As part of national and global Black resistance activism in the late 1960s, a group of U.S. Black sociologists agitated and organized for greater representation in the field’s dominant U.S. association and advocated for resources to support Black sociologists and Black sociological thought. Out of this work, the Caucus of Black Sociologists was formed in 1970 at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Washington, DC, becoming the Association of Black Sociologists and struggling with and for Black people globally towards liberation through the use and remaking of traditional sociological methods, theories, and epistemologies, and the recovery and innovation of distinctly Black methods, theories, and epistemologies. Each year since its founding, the Association of Black Sociologists has assessed the state of Black sociology and Black life at its annual conference. On our 50th anniversary, we return to Washington, DC, to continue this practice, reflecting upon this past half century of Black sociology in the organization and setting a course forward for the next half century in and beyond it.

This year’s conference theme emerges out of this impetus to assess, through the expansiveness of the Black sociological lens, the value of Black sociological work as well as the conditions that enable and constrain it. It also aims to trouble practices of assessment, valuation, and enumeration that objectify and obscure Black life. We are perpetually exposed to valuations of blackness and Black life, whether through its quotidian devaluations by the state; its extracted value as a commodifiable signifier of consumable cool; its broad and contested internal valuation in Black communities; and the cumulative value of the repair owed to Black people globally. This year’s conference invites considerations of the value of blackness, broadly construed, including considerations that reject capitalist norms and enact others. What is this Black capital? Where is it located, and what are the various possible conditions of its valuation (or anti-valuation)? How is it manifested in organizing, struggle, and various resistance movements? In formal politics? How might we think about power relations within the group of people racialized as Black globally and between those Black folks and other racial groups? How does Black capital emerge in struggles against racialized disenfranchisement and state violence, in struggles for reproductive justice and an end to gendered and sexualized oppression, in indigenous and First Nations struggles, contestations for immigrant rights and border re-imaginings, and calls to rectify climate inequities and disaster? From the politics of the everyday in every place Black people exist (or can be imagined to exist)—the kitchen, the block, the corner—to the politics of transnational Black critiques of imperialism, from the beginning of this world to the end of the next, we invite observations, speculations, riffs, remixes, and provocations around this year’s theme.
This conference considers the idea of Black capital as intertwined with the occasion of the Association’s 50th anniversary. We imagine the Black sociological enterprise as itself a manifestation of Black capital, a rigorous social scientific engagement with Black life that challenges white hegemonic devaluations of Black lived experience and offering needed analyses to ongoing internal discourse on Black life. We therefore also invite general papers and sessions that reflect the state of the field, outline the work ahead, and name the conditions of Black sociological futures. All interested individuals are invited to submit papers as well as proposals for complete sessions (three-to-four papers) and roundtables (including: Regular Sessions, Author Meets Critics, Regional Spotlight Sessions, Thematic Sessions, Poster Sessions, and Workshops) on the conference theme, the state of the field, or any general substantive field related to Black sociology.

Questions can be sent to the program committee at absociologists@gmail.com, but all submissions must be made through the online system by April 15, 2020. Further, all program participants must be current 2020 ABS members.

The ABS membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 each year. To be included in the final program, all participants must register by the registration deadline of August 1, 2020.

Conference Registration:
Membership renewal and conference registration can be completed online here. Mail-in forms for membership payment and conference registration are included here and available online via the ABS website.

E-mail: absociologists@gmail.com
Twitter and Instagram: @ABSSociologists
Facebook: Association of Black Sociologists

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!
2020 Membership Form

Membership is effective from January 1 through December 31, 2020

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal  ☐ Exclude my information from the membership directory

☐ Change my database information

Last Name_________________________________ First Name___________________________
Street Address________________________________________
City ___________ State     Postal Code_____ Province/County________________________
Phone I__________ Phone II__________ E-mail______________________________

Highest Degree Received______ Year Awarded ______ Awarding Institution__________
Current Work/Institutional Affiliation _________________________________
Areas of Specialization______________________________

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☐ Bronze: $1,000  ☐ Silver: $1,500  ☐ Gold: $2,000
☐ Platinum: $2,500  ☐ Diamond: $3,000+  ☐ Installment Plan*

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$_______Contribution to ASA Minority Fellowship Fund

$_______Total Payment

Please make your check or money order payable to Association of Black Sociologists. Print and complete this form and mail it, along with your payment, to:

MEMBERSHIP
Association of Black Sociologists
3473 South Martin Luther King Drive #495
Chicago, Illinois 60616-4108

* Installment plans must be completed within one calendar year of initial payment.
50th Annual Conference Registration Form
October 8-10, 2020
Embassy Suites Convention Center • Washington, DC

Name (as you want it to appear on badge) ___________________________________________

Affiliation (as you want it to appear on badge) _____________________________________

Street Address _________________________________________________________________

City, State, and Zip _____________________________________________________________

Province/Country (if other than U.S.) Mobile Phone __________________________________

E-mail ________________________________________________________________

NOTE: All conference program participants must pre-register by August 1, 2020 in order to be listed in the final program. Program participant registration fees are non-refundable. All program participants must be registered and be ABS members. One luncheon ticket is included with each registration.

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Total Enclosed Payment ________

Make your check(s) or money order(s) payable to the Association of Black Sociologists. Print and complete this form and mail it along with your payment to:

3473 South Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. #495
Chicago, IL 60616-4108

Questions? Contact Executive Officer Barbara M. Scott, executiveofficer@associationofblacksociologists.org.

\(^\d\) Conference registration includes the Joseph S. Himes Awards Luncheon.

\(^1\) Membership renewals can be completed online at blacksociologists.wildapricot.org.