



# American Name Society *Bulletin*

## *In This Issue*

ANS 2023 Annual Meeting	1-2
Call for Nominations for 2022 Names of the Year	2
Slate of New ANS Officers	3
ANS Research Connections	4-5
2021 ANS Executive Council	6-8

## ANS 2023 Annual Meeting

January 20-22, 2023

I invite all our members to attend the American Name Society Annual Meeting for 2023, which will be held online using the Zoom platform. It is accessible via Mac or PC, or using the Zoom app on a phone or tablet. During the conference, our current Vice President, Luisa Caiazzo, will be stepping into the role of President. She will do fantastic work leading our society! If you have not already “met” Luisa, either in person or virtually, this is a wonderful chance to get to know her. She is a long-time ANS member and has made many significant contributions to the field of onomastics. I am delighted to “hand over the keys” to her!

The Name of the Year discussion and vote will be held on Sunday, organized and moderated by Deb Walker. You can find instructions for Name of the Year nominations in this newsletter. The entire conference will be recorded so that registered attendees will have the opportunity to see presentations that they may have missed.

The past two years have been full of change, uncertainty, and loss, but I am proud to see our society continuing on, better than ever. Our journal, *NAMES*, which becomes digital-only in 2023, continues to publish groundbreaking research on all areas of onomastics, from scholars around the globe.

*cont'd p. 2*

While we all miss the camaraderie of in-person meetings, our online conferences have provided a way for scholars to present their work in a safe and economical way. I feel confident that the ANS will grow and evolve, always at the forefront of onomastic work.

You can register for the conference here:

<https://www.americannamesociety.org/conferences/ans-2023-annual-conference-registration/>

View the complete conference program here:

<https://www.americannamesociety.org/conferences/pastconferences/ans-2023/>

See you in January!

Laurel Sutton

## Call for Nominations for 2022 Names of the Year

The American Name Society requests nominations for the “Names of the Year for 2022.” The names selected will be ones that best illustrate, through their creation and/or use during the past 12 months, important trends in the culture of the United States. It is not necessary, however, for a nominated name to have originated in the US. Any name can be nominated as long as it has been prominent in US American discourse during the past year.

Nominations are called for the following categories:

- **Personal Names:** Names of individuals or groups of people.

- **Place Names:** Names of geographical locations, including all natural features, political subdivisions, streets, and buildings.
- **Trade Names:** Names of commercial products, non-profit companies, and other companies, organizations, and businesses.
- **Artistic & Literary Names:** Titles of art works, books, plays, television programs, movies, etc.
- **E-Names:** Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world.
- **Miscellaneous Names:** Names that do not fit in the above five categories.

Winners will be chosen in each category, and then a final vote will determine the overall Name of the Year for 2022. Anyone may nominate a name. All ANS members attending the annual meeting in January 2023 will select the winner from among the nominees.

You can access the nomination form here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XTN76JR>

Advance nominations must be received before January 13, 2023. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. You can also send your nominations, along with a brief rationale, by email to Deborah Walker: [debwalk@gmail.com](mailto:debwalk@gmail.com).

# Slate of New ANS Officers

Unfortunately, despite an intensive search and multiple inquiries of well-established ANS members, we have been unable to find a suitable candidate for the VP post. For that reason, ANS President Laurel Sutton and Past President Iman Nick proposed a two-part contingency plan to the ANS-EC. Explained briefly, the proposal called for a.) the distribution of the duties of normally performed by the ANS Vice President among the members of the ANS EC for the academic year 2023; and b.) the automatic extension of the aforementioned contingency until January 2024, should no suitable candidate(s) be identified for the Vice President post by September 1, 2023, as stipulated in Article IV, Section 1a of the ANS Bylaws. The contingency plan was made in accordance with Article II, Section 1a (4) of the ANS Bylaws. On December 12, 2022, an official tally was made of the ANS EC votes received by the stipulated deadline. The proposal was unanimously carried.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3a of the ANS Bylaws, the following nominees are “considered elected by proclamation and will be confirmed at the annual meeting.”

## Incoming President of the American Name Society, Dr. Luisa Caiazzo



Luisa Caiazzo (PhD) is Associate Professor of English Linguistics and Translation at the University of Basilicata, Italy. She has authored several publications on institutional discourse, translation, evaluative language around names and co-edited the book *Naming, Identity and Tourism and Shifting Toponymies*. As a member of the EC of the American Name Society, she has been Secretary, Allied Conference Coordinator, and is the current Vice-President.

## Incoming Allied Conference Coordinator, Dr. Anne W. Anderson



Anne W. Anderson, Ph.D., is an independent researcher studying semiotics of multimodal text, critical studies of children's and young adult literature, and theories and methods of research and of learning. An alumna of the University of South Florida, where she taught writing development and children's literature, she currently is the accessibility coordinator at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. Her articles and book chapters are found in *Children's Literature in Education* (2018), *The Early Reader in Children's Literature and Culture* (2016, Routledge), *Toward a Spiritual Research Paradigm: Exploring New Ways of Knowing, Researching, and Being* (2016, Information Age Publishing), and *Creative Approaches to Research* (2015), among others.

Iman Nick

# ANS Research Connections

One of the most common questions the American Name Society receives from the general public is “Where can I study onomastics?” In an effort to help the next generation of onomasticians, it was decided to start a new segment in the ANS newsletter. Each issue, space will be given to students who are searching for an established onomastic scholar to serve as a mentor. In this issue, we are featuring two PhD students: Kaomi Taylor and Kristyna Brezinova, who were both interviewed by Iman Nick.

## **Kaomi Taylor: A Graduate Student in Search of PhD Supervisor in Onomastics**



Hi! Please call me Kaomi (kei'əʊmi), a name I adapted from the Gaelic name Caoimhe. I've been fascinated by names all my life and recently learned about the study of names and the American Name Society. My interest in onomastics was piqued by a podcast by Dr. I.M. Nick on the Nazi use of names as a tool of oppression, which connected my passion for names with my decades-long professional focus on issues related to social justice.

### **Can you briefly describe your academic background?**

I earned my bachelor of arts in American Literature with a focus on writing from Middlebury College. A self-designed minor in

Computer Science and Ethics blended computer programming and ethical issues surrounding technology. After several years of working in nonprofits and taking a range of classes, I returned to school to earn a master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School as a young mid-career professional in 2000.

During this time I served as a research assistant for Professor Jane Mansbridge, Charles F. Adams Professor of Political Leadership and Democratic Values at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Subsequently I spent a semester in a master's program in public policy at Tufts University, which included coursework in quantitative and qualitative statistics. In 2021 I completed a Certificate in Adaptive Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School. From 2008-2017 I taught graduate and undergraduate classes as a part-time adjunct business school professor, first at Champlain College and then St. Michael's College.

Undergraduate courses included Business Ethics, Business and Public Policy, and Strategic Management. On a graduate level I taught Socially Responsible Business.

### **Can you offer a short description of the kind of project you would be interested in for your doctoral studies?**

I'm eager to contribute to the scholarship about what names and their usage teach us about our world and our values. I am fascinated by questions like “what might studying name-based prejudice teach us about the mutability of prejudice?” and whether academic research would bear out the validity of “namism” as a discrete occurrence versus solely as symptom of other discrimination. On the policy side, I'm curious about probing the differences in how the law protects brand names vs. individual names to tease out how such institutionalized differences may mirror and shape

*cont'd p. 5*



our societal values. And from a technological angle, I'm interested in correlating the viral names-as-insults trend alongside social media companies' use of automated technology to promote civil discourse, in order to discern how the two may have influenced each other and predict how they may continue to affect our online interactions.

If you or one of your colleagues would be able to serve as a doctoral supervisor for Ms. Taylor, please contact Kaomi Taylor via telephone at 802-310-1690 (US EST) or via email at [kaomivermont@gmail.com](mailto:kaomivermont@gmail.com).

### **Kristyna Brezinova: Seeking a Placement as an Exchange Student**



#### **What is your primary interest in onomastics?**

My main interest in onomastics are anthroponyms. The aim of my dissertation is to reveal whether society perceives certain personal names stereotypically (in Czech Republic). The main anthroponymic interest is concentrated on the Roma & Sinti (RS) population. My research aims to find out if there are names that refer to the RS identity and what stereotypical perceptions of majority societies may have about RS communities.

#### **Can you share a bit about your academic background?**

In August 2019, I completed a bachelor's degree in Czech language and literature, German language

and literature – with a focus on philology. In August 2021, I graduated from the University of Ostrava, majoring in Czech language and literature, German language and literature, with a focus on teaching at secondary schools. Currently, I am doing a PhD in the Czech language program at my home university. In addition to my native language, I have achieved the C1-C2 level in German and a C1 level in English.

#### **How might our ANS members help?**

I am looking for an opportunity to participate in an exchange program where I can study onomastics and/or Roma & Sinti culture. Ideally, the program would allow me to study abroad for a month or two in either 2023 or 2024.

If you know of such an opportunity, please feel free to email Ms. Brezinova directly: [kristyna.brezinova00@gmail.com](mailto:kristyna.brezinova00@gmail.com)

Iman Nick

# 2022 ANS Executive Council



**MS. LAUREL SUTTON**

President  
Catchword Branding (USA)  
laurelasutton@gmail.com



**DR. LUISA CAIAZZO**

Vice President  
University of Basilicata (ITALY)  
luisa.caiazzo@unibas.it



**DR. STAR MEDZERIAN VANGURI**

Secretary  
Nova Southeastern University (USA)  
sm1850@nova.edu



**DR. SAUNDRA WRIGHT**

Treasurer  
California State University, Chico (USA)  
skwright@csuchico.edu



**DR. SHARON N. OBASI**

Membership Officer, Place Names SIG Coordinator  
University of Nebraska at Kearney (USA)  
obasis2@unk.edu

## 2022 ANS Executive Council, cont.



PROFESSOR IMAN NICK

Editor-in-Chief of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*  
Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics (GERMANY)  
mavi.yaz@web.de



DR. CHRISTINE DE VINNE

Book Review Editor of *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*  
Ursuline College (USA)  
cdevinne@ursuline.edu



DR. BRANDON SIMONSON

Information Officer  
Boston University (USA)  
simonson@bu.edu



DR. DOROTHY DODGE ROBBINS

Immediate Past President  
Louisiana Tech University (USA)  
drobbins@latech.edu



DR. ANDREAS GAVRIELATOS

Member at Large 2020-2021  
University of Reading (ENGLAND)  
a.gavrielatos@reading.ac.uk

## 2022 ANS Executive Council, cont.



DR. SARA LOUISE WHEELER

Member at Large 2021-2022  
Glyndŵr University (WALES)  
saralouisewheeler@googlemail.com



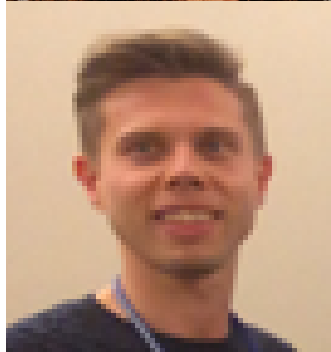
DR. WANG FENG

Member at Large 2021-2022  
Yangtze University (P.R. China)  
wangfeng@yangtzeu.edu.cn



DR. MARYANN PARADA

Personal Names SIG  
California State University, Bakersfield (USA)  
maryannparada@gmail.com



DR. MIRKO CASAGRANDA

Trade Names SIG  
University of Calabria (ITALY)  
mirko.casagranda@unical.it



DR. SUSAN BEHRENS

Literary Names SIG  
Marymount Manhattan College (USA)  
sbehrens@mmm.edu