



## **Call for Papers: Black Capital**

50<sup>th</sup>/51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Black Sociologists

**August 4-6, 2021**

Now Convening Virtually! Foreal! (God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise!)

[Deadline for Submissions](#): April 30, 2021

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. In honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, now being hosted in our 51<sup>st</sup> year, we remember that foundational moment in Washington, DC, 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 conference convening will be virtual. As you might know, our originally scheduled physical meetings in Washington, DC (October 2020 and April 2021) were canceled because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This last year has underscored the prescience and significance of the scholarly and community work we do—illuminating systemic anti-Black oppression embedded in social institutions, including the healthcare and justice systems. Moreover, the uprisings last spring and summer in response to the continued terror and violence of policing in our communities, illustrated by the murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd, further reflect the import of *and challenge to* Black sociological thought in this moment. Our work must always move towards liberation and must always respond to the profound movement work in which our people are engaged. So that means that the original theme takes on new depth of meaning, and we invite you to dive into and stretch that depth in your submissions for our virtual convening in August.

Now more than ever we should feel and heed the 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. Let us 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, disaster, and a global pandemic that affects all life on this planet, and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable lives? 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:absociologists@gmail.com), but **all new submissions and re-submissions must be made through the [online system](#) by April 30, 2021.**

**All program participants must be current 2021 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 join and register by the registration deadline of **June 1, 2021**. Membership renewal can be completed online [here](#). Here is a mail-in form for [membership payment](#) if you would prefer to mail your membership payment.

#### Conference Registration:

This year, because we are virtual and using the Whova app for our virtual convening, conference registration is separate from our membership system. Rates will be \$50 for student members, \$100 for faculty/non-student members, and \$150 for non-members. More information about registration will be forthcoming from the conference planning team when it becomes available.

E-mail: [absociologists@gmail.com](mailto:absociologists@gmail.com)  
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We look forward to seeing you virtually in August.