

5th Annual Public Sociology Conference

Sponsored by the Public Sociology Association
of George Mason University

April 9, 2016 - GMU Arlington, Virginia campus

Call for Papers

Structures of Violence: Engaging the Public Imagination

Crossing multiple spheres of life, the public imagination uses dialogue to create new possibilities for action. A public imagination against structures of violence recognizes that violence exists in multiple forms and is not experienced universally.

This year we seek papers that confront structures of violence in an effort to engage the public imagination. We encourage submissions from outside of academia and from related disciplines that speak to the conference theme and/or the general project of public sociology.

Public sociology is an approach to the study of social problems and structures that transcends the boundaries of academia to engage the public in discourse, political and institutional change, and social empowerment. Public sociologists, in collaboration with activists and policymakers, often turn their lens towards a broad range of public concerns that are rooted in social injustices and inequalities.

Possible Questions:

- *What does engaging the public imagination look like? How can we engage multiple actors in discourse against structures of violence?*
- *In the face of violence (particularly, instances provoking a collective response) how can we react in ways that prevent its intensification? How can pausing before reacting shape collective response?*
- *What explains the persistent social inequality between different groups, particularly over time? Is the 'utopian' society achievable? Is violence a necessary feature of social life and/or social transformation?*
- *As a social science, what is the role of public sociology in the policy process as it pertains to structures of violence?*

Submission: A maximum 500-word abstract of proposed presentations should be submitted electronically to gmusocgrads@gmail.com, no later than **February 15, 2016.**

Please visit our Website: <https://gmupublicsoci.wordpress.com/2016-conference/>

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