Alondra Nelson Appointed to Top White House Science Position

Alondra Nelson, Harold F. Linder Professor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study and president of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), was appointed in January to the position of deputy director for science and society in the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) by President Joe Biden.

Nelson will serve with Eric Lander, a geneticist, molecular biologist, and mathematician, to lead the OSTP. When introducing the leaders of his White House science team, Biden said, “For the first time in history, I’m going to be elevating the presidential science adviser to a cabinet rank [to be filled by Lander], because we think that’s important.” Further, the deputy director for science and society position is not only a reinstatement of such a position, which was last filled during the Obama administration, but there is a planned expansion of the role. These two steps are tremendously important for the scientific enterprise and align with advocacy efforts in which ASA has been engaged with the Consortium of Social Science Associations and other partners.

ASA President Aldon Morris, Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies, Northwestern University, says, “The Biden administration embraced a campaign promise that science would inform its decision making. Finally, social and natural scientists have received a signal from the highest levels of government that their expertise matters.” Read more.

Amanda Gorman Makes Space for Poetry in Sociology

Amanda Gorman, who is the first person to be named the National Youth Poet Laureate and delivered her acclaimed poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of President Joe Biden, was a keen student of sociology, according to her professors. They describe how sociology influences her work; how her perspective helped them understand how and why sociology can be more impactful; and why a sociological education is critical for students. Gorman, who became the first poet to perform at the Super Bowl, is a cum laude graduate of Harvard University. Read more.
and Academic Affairs

Are you an early- or mid-career sociologist interested in supporting ASA's mission of serving sociologists in their work, advancing sociology as a science and profession, and promoting the contributions and use of sociology to society? Do you enjoy creating inclusive and inspiring professional development opportunities for sociologists in all sectors and at all career stages? Are you interested in working with sociology department leaders to advance their efforts? If so, read more here and consider applying to become the ASA Assistant Director of Research, Professional Development, and Academic Affairs.

Full Collection of ASA's Sociological Insights Videos Now Available as a Teaching Resource

Are you looking for video to support your teaching efforts? ASA has released its full collection of Sociological Insights, a curated portfolio of short, high-quality videos featuring sociologists sharing their expertise on some of the most pressing topics today. The videos cover topics from racism to poverty, from religion to immigration, and from health care to criminal justice.

Annual Meeting Updates

2021 Annual Meeting proposals. Session organizers have begun review of proposals to the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting. Submitters will receive an email in late March advising them of their submission status. If your second or third choice option is accepted, it means that your first choice was not accepted. Log in to the online portal in late March to view your submission status.

Submissions are due on February 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Review Invited Session Proposals for more information.

Submit a 2022 Annual Meeting invited session proposal. The 2022 Program Committee invites proposals for thematic sessions, special sessions, book forums, and regional spotlight sessions. The online submission portal will open February 22, 2021, and the submission deadline is April 2, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Review Invited Session Proposals for more information.

Volunteer to be a 2022 session organizer. The 2022 Program Committee is seeking volunteers to organize sessions for the open submission regular paper sessions. You can sign up as a volunteer beginning February 22, 2021 through April 2, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. Volunteering does not guarantee an invitation to organize and volunteers must abide by the guidelines governing such work and meet the eligibility requirements laid out here.

Sign Up for Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Virtual Pro-Seminar: Demystifying the Writing Process, February 18, 3-4 p.m. Eastern. Writing is one of the most important tasks sociologists do, and yet we do not often talk about the process. Graduate student members have the opportunity to hear Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana, University of Albany, discusses strategies on making time for writing, dealing with writer's block, and obtaining and incorporating feedback. From brainstorming to writing groups to revising, graduate students will learn how to manage their writing goals. Student members can register here. Closed captioning will be provided;
Webinar: Teaching Sociology as Activism, March 24, 2-3 p.m. Eastern. Sociology attracts a diverse range of students because the discipline provides them tools for understanding their own lived experiences, such as xenophobia, state-sanctioned violence, land dispossession, and other social issues. Teaching about these topics often leads us to ask if educators in sociology have a duty to activism or if teaching itself is a form of activism. In this webinar, Corey Miles, Morgan State University; Tamara K. Nopper, Rhode Island College; and Meghan Kallman, University of Massachusetts-Boston will discuss how teaching relates to activism and how they've engaged activist pedagogies in their teaching. Register here. Closed captioning will be provided.

Submit DEI Resources to TRAILS

Do you have an innovative activity, syllabus, presentation, lecture, assignment, or empirical research article related to diversity, equity, and inclusion? TRAILS is currently seeking DEI resources on anti-racism, social justice, retention of students and faculty of color, and intersectionality that support the teaching of sociology. Click here to review publication criteria and submission guidelines.

Access New Teaching Resources in TRAILS

- Black Lives Matter Lecture by Alecia Anderson and Angela Brown
- Sociology 312 History of Sociology Syllabus (Contributions to the Discipline of the “Voices” from Below) by Jack Niemonen
- Teaching Race with Novels by Debjani Chakravarty

Access to TRAILS, a peer-reviewed digital teaching resources library, is free to ASA members.

Hot Off the Press: Journal Highlights

- Multigenerational Social Mobility: A Demographic Approach by Xi Song (Sociological Methodology, February 2021)
- Real Indians: Policing or Protecting Authentic Indigenous Identity? by Dwanna L. McKay (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, January 2021)
- Income Inequality, Social Comparison, and Happiness in the United States by Tim Futing Liao (Socius, February 5, 2021)

Visit the journals homepage for centralized information on all ASA journals, including how to subscribe or purchase a single article, submit a manuscript, or view recently featured articles.

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