The GPSA Annual Conference

October 15th and 16th 2015

Plan to join us this fall in Fargo, North Dakota for the Great Plains Sociological Association 2015 annual conference. The GPSA’s annual conference is a great opportunity for professionals to share their work, ideas, and recent accomplishments. The GPSA also gives graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to present their work in a friendly yet professional atmosphere.

The theme of the 2015 conference is **“Sociology from the Great Plains to the Global World”**

This year we plan to have a key note speaker, paper sessions, panels, workshops, and roundtables that address a range of sociological topic areas from areas spanning the Great Plains to the global world. Paper sessions dealing with both research projects just completed and research in progress are the mainstays of our conferences. We also want to encourage members to organize panels and workshops, especially those relating to either teaching or sociological practice or evaluation research. Sociology is everywhere and work from the Great Plains to the global world is welcomed.

**Call for Papers:**

If you plan to present a paper or would like to organize a panel or workshop, please submit a title and abstract by **Friday, October 2, 2015.** You can send this information to:

Gina Aalgaard Kelly, PhD

Department of Sociology-Anthropology

428C8 Minard Hall

1340 Administration Avenue

North Dakota State University

Fargo, North Dakota 58102

or

E-mail items to [gina.kelly@ndsu.edu](mailto:gina.kelly@ndsu.edu)

**GPSA Contact Information:** Email [greatplainssociology@gmail.com](mailto:greatplainssociology@gmail.com) or Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Great-Plains-Sociological-Association/563790063681603>

**Student Paper Competitions**

Each year the GPSA sponsors two or three student paper competitions. These competitions are open to undergraduate and graduate students. Student papers must be sponsored by a GPSA member and can focus on any topic related to the field of sociology (see accompanying set of rules and regulations).

**Student Poster Competition**

The conference this year will have is an undergraduate poster competition once again. This is an opportunity for students to showcase research they are in the process of doing or have recently completed. The poster competition will be open to undergraduate students only. Student posters must be sponsored by a faculty member who is also a current member of the GPSA (see accompanying set of rules and regulations).

**The Great Plains Sociologist**

The GPSA also publishes *The Great Plains Sociologist*, the official publication of association. Submissions from faculty and students are welcome. Please submit articles for *The Great Plains Sociologist* to the editor, Daphne Pedersen (gary.goreham@ndsu.edu).

**Current GPSA Officers**

Previous President: A. Olu Oyinlade, University of Nebraska, Omaha [aoyinlade@unomaha.edu](mailto:aoyinlade@unomaha.edu)

President: Gina Aalgaard Kelly, North Dakota State University [Gina.Kelly@ndsu.edu](mailto:Gina.Kelly@ndsu.edu)

Vice-President: Patricia Ahmed, South Dakota State University

Secretary-Treasurer: Cindy Aamlid, Southwest Minnesota State University ([Cindy.Aamlid@smsu.edu](mailto:Cindy.Aamlid@smsu.edu))

**GPSA Committees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nominations  Garry Goreham  Kerry Livingston | Editing  Gary Goreham  Vicki Johnson | Audit  Jason Karsky | Ethics  Jason Karsky  Patricia Ahmed |
| Honors/Awards  Gina Aalgaard Kelly  Don Arwood | Student Papers/Posters  Viki Johnson  Courtney Waid-Lindberg | Website  Gary Goreham  Gina Aalgaard Kelly  Don Arwood | Membership  Don Arwood  Kerry Livingston |

## PSA STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

**DIVISIONS:**

1. Undergraduate

2. Graduate (at times split between MS & PhD divisions).

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a Junior College, Technical College, or a College or University in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Manitoba, or Saskatchewan.

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION:**

Papers written when the student was an undergraduate can be entered in the undergraduate paper competition. Students' year in school will be taken into account when the papers are judged, so 1st and 2nd year students should indicate their year in college on the title page.

**GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION:**

Master's and PhD degree students should enter their papers in the graduate student division of the competition. If there are a sufficient number of papers submitted, the Committee Chair can divide the division into two competitions, one for masters and the other for PhD students.

**FACULTY SPONSOR:**

Each submission must be sponsored by a faculty member who is a current member of the GPSA (has paid 2013 dues). Faculty members sponsoring students must write a short letter indicating that the work submitted is the student’s or students’ own. This letter must accompany the submitted paper.

**THE PAPER:**

The subject of the paper must be related to sociology or a related area (anthropology, criminal justice, social work, etc.). Theoretical, methodological, and empirical papers are welcome, as are literature reviews. Although the American Sociological Association citation guidelines are preferred, other standard citation systems are acceptable. The paper must be typed, double spaced, and on one side of the paper only.

The title page should include:

1. Title of the paper;

2. Name, telephone number and address of the author(s);

3. Sponsor's name, telephone number and address;

4. The student's college/university affiliation;

5. Student's rank as undergraduate (freshman or sophomore have the option of listing their year in school) or graduate student’s rank (MS or PhD).

None of this information (except the title and freshman/sophomore or Masters/PhD) should appear on the rest of the paper. Judges will not see the title page.

Please submit a copy of the paper by e-mailing it to [aoyinlade@unomaha.edu](mailto:aoyinlade@unomaha.edu)

**Deadline: October 2, 2015**

## GPSA UNDERGRADUATE POSTER COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

**COMPETITION DATE:**

The evening of October 15, 2015

**DIVISIONS:**

Undergraduate

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Undergraduate students enrolled in a Junior College, Technical College, or a College or University in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Manitoba, or Saskatchewan.

**FACULTY SPONSOR:**

Each submission must be sponsored by a faculty member who is a current member of the GPSA (has paid 2013 dues). Faculty members sponsoring students must write a short letter indicating that the work presented is the student’s or students’ own. This letter must be taped to the back of the poster.

**THE POSTER PRESENTATION:**

There are no strict guidelines for the poster content or format. In addition to a heading that details the title of the work, along with the presenter’s name and the school he/she represents, posters typically include the following sections:

* Introduction (or Purpose)
* Objective (or Research Question)
* Methodology
* Results (or Findings)
* Discussion (or Conclusion)

Posters should be pre-mounted and cannot be larger than 46" x 46". Tri-fold boards will be displayed on small tables. If the poster cannot be displayed on a table top, the presenter is responsible for providing an easel. Mounting supplies such as pushpins and Velcro will not be provided.

**2015** Poster presentations should be emailed in digital form on or before October 2, 2015 to provide adequate time for review. A PDF file or PowerPoint – 1 slide is acceptable. Poster presenters are responsible for poster board displays the day of the presentation.

Presenters must be standing or sitting next to their poster during the evaluation period of the competition. Participants must be prepared to discuss their work with judges and other conference attendees.

Judging criteria will include:

-Quality of oral presentation

-Poster appearance and organization

-Research purpose and methodology

Please e-mail the poster title and abstract to [gina.kelly@ndsu.edu](mailto:gina.kelly@ndsu.edu) or [aoyinlade@unomaha.edu](mailto:aoyinlade@unomaha.edu)

**Deadline: October 2, 2015**