GPSA Sponsorship Request

Explanation of Activities
This letter is to explain my request for funding regarding research presentation travel. I will be traveling to the Eastern Sociological Society Conference to present on my current research exploring parental embodiment, which is part of my dissertation project.

Significance of Activity
This research uses interview methods to explore how structural ideologies impact the way parents understand their bodies and how they must negotiate pressures to conform to normative body expectations. This research fills the gaps in sociological literature, where bodies are often ignored and deemed unimportant to sociological study. I argue, however, that body norms shape us, control us, and influence how we interpret and experience the world. My goal is to use the unique experience of parenthood to further conceptualize how body norms harm everyone when we are unable to adequately conform to them. This research will be used to help inform physical and mental health for parents during pre- and post-natal care.

Activity Summary
I will be presenting on a chapter of my dissertation work titled “My Body Was Made to Produce this Child: Constructions of Natural and Normal Pathways to Parenthood” which focuses on medicalized birthing practices, such as the use of pharmaceuticals for pain relief, induced labor, or C-sections. Drawing from 40 in-depth interviews with parents who have had diverse pathways to parenting, I show that the way parents construct notions of natural, and therefore expectations of “normal,” simultaneously support notions of agency, dignity, and autonomy and define hierarchies of birthing experiences. My findings suggest that parents both challenge and uphold notions of embodied neoliberalism through their birthing choices and desires. Values of individual choice and the moralization of health contest the medicalization and risk narratives of childbirth but simultaneously construct a hierarchy, resulting in internalized guilt and stigma for parents who cannot, or do not, conform to normative expectations of natural childbirth.

I am the sole contributor to this project; collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the data. The proposed activity is for me to travel and present my findings at a regional sociological conference. This activity is expected of me by my dissertation committee and department. These conferences act as both formal and informal networking opportunities and to receive valuable feedback from experts in my field. This activity will benefit my degree progression since I will receive feedback from other scholars which will ultimately improve my project. It will also promote UNLV’s goals as an R1 institution where graduate students are active in their field and developing original research projects.

Use of Funds
Use of funds are for travel and lodging, which I have outlined in my budgeting form. This project should be funded because it will benefit my degree progression, provide me with opportunities to network for future academic and career opportunities, meet the goals of UNLV as a research institution, and uphold the rigor and integrity of our institution. This funding will support myself in meeting these goals.

Timeline
The conference is taking place February 23-26, 2023. I submitted my application to present but the deadline to submit presentations was extended to November 18, 2022 and I have not yet received a confirmed schedule for presentation. I will submit my confirmation for presentation once I receive it. My planned activities, however, include, besides my own presentation, attending various workshops on teaching since I am also an instructor at UNLV and attending lectures related to my field of study. Attending additional lectures will provide me with information on contemporary sociological work to further inform my dissertation project and continue to improve my pedagogy.

Best Regards,
UNLV Student First and Last Name
Itemized Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from GPSA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>Airline fees and taxes(^1) (Southwest)</td>
<td>1 adult ticket ($164.00)</td>
<td>$328.00 (roundtrip airfare from Las Vegas, NV to Baltimore, MD)</td>
<td>$328.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>Hotel fees and taxes(^2) (Hyatt Regency)</td>
<td>1 adult ($175.00/night)</td>
<td>$822.50 (Including taxes and fees)</td>
<td>$822.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>Conference registration for attendance(^3)</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Ride pick up to and from hotel(^4) (Public transportation)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Diem</td>
<td>Food and incidentals(^5)</td>
<td>$69.00/day</td>
<td>$276.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Requested from GPSA:** $1,150.50  
Amount to be paid by student: $320.00  
Total projected cost: $1,470.50

**Explanation of Costs**

1. Southwest Airlines was selected because it was the least expensive and allows me to take multiple bags for travel without additional cost. It also had ample options for flight arrivals and departures. Comparing to United Airlines and Jet Blue, it is the cheapest option with the most flight options. Comparative prices located in supporting documents.

2. I have chosen to stay at one of the recommended conference hotels (Hyatt Regency) because the Eastern Sociological Society offers a special rate for the days the conference meets. My supplemental documents only reflect the per night rate but I have emailed the Hyatt Regency for price confirmation (supplemental document 9). The total reflected in my itemized budget is what I was told when I called the hotel for the final total cost, which includes the additional fees and taxes, not listed in the nightly rate. I compared the prices to other hotels in the area and the conference hotel, with the special rate included, was the best rate. Surrounding hotels were either significantly more expensive or significantly farther away from the conference location. Comparative prices located in supporting documents.

3. Student pricing for attendance and participation in the conference. Cost of attendance to the conference will be at the student’s expense. I will be paying the lower rate for graduate student registration. Conference registration located in supporting documents.
4 I have chosen to take public transportation via the tram system. This is the cheapest option. Transportation will be at the student’s expense. Comparative prices located in supporting documents.

5 Per diem costs were identified by GSA.gov for Baltimore, MD at $69.00/day. Per diem costs will be at the student’s expense.

**Supporting Documents – Airfare**

Here you will find my price comparison for airfare. I have chosen to purchase a flight through Southwest because they have the cheapest prices and I also get two free carry-on bags unlike most other airlines. I have compared the prices to United Airlines and Jet Blue. Southwest has cheaper prices than United Airlines and also more flight options than Jet Blue.
## United Flights Schedule

### Depart on Feb 22, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Stop Count</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Airline</th>
<th>Fare Type</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Roundtrip Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 AM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>LAS</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 31m</td>
<td>$521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35 PM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>LAS</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 21m</td>
<td>$499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 AM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>LAS</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 33m</td>
<td>$471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>DEN</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 16m</td>
<td>$601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:06 PM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>DEN</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 21m</td>
<td>$579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:48 PM</td>
<td>1 STOP</td>
<td>ORD</td>
<td>BWI</td>
<td>United</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>8h 33m</td>
<td>$579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- United flights may be listed first.
- All fares shown are the total price roundtrip, per person. Fare attributes apply to flights operated by United and United Express.

**Additional Information:**
- Exclusive offers: $250 statement credit + 25,000 bonus miles (Learn more)
- **Business/First**
  - Roundtrip: $1,913
  - 1 ticket left at this price
  - United First (2)
  - Roundtrip: $1,913
  - 1 ticket left at this price
  - United First (2)
  - Roundtrip: $2,193
  - 1 ticket left at this price
  - United First (6)

**Fare Comparison:**
- Basic Economy
- Economy
- Economy Plus
- Business/First
Select your departing flight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mon Feb 20</th>
<th>Tue Feb 21</th>
<th>Wed Feb 22</th>
<th>Thu Feb 23</th>
<th>Fri Feb 24</th>
<th>Sat Feb 25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>$198</td>
<td>$228</td>
<td>$263</td>
<td>$647</td>
<td>Unavailable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Stops**: LAS-BWI
- **Select new dates**:

**Lowest**

- **10:21pm**: LAS
- **11:06am**: BWI
- **9h 45m**: Flights 778, 27
- **Stop**: BOS
  - Layover: 3h 14m

Don't worry, you searched correctly. This route has limited flights per day.
Here you will find my lodging price comparison and reservation confirmation e-mail. I will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor using the conference rate. I have compared the price to two hotels near the conference, the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel and the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel.
### Guest room, 1 King

**Stay More and SAVE**
- Includes 20 percent off Stay 3 or more nts.
- See Rate details.

Rate Details:
- $201 USD Avg. night
- 806 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)

**Member Exclusive Offer**
- Includes hotel credit per night
- 2,000 Bonus Points per night
- Welcome amenity
- See Rate details.

Rate Details:
- $237 USD Avg. night
- 946 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)

**Member Rate Stay for Breakfast**
- Includes free Rate details.

Rate Details:
- $241 USD Avg. night
- 977 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)

**Two for Breakfast rate**
- Includes Hot breakfast for 2 adults and children 12 and under.

Rate Details:
- $251 USD Avg. night
- 1,008 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)

### Guest room, 1 King, Partial harbor view

**Stay More and SAVE**
- Includes 20 percent off Stay 2 or more nts.
- See Rate details.

Rate Details:
- $213 USD Avg. night
- 852 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)

**Member Exclusive Offer**
- Includes hotel credit per night
- 2,000 Bonus Points per night

Rate Details:
- $255 USD Total per room

[SELECT](#)
**Confirmation Number:** #39499141

**Housekeeping - What You Can Expect**
As you prepare to join us, we remain focused on

**Come together**
Whether you’re on a business trip or another unforgettable family vacation, Hyatt Regency hotels connect you with the things that matter most.

**Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>300 Light Street</th>
<th>+1 410 528 1234</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland 21202, US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Check-In**
- **Date:** Wednesday, 22-Feb-2023
- **Time:** 04:00 PM

**Check-Out**
- **Date:** Sunday, 26-Feb-2023
- **Time:** 11:00 AM

**Number of Children:** 0

**Room(s) Booked:** 1

**Room Type:** 2 DOUBLE BEDS

**Room Description:**
2 double beds; 259 sq. ft.; floors 3-9; workdesk; Comp WIFI; dataport

**Nightly Rate per Room:**
February 22 - February 25 - 175.00 US DOLLARS

**Type of Rate:** EASTERN SOCIO...

**Rate Information:** Rate is eligible to earn points and tier credit

**Additional Tax, Fees and Service Charges:**
- **OCCUPANCY TAX:** 9.500%
- **STATE TAX:** 6.000%
- **BALTIMORE ASSMT:** 2.000%
Supporting Documents 3 – Student Registration

I will be paying the $40.00 early registration fee for graduate students.
Supporting Documents 4 – Transportation

Here you will find price comparisons for transportation to and from the airport and hotel. I will be taking the tram which will cost $2.00, one-way. I also show comparisons for Taxi and Lyft cost estimations which range from $20-$31.