I am writing to request GSU funds to help cover the cost of my trip to the Southern Sociological Society conference on April 1-4 in Jacksonville, Florida. I am first author on a paper presentation entitled, *Why Come Forward Now? An Experimental Investigation of the Contexts that Prompt Whistle-blowing*. After several efforts for frugality, the estimated cost of my trip is $1,026.32. My department cannot fund this trip, as all their conference travel funds go toward our national conference. In addition to the GSU CPG, I am also applying for ISLA’s Graduate Student Professional Development Award.

**Description of Research**

Timing is an essential component of how we talk about whistle-blowing. “Why come forward now?”, people ask. Whistle-blowing often occurs at inopportune times for the accused, when the person is up for tenure, about to be promoted, or is running for political office. During these transitions, the accused often experiences an increase in status and institutional legitimacy while the potential whistle-blower is often surrounded by others praising their perpetrator. Although people sometimes dismiss whistle-blowers as having something to gain—be it profits or publicity—research in affect control theory (ACT) suggests other motivations for their timing.

According to ACT, people have expectations for those who occupy specific roles (Robinson, Smith-Lovin, and Wisecup 2006). When these expectations do not match reality, *deflection* is produced. According to ACT, deflection is the discomfort that occurs when expectations do not match one’s experiences. For example, because criminals are bad, people expect them to be punished, so seeing a criminal praised produces deflection.

Because deflection is uncomfortable, people are motivated to reduce it, which can be accomplished by 1.) reappraising the situation, 2.) leaving or avoiding the situation, or 3.) intervening. People can reappraise the situation cognitively by relabeling components of an event. For example, Boyle and McKinzie (2015) found that rape victims described themselves as naïve and the event as a “miscommunication”, despite their resistance to sexual advances, allowing them to restore their self-meaning and self-esteem.

However, some identities and contexts make relabeling difficult. For instance, Curdy (2017) found that institutionalized identities like priest, police officer, or principal are less likely to be relabeled than non-institutionalized identities like neighbor and friend. So, in situations where a perpetrator has an institutionalized identity, the victim’s ability to reappraise the situation is constrained, meaning that victims may be more likely to whistle-blow when a perpetrator occupies an institutionalized identity than when the perpetrator occupies a non-institutionalized identity.

Because people can also reduce deflection by avoiding the event, we expect whistle-blowing to be more likely when people feel avoiding the event is impossible, such as when media exposure is high. Therefore, we hypothesize that people will be more likely to whistle-blow when their perpetrator is transitioning to an institutionalized identity, when their perpetrator has increased status, and when exposure to the event is high.
We use an experimental vignette in which participants imagine themselves as the victim of a perpetrator who is about to change jobs. Then they are given the opportunity to whistle-blow. We use a 2x2x2 design, varying the identity (institutionalized/ non-institutionalized) and status (high/low) of their perpetrator (high/low) and the victim’s expected exposure to the event (high/low). When this paper is complete, we will send it to Social Forces, which is one of the top journals in the field of sociology.

Description of Conference
The Southern Sociological Society conference (SSS) is a regional conference, where sociologists from the southeast gather to share their work, collaborate, and network. Of all the regional conferences, the SSS has a reputation for strong presentations and active networking. It is especially important that I attend SSS this year for four reasons. 1.) I am a fifth year graduate student going on the academic job market this fall, so attending smaller regional conferences like SSS gives me the opportunity to connect with scholars one-on-one. 2.) I am originally from the southeast and I would like to obtain a job in that area of the nation. Attending SSS will give me the opportunity to do more targeted networking. I can meet with department chairs and get face-to-face exposure with scholars on hiring committees that I would not get at other regional conferences or even a national conference (which I will also attend). 3.) I have several one-on-one meetings set up for this conference including meetings with senior faculty (e.g. Lisa Walker and Murray Webster of UNC Charlotte) and junior scholars (e.g. Victoria Moody of the University of South Carolina). Finally, there is a disproportionate number of well-regarded scholars in my area of specialty (group processes and sociological social psychology) in the southeast, and the vast majority of them attend SSS. Attending this conference will allow me to get helpful feedback on the project I am presenting, as well as informal feedback about other ongoing projects, including my dissertation research.

Description of Networking Plans
I have lunch appointments set up with Lisa Walker and Murray Webster of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and I am in the process of setting up a meeting time with Dawn Robinson of the University of Georgia and Lynn Smith-Lovin of Duke University. All of these people are senior scholars who have given me excellent feedback on my projects in the past. Further, I am connecting with the following peer colleagues on this trip: Victoria Moody of the University of South Carolina and Chelsea Kelly of the University of Georgia. After job postings become available, I will begin setting appointments with hiring committee chairs.
## GSU Budget Overview

2020 Southern Sociological Society meeting in Jacksonville Florida April 1-4.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>$609.00</td>
<td>Round Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uber from airport to Airbnb</td>
<td>~$40.00</td>
<td>Round Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>$266.00</td>
<td>Lodging is ~$133.00 per night. I am staying 4 nights (4 x 133 = $532.00), but I am splitting the cost with another graduate student <strong>to reduce cost</strong> ($532.00/2 = $266.00). Therefore, my total will be $266.00.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>Price of <strong>early bird</strong> student registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>$81.32</td>
<td>MI&amp;E Rate = $61/3 = $20.33. $20.33 x 4 = $81.32</td>
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**Total** $1,026.32

### Evidence of cost estimations

**Round trip · ✈️ 1**

**South Bend ↔ Jacksonville**

**Total price from** $609

**Selected flights**

- **Wed, Apr 1 · 6:25 AM – 11:10 AM**
  - Delta · Operated by Skywest DBA Delta Connection
  - 4h 45m
  - SBN ↔ JAX
  - 1 stop 1h 15m DTW

- **Sat, Apr 4 · 8:45 AM – 1:27 PM**
  - Delta · Operated by Skywest DBA Delta Connection
  - 4h 42m
  - JAX ↔ SBN
  - 1 stop 1h 23m DTW

**Fare options**

- **Main Cabin** $609
  - Free seat selection
  - Priority boarding for a fee
  - Standard seat
  - 1 free carry-on
  - 1st checked bag $60

- **Delta Comfort+** $707
  - Free seat selection
  - Priority boarding
  - Extra legroom
  - Complimentary alcoholic drinks
  - 1 free carry-on
  - 1st checked bag $60

- **First Class** $862
  - Free seat selection
  - Priority boarding
  - Complimentary alcoholic drinks
  - 1 free carry-on
  - 2 free checked bags
Showing you results for "225 East Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202"

Only a few places left for your dates. We suggest booking soon.

6 places to stay

![Image](image-url)

**Park Avenue - #602**

- 3 guests
- Studio
- 1 bed
- 1 bath
- WiFi
- Kitchen
- Free parking
- Air conditioning

$133 / night

$502 total
### Membership Information

who have been approved by the Executive Officer. This membership does not include a subscription to Social Currents.

#### SSS 2020 BA/AA-Granting Departmental Membership
Membership for a Department of Sociology. Benefits include recognition in the annual meeting program and a subscription to Social Currents for their office. All undergraduate students from the department who present at the conference will have their annual dues waived (undergraduate conference registration fees still required).

#### SSS 2020 MA-Granting Departmental Membership
Membership for a Department of Sociology. Benefits include recognition in the annual meeting program and a subscription to Social Currents for their office. All undergraduate students from the department who present at the conference will have their annual dues waived (undergraduate conference registration fees still required).

#### SSS 2020 PhD-Granting Departmental Membership
Membership for a Department of Sociology. Benefits include recognition in the annual meeting program and a subscription to Social Currents for their office. All undergraduate students from the department who present at the conference will have their annual dues waived (undergraduate conference registration fees still required).

### Registration/Other Items

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