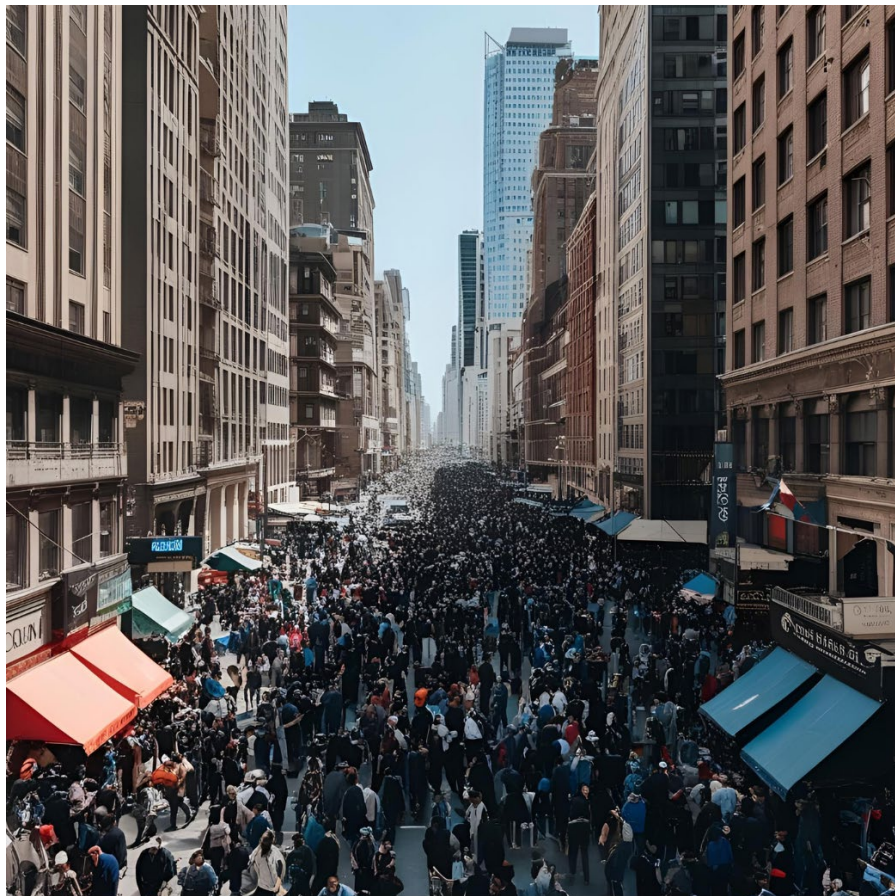


UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
29th Annual
Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium
Middle Tennessee State University
Tom Jackson Building

April 17th, 2025





Program

28th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium

All events are free and open to the public

All USSS events are in the Tom Jackson Building at MTSU

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Registration

Refreshments

9:20 am to 9:40 am

Introduction and Welcome

9:40 am to 11:05 am

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik, University of Alberta

Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie, Introduction



Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta. Her specializations are gangs, neighborhood redevelopment, and inner-city policing in the Canadian context. Dr. Urbanik received her Ph.D at the University of Alberta, and her Masters at the University of Toronto. Her doctoral research analyzed the effects of neighborhood revitalization on gangs, criminal structures, and violence within Canada's oldest and largest social housing project (Regent Park), and she received several awards for her dissertation research, including the Social Science and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC)

Joseph-Armand Bombardier award, the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship (the most prestigious award at the University of Alberta), the Dorothy J. Killam Award, and the University of Alberta's President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction, among others. She received her Masters from the University of Toronto. At the University of Alberta, she is the director of the BA Criminology



Program, and she the book review editor for *Canadian Journal of Sociology*.
<https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/cjs/index.php/CJS>

Her research has been published in: *Qualitative Sociology*, several different articles in the *The British Journal of Criminology*, *Policing and Society*, *International Criminology*, *The International Journal of Drug Policy*, the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Deviant Behavior*, *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *Social Problems*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *Qualitative Research in Health*, *Social Sciences*, *Canada Journal of Public Health*, and *Feminist Criminology*, and appears in several edited book collections.

11:05 am to 11:20 am

Break

11:20 am to 12:25 pm

Regular Paper Session

1. Dallas Meador, University of Memphis, undergraduate student “Environmental Racism in Memphis TN: A GIS Exploration”
2. Liz Brooks, Middle Tennessee State University, Anthropology, undergraduate student, “The Rise of Singapore.”
3. Audrey Conley, Middle Tennessee State University, Sociology, undergraduate student, “The Embodied Venue: Constructing Identity Through Music and Dance”

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Lunch on your own

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm*

Honoring Ben Austin

*Audience participation: if anyone has a memory of early days of the symposium, please feel free to share!



2:40 pm to 3:30

Regular Paper Session

1. Sarah Bramlett, Middle Tennessee State University, Anthropology, undergraduate student "NAGPRA's Call to Pay Homage: Addressing the Neglect of Native American Voices, and Re-Humanizing Ancestral Remains"
2. Deanna Lack, Middle Tennessee State University, Religious Studies and Sociology, undergraduate student "The Impact and Theology of Mass Incarceration"
3. Taylor Tims, Middle Tennessee State University, Anthropology, undergraduate student "On the Importance of Anthropogenic Soil"

3:35 am to 4:10 pm

Social Justice Panel

Moderator: Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie

1. Ernesto Rojas
2. Talia Stanford
3. Briana Terrell
4. Lake Nelson

4:10 pm to 4:20 pm

Break

4:20 pm to 5:00 pm

Presentation of Paper Awards & Closing Remarks

POSTERS

Candace Bright Hall-Wurst, East Tennessee University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Graduate Student, "Gap Analysis of Programs and Services in Northeast Tennessee"



**The Tennessee Ben Austin Social Science Symposium is
sponsored by:**

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Middle Tennessee Student Sociologists
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Department of Communication
Department of Political Science
Department of English

Organizing Committee

Dr. Shannon Hodge (Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Dr. Angela Mertig (Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology)
Dr. Ashleigh McKinzie (Associate Professor, Sociology and Anthropology)
Vaun Baltimore (Sociology Graduate Student, Sociology and Anthropology)

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