

In this Issue

Hoping the summer is providing time to relax and rejuvenate a bit. SSEC has been moving ahead with the transition to a new Executive Director, transferring accounts – financial and otherwise – while keeping up with ongoing initiatives. The annual meeting also saw the election of new Board members and the departure of Board members whose terms have concluded. Fortunately, we look forward to their continued involvement as committee chairs or volunteering in other ways. The Detroit meeting met all of our expectations, and we will post a retrospective on the website shortly. Numerous awards, both external and internal to the organization, are reviewed below, along with new publications and podcasts. **Check out the Call for Proposals for SSEC 2026!**

Amy Allen Appointed as SSEC’s Fifth Executive Director

At its annual meeting in Detroit, the SSEC Board of Directors appointed [Amy Allen](#) to serve as the organization’s fifth Executive Director. Amy is Assistant Professor of Social Studies in the Elementary Education Program at Virginia Tech University. Amy completed her term as SSEC President at the end of June and assumed her new position on July 1. She replaces Charlie White, who informed the Board of his intention to step down from directorship by the end of the summer. Charlie replaced Jim Davis in 2018, who had served as Executive Director for 18 years.



In addition to her service as SSEC President, Amy has honed her conference planning skills and developed a deep commitment to SSEC, along with a cadre of similarly committed board members and officers. On her appointment, Charlie White lauded the choice. “My primary goal as Executive Director was to help guide our transition to a new generation of leadership and membership. Amy’s appointment was just the step needed to carry on the work of SSEC.” Congratulations to the Board for an inspired choice and a renewed energy to attract contemporary and emerging scholars to the organization. You can contact Amy at execdirector@ssec-inc.org; Charlie’s new contact email is cwhite@bu.edu.



SSEC Officers 2025-26



President
Jessica Ferreras-Stone



Vice President
Scott Durham



Secretary
Sarah Mathews



Treasurer
Kathryn Engebretson

New SSEC Board Members

[Scott Durham](#) is returning to serve a full 3-year term, having completed the term of Brandon Haas. Scott is joined by [Jesús Tirado](#) and [Anne Marie Kavanagh](#). Anne Marie is the first of our international partners to be represented on the Board. They join [Patricia de Galarce](#) and [Michael Solem](#) who continue to serve.



Scott Durham
Asst. Professor, Kent State University
2025-2028



Anne Marie Kavanagh
Dublin City University
Republic of Ireland
2025-2028

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(New SSEC Board Members continued)



Patricia Crain de Galarce
Professor, Lesley University
2024-2027



Michael Solem
Professor, Texas State University
2024-2027



Jesús Tirado
Asst. Professor, Auburn University
2025-2028

Finishing their Board Terms: Thank You for Your Service

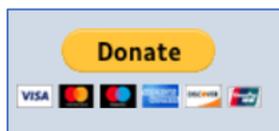
One dedicated member has completed his term on the SSEC Board of Directors – **Eric Claravall**. We are grateful for his service to date and look forward to his future contributions to the organization.



Donations

Since January 2024, SSEC has received \$1,125 in donations from members, including from participants in the Morocco conference. Benefactors included:

- JoAnn Wood
- Kate Van Haren
- EunJung Kim
- Ryan Knowles
- Faculty of UM6P (Morocco)
- Tim Monreal
- Maia Sheppard
- Charlie & Deborah White
- Sara Demoiny
- Scott Durham



Click button to donate.

Thank you so much!

2025 Annual Conference

Detroit
June 17-21, 2025

Thirty-three presenters, six guests, and six children gathered at the 2025 annual conference in Detroit, MI. Grand Valley State University hosted sessions in their downtown Detroit Center in a compact and well-resourced facility, only a five minute walk from the conference hotel. Planners prepared a diverse program of high-quality papers and workshops. As is typical of our conferences, the cultural/historical program off campus was similarly diverse and appealing. Walking through varied neighborhoods was a gift to those with broad interests, especially culinary. A pleasant afternoon on Belle Isle and the opening reception boat cruise were delightful excursions, along with the Motown Museum. The business meeting highlighted an important transition as SSEC reached its 60th anniversary. For more information, see the Conference Retrospective on our website when its finished.



CONFERENCE RETROSPECTIVE - DETROIT

In case you missed the conference, we will upload a [retrospective](#) of the 2025 Annual Conference in Detroit on the “Past Conferences” SSEC webpage. In the meantime, you can check out [the conference schedule and presentations](#), and the [participant list](#).

2025 JAMES E. DAVIS EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR AWARDS



Kevin Péloquin, Professor, Université de Montréal. presented “*Putting yourself in somebody else’s shoes: Teaching and learning on residential schools in Canada with virtual reality to foster historical empathy and critical thinking skills.*”



Darnell Thigpen Williams, Doctoral candidate, Lesley University. His paper was “*Black Excellence by Design: Practical Strategies for Transforming Education and Liberating Society.*”



Sara Evers, Asst. Professor, Ferrum College. Her paper’s title was “*Applying Enoch’s Hammer: A speculative inquiry into GenAI’s affordances for historical literacy instruction.*”



Amanda Frazier, Asst. Professor, East Tennessee State University. Her paper was titled “*Addressing the “Big Chill” in Educator Preparation: An Analysis of Tennessee’s Prohibited Concepts Legislation.*”

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Member Awards

SSEC MEMBERS AWARDED *OUTSTANDING ARTICLE AWARD* FROM TAYLOR & FRANCIS

[Ilene R. Berson](#) (Professor of Early Childhood Education) and [Michael J. Berson](#) (Professor of Social Science and Elementary Education),



both of the University of South Florida (USF), have been awarded the Taylor & Francis Outstanding Article Award. They were recognized during the March 2025 Annual Meeting of the



Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) in New Orleans, LA. Professors Berson are long-time members of SSEC. Michael also served as SSEC President.

Their article, [Cultivating Wonder: A Design-Based Approach to Elevating Social Studies in the Early Years](#), was selected by the ATE Professional Publications Committee as the recipient of the 2025 *New Educator Taylor & Francis Outstanding Article Award*. This research was supported by funding from a Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) grant, which enabled the exploration of strategies to integrate primary sources into early childhood social studies education.

Published quarterly, [The New Educator](#) is a peer-reviewed journal from The School of Education at The City College of New York in collaboration with ATE. Each year the journal's editors nominate outstanding articles are evaluated on the following criteria:

- *Advancement of knowledge in the field,*
- *Innovative approaches or perspectives that serve as models for future research,*
- *Excellence in research methodology or conceptual analysis.*

Reflecting on the significance of this recognition Ilene Berson stated "Fostering a sense of wonder in young learners is not just an enhancement to education – it is essential for developing their skills as curious critical thinkers. This award highlights the importance of designing learning experiences that cultivate curiosity, spark meaningful inquiry, and elevate social studies education in the early years."

By the way . . .



Amy Allen was interviewed at a Detroit Juneteenth Celebration (play with max. audio)

CHARA HAEUSSLER BOHAN RECEIVES THE 2025 IRVING MORRISSETT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

The SSEC Board of Directors elected to confer upon Chara Haeussler Bohan the 2025 *Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education*. A long-time member of SSEC, Chara's three years on the Board helped shape an updated vision for SSEC. Her experience beyond SSEC contributed greatly to the Board retreat in advance of the 2023 conference at Western Washington University.



Chara Bohan (l) receives the Morrissett Award from Amy Allen, SSEC President

Chara Haeussler Bohan is a professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies in the College of Education & Human Development at Georgia State University. She is the unit leader and doctoral program coordinator for Social Foundations. She specializes in educational history with a focus on gender and race, curriculum and instruction, and social studies education. She has diverse teaching experiences in urban high-needs schools as well as elite private secondary schools.

Chara has more than 100 publications, which include book chapters and research articles in leading journals such as *Action in Teacher Education*, *Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue*, *Educational Foundations*, *Journal of Excellence in College Teaching*, *Journal of Curriculum and Supervision*, *Journal of Social Studies Research*, *Social Education*, *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, *Social Studies Research and Practice*, *Theory and Research in Social Education* and *Vitae Scholasticae*.

Member Publications, Projects, Podcasts

PODCAST

[Scott Roberts](#) announces the release of the fifth episode of the [Hollywood or History?](#) podcast. He and Dr. Mark Percy discuss the "Just War Theory" and how to use it as a framework when showing war films. This is a must listen for any educator who has or plans to use these types of films in their classroom. Lesson plans concerning *Glory* and *Saving Private Ryan* are discussed.



Teaching War Through Film: Saving Private Ryan & Just War Theory | Hollywood or History Ep. 5

Episode 5 Link:

Title: *Teaching War Through Film: Saving Private Ryan & Just War Theory* | Hollywood or History Ep. 5

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(PODCAST continued)

Episode 5: Teaching War & Ethics Through Film with Dr. Mark Pearcy, Rider University. In this episode of Hollywood or History, Dr. Scott Roberts sits down with Dr. Mark Pearcy to explore how war—one of the most difficult and essential topics in social studies education—can be taught more effectively through commercial film. Centered on the volume **War and Film in the Social Studies Classroom**, the conversation highlights major motion pictures like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, and *Glory* to examine how cinematic portrayals of war can open up inquiry into historical context, ethical reflection, and civic engagement. At the heart of this discussion is the *Just War* doctrine, a philosophical framework guiding the Geneva Conventions, UN Charter, and Hague Convention. Discover how this scaffold helps students evaluate the causes, conduct, and consequences of war—and the roles of citizens and soldiers in shaping history.

Featured films: *Saving Private Ryan* and *Glory*

Featured concept: *Just War Theory*

Guest: Dr. Mark Pearcy (Rider University), former high school teacher, professor of secondary education, board member of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies, and host of *Pod Save the Teachers*

Download the episode's [Follow-Along Guide](#)

Explore the [featured volume](#)

NEW PUBLICATION

Amy Allen is lead author of “Representation matters, but so does data: A 15-year assessment of the assumed ‘demographic imperative’ in the social studies teaching force,” *Theory & Research in Social Education*, 1–34. Along with co-authors Thomas O. Williams and David Hicks, the authors apply quantitative research and a critical demography framework to national survey data to explore the extent to which the social studies teaching force has diversified in response to an increasingly diverse student population while also addressing the disparities in certification pathways and regional differences in teacher demographics.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00933104.2025.2523438>.



By the way . . .



SSEC Publications

YOUTUBE VIDEOS INTRODUCE SSEC SERIES BOOK DISMANTLING SPACES OF SILENCE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

The most recent entry in the SSEC Book Series was released in the spring of 2025. The editors took a new approach to launching the book – creating a three-part webinar series in which various authors discuss representative chapters of the book. You can find the webinars on the [SSEC YouTube channel](#).



Dismantling Spaces Part 1



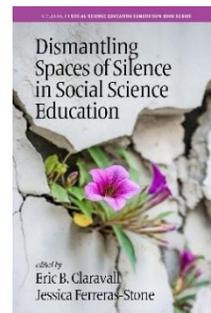
Dismantling Spaces Part 2



Dismantling Spaces Part 3

The book is based on the annual SSEC conference at [Western Washington University in 2023](#).

The next book in the series, titled *Social Science Education for Just and Sustainable Societies* is nearing completion. It extends discussions begun at the 2024 annual conference in [Marrakesh, Morocco](#) (see next).



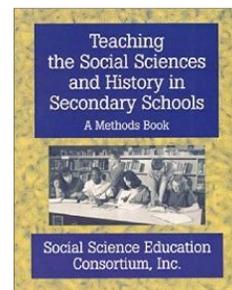
[Click above for purchase](#)

SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION FOR JUST AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

Social Science Education for Just and Sustainable Societies is the title of the annual book based on the 2024 Morocco conference. The editorial team include Sara Demoigny (Associate Professor, Auburn University), Alex E. Chisholm (Assistant Professor, University of Georgia), Adil Bentahar (Associate Professor, the University of Delaware, currently on sabbatical in his native Morocco and was co-chair of the conference). We expect a spring 2026 publication date.

TEACHING THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS: A METHODS BOOK

The revision of *Teaching the Social Sciences and History in Secondary Schools: A Methods Book* continues. The editors have been assembling planned chapters at various levels of completion, from initial drafts to nailing down authors for a couple remaining of chapters. The editors are aiming for completion in the fall of 2025, but they are still working with Emerald Publishing to select the best platform on which to make the book available. Contact [Matt Missias](#) for more information.



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2026 Annual Conference Havana, Cuba



Click the graphic for a link to the Call for Proposal form

- August 1, 2025 Call for Proposals Posted
- October 1, 2025 Proposals Due
- November 20, 2026 Notify participants of accepted proposals
- January 20, 2026 Commit to presenting; Registration and initial deposit deadline
- March 20, 2026 Full Payment deadlines

BOARD ESTABLISHES THE CHARLES S. WHITE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Quite to his surprise, the SSEC Board announced the creation a new award named for retiring Executive Director [Charlie White](#). The award for distinguished service will be conferred every five years in recognition of long-time service to SSEC and its mission.

Charlie's work with SSEC began when he was nominated and accepted for membership by the Board in 1997. By 2000, he was tapped as President of SSEC and led the 2000 annual conference in Woods Hole, MA. Thanks to [NSF funding](#), SSEC produced the conference book titled *Sea Changes in Social Science Education: Woods Hole 2000* (2001). He also hosted the 2017 annual



conference in Salem/Boston, MA, and edited the conference book [Democracy's Discontent and Civic Learning](#) (2018).



Charlie was selected to serve as SSEC's fourth Executive Director at the beginning of 2018, following his management of the 2017 annual meeting in Salem, MA. He took over for Jim Davis, who served as Executive Director from 2001 to 2018. Ironically, Jim was hired by the Board when Charlie was serving as SSEC President. As you know, Jim continued as SSEC Treasurer until shortly before his death in 2023.

Reflecting on his term as Executive Director, Charlie expressed his gratitude to the talented and energized board members with whom he was privileged to work. He was especially proud of the international conferences in Ireland and Morocco, which continued to attract young scholars and bolster SSEC's international profile.

Call for Volunteers

To put into action our goals, SSEC relies of volunteers to serve on the various committees established by the Board of Directors. We are also looking to add members to the following operational committees, which involve a one-year renewable commitment.

[Outreach Committee](#) organizes and administers the three to four webinars that SSEC organizes each year. The committee also explores strategies for increasing SSEC membership. This committee actively collaborates with the Social Media Committee.

[Conference Committee](#) works with the Executive Director, in consultation with the Board, to develop and implement arrangements for the annual SSEC conference, from location selection and paper selection to on-site logistics.

[Social Media Committee](#) maintains a consistent schedule of posts to increase SSEC presence on various social media platforms particularly in highlighting SSEC publications and presentations.

[Grants Committee](#) works actively with the SSEC Board to pursue grant and contract opportunities, including materials development, professional development, and original research.

[Awards Committee](#) makes recommendations to the Board for recipients of the annual *Early Career Award*, the *Irving Morrisett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education*, and the quinquennial *Charles S. White Distinguished Service Award*.

[Partnership Committee](#) is composed of liaisons who represent SSEC with our external partners and collaborate on projects that are of mutual benefit in terms of organizational mission. Current partnerships include: CivXNow/iCivics, Lithuanian College of Democracy/ Vytautas Magnus University, Centre for Human Rights and Citizenship, Dublin City University, and the Moroccan Center for Civic Education/Cadi Ayyad University.

We hope you will consider joining us in committee work. For more information, contact SSEC President Jessica Ferreras-Stone at jessica.stone@wwu.edu.

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*Scenes from the Opening Reception of SSEC 2025
in Detroit, MI*



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