Annual Meeting, Aug. 5-9; Press Registration Open

June 22, 2022, WASHINGTON DC. The 117th ASA Annual Meeting to be held August 5-9 in Los Angeles, California, includes several sessions focused on understanding LA from a sociological perspective. Join us for discussions about race and racism in the entertainment industry; housing and homelessness; immigrant rights activism; the role of community colleges; racialized gentrification, displacement and urban growth equity; settler colonialism and displacement in LA; and what we have learned from the LA rebellion in 1992. These will be among the many topical issues that thousands of sociologists whose work provides insights on these and other vital topics will discuss at the Annual Meeting. Approximately 600 sessions featuring over 3,000 research papers are open to the press.

This year’s theme, “Bureaucracies of Displacement,” provides an opportunity to assess sociologically the depth of issues we are facing today as a result of the pandemic, along with the economic and political crises, which have brought to light inequities in access to a wide range of benefits, resources, and rights that sociologists have to grapple with.

Session highlights include:

**Post #OscarsSoWhite? The State of Representation in the Entertainment Industry.** Since #OscarsSoWhite, Hollywood has undergone a racial reckoning. Significantly, sociologists have been at the forefront of research and advocacy work on behalf of BIPOC in Hollywood both in front and behind the camera. This panel will discuss race and racism in the entertainment industry.

*Participants:* Afiya Maryann Erigha, University of Georgia; Darnell M. Hunt, University of California-Los Angeles; Ana-Christina Ramón, Biola University; Clyde Kusatsu, SAG-AFTRA Los Angeles Local Board; Michael Tuan Tran, University of California-Los Angeles; Nancy Wang Yuen, Biola University.

**Unhoused in Los Angeles: Politics and Policy.** In a mid-2020 census, over 66,000 individuals had been counted as unhoused across the greater LA area—up from a count of just under 40,000 a decade ago. During summer 2020, 48,000 unhoused individuals were reported to not be residing in shelters. Hear scholars, administrators, and activists discuss the crisis of housing and homelessness in Los Angeles.

*Participants:* Paul R. Lichterman, University of Southern California; Matthew D. Marr, Florida International University; Brian Buchner, City of Los Angeles; Jayanthi Daniel, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority; and Kevan Harris, University of California-Los Angeles.

**Immigrant Rights Activism in Los Angeles.** Los Angeles has become one of the most important hubs of the immigrant rights movement. Activists, who have been involved in many important battles that have unfolded over the past four decades, will discuss the origins of immigrant rights activism, strategic dilemmas facing the movement, and new challenges with the Biden administration.

*Participants:* Pablo Alvarado, National Day Laborer Organizing Network; Camila Alvarez,
Los Angeles Community Colleges Role in Upward Mobility. There are more than 20 community colleges in the greater Los Angeles area. They allow the most underserved and disadvantaged students in Los Angeles to graduate and move on in higher education. This session examines the importance of community colleges in the academic pipeline, the advancement of stigmatized students, and the local neighborhoods community colleges serve. *Participants:* Julio Tsuha, Los Angeles Pierce College, Woodland Hills; Jake Alimahomed-Wilson, California State University-Long Beach; Rebecca Romo, Santa Monica College; and James McKeever, Los Angeles Pierce College.

Racialized Gentrification, Displacement and Urban Growth Equity in Los Angeles. After decades of suburban out-movement and metropolitan sprawl, Los Angeles is now experiencing gentrification and return of the white middle class to a variety of inner-ring neighborhoods sparking new racial conflicts and socioeconomic class divides. This session examines redevelopment and gentrification dynamics and removal and displacement effects across a spectrum of low-income racial/ethnic minority communities. It also examines progress toward growth equity through community benefits agreements negotiated around urban redevelopment projects. *Participants:* Laureen Hom, California State Polytechnic-Pomona; Marina Litvinsky, California Lutheran University; Rocio Rosales, University of California-Irvine; Leland T. Saito, University of Southern California; and Jan C. Lin, Occidental College.

Indigenous Los Angeles. Los Angeles sits on Tongva land and is home to the largest population of Native and Indigenous people in the country. This panel will discuss structures of settler colonialism and displacement in LA, as well as Indigenous epistemologies, resistance, and the role of art, gender, and community in Native social movements. The session also examines the Latin America Indigenous diaspora who cross borders to settle in Los Angeles and its environs. *Participants:* Floridalma Boj Lopez, University of California-Los Angeles; Kimberly Robertson, California State University-Los Angeles; Celestina Castillo, University of California-Los Angeles; Cindi Alvitre, California State University-Long Beach; and Desi Small-Rodriguez, University of California-Los Angeles.

Thirty Years After Los Angeles Burned: What Did 1992 Teach Us and Where Are We Now? This panel will discuss the neoliberal economic trends, racial injustices, demographic changes, and other factors that set the stage for the LA rebellion in 1992, which was triggered by the acquittal of four White police officers of the violent beating of Black American motorist Rodney King. Panelists will discuss how the 1992 uprisings were a turning point for LA, as they made way for decades of multi-racial organizing and power-building, a movement for racial, gender, and economic justice, and precedent setting policies that have served as models for the nation, shortcomings notwithstanding. *Participants:* Darnell M. Hunt, University of California-Los Angeles; Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California; Angela Oh, Department of Fair Employment and Housing; and Nadia Y. Kim, Loyola Marymount University.

All ASA sessions except business meetings are open to credentialed journalists and freelancers with assignment letters or clips from credentialed outlets. Complimentary media...
registration is open; read the press policy and register online. Search the program (updated June 1; any changes to the program after June 1 are reflected on the members-only Annual Meeting portal) for keywords to find sessions of interest.

About the American Sociological Association
The American Sociological Association, founded in 1905, is a nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving sociologists in their work, advancing sociology as a science and profession, and promoting the contributions to and use of sociology by society.

Papers presented at the ASA Annual Meeting are typically working papers that have not yet been published in peer-reviewed journals.