

PAA NEWS

Recap of the Virtual PAA 2020

By Eileen Crimmins and Sara Curran

It was a momentous decision in mid-March to cancel our in-person PAA and build a virtual experience. So, at the end of March, we contacted all chairs of the accepted PAA 2020 sessions asking them to consult with their presenters and discussants and decide if they wanted to present a session using a virtual platform of their choice. Sessions could be either real-time or asynchronous, and they did not have to stick to their originally scheduled date and time. Knowing that some chairs, presenters, and members were overwhelmed with their new work/life circumstances, we allowed lots of flexibility and did not pressure anyone to do a virtual PAA presentation.

Thirty-one chairs decided to have real-time sessions—including one in May and one in June; 51 decided to have asynchronous sessions; 126 canceled their sessions; and 58 did not respond and were therefore canceled. If they were holding real time sessions, they were asked to provide the platform and supply the link. Most chose Zoom, one used Blue Jeans and one used Google. APC provided assistance to anyone who needed technical help.

About 100 of the originally scheduled 265 PAA 2020 sessions had some virtual presence. There were 29 real-time sessions and about 1,080 people attended the sessions on the original PAA days. The sessions went exceptionally well. Everyone was able to share slides and people used appropriate virtual etiquette for asking questions. Some people stayed after the virtual sessions to just hang around and talk.

Material for 66 asynchronous sessions is posted in the [library](#). The library is still up and open to uploads and views by PAA members, PAA 2020 presenters and conference registrants.

There are 190+ posters uploaded to the library for [PAA posters](#). These are divided by topic into ten sessions in the library. Please visit them and leave comments.

One virtual reception—“Demographers of Color and Allies”—took place on Friday, April 24 at the originally scheduled time and was attended by about 40 people.

Twitter was buzzing throughout the scheduled meeting days with demographers posting about upcoming sessions, sharing photos from their virtual sessions, and tweeting about materials they had uploaded to the PAA Engage library.

Now that we have accomplished one virtual PAA, we will have more virtual sessions throughout the year—perhaps some will be resurrected from the program but we plan to begin with Covid-19 sessions in May and June.

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The Presidential Address next year will be given by Eileen Crimmins, and Robert Hummer in 2022.

Huge shout outs for PAA staff, Bobbie Westmoreland and Betsy Alafoginis, who worked nonstop from the last week in March until the scheduled PAA 2020 days to help make the switch to a virtual meeting. We are grateful to them and the other PAA staff along with all PAA members, chairs, discussants, presenters, and the program committee who helped make PAA 2020 happen in this revised fashion. We're looking forward to remaining engaged throughout the year. Look for those events announced via PAA Affairs, PAA This Week and PAA Engage!

2020 Award Winners

By Betsy Alafoginis, Communications and Membership Manager, PAA

The following individuals have received these prestigious awards with a cash prize. Visit the [PAA website](#) to see the video presentations.

Christina J. Cross, who earned her PhD in Sociology and Public Policy at the University of Michigan in May 2019, and is a postdoctoral fellow and incoming assistant professor at Harvard University, was presented the **Dorothy S. Thomas Award** for the best graduate student paper entitled “Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Association Between Family Structure and Children’s Education.” The award was established by the Population Association of America (PAA) in honor of Dorothy S. Thomas, who was an American sociologist and economist and first female president of the American Sociological Association.

Kari White, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, received the **Irene B. Taeuber Award**. Dr. White’s research focuses on evaluating the interrelationship between people’s reproductive health behaviors and outcomes and the health services and policies that shape their access to care. The results from her research have influenced policy in multiple ways. The Irene B. Taeuber Award is named after the first woman to be elected both the president and vice president of PAA. The award is in recognition of extraordinarily original and important contributions to the scientific study of population or for an accumulated record of exceptionally sound and innovative research.

This year, there are two recipients of the **Clifford C. Clogg Award for Mid-Career Achievement**, which recognizes outstanding innovative scholarly achievements of population professionals who have attained their highest professional degree within the previous 10-20 years. **Jason D. Boardman**, Professor at the University of Colorado, is a co-recipient of this award as he continually pushes the boundaries of innovative population research at the intersection of demography and genetics. **Melinda Mills**, Professor at the University of Oxford, is the other co-recipient. Dr. Mills’s contributions have made a mark on diverse areas in population studies and demography, and have demonstrated her versatility across topics and methodologies from an early stage, including both qualitative and quantitative methods and strong theory development.

Frans Willekens, Senior Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, received the **Mindel C. Sheps Award**, which is given biennially for outstanding contributions to mathematical demography or demographic methodology. Dr. Willekens has made methodological contributions in multiregional/multistate demography, forecasting, migration flow modelling, and individual migration process modelling.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Suzanne Stokes Vieth, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, PAA

In the 90 days since the last government affairs update, the entire trajectory of the federal legislative and advocacy enterprise has been completely altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the enormous disruptions to “regular order” and the tectonic shift in legislative priorities, Congress continues its work, as does the PAA Office of Government Affairs.

Since the beginning of March, Congress has passed four large-scale coronavirus relief bills that have been signed into law. Collectively, they seek to provide resources necessary to combat the virus itself as well as its spread; to offer economic relief to individuals and businesses dealing with the economic fallout of the pandemic; and to stimulate recovery efforts. The fifth and latest measure, H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act, was still working through the legislative process as of press time. Two of the largest measures, the [CARES Act](#) and [HEROES Act](#), contain provisions of interest to PAA and population scientists, including funding for public health infrastructure, data collection, research, and economic relief for small businesses.

Less than two weeks prior to the closure of the U.S. Capitol, PAA Past President John Casterline, Association of Population Centers President Kathleen Cagney, and PAA Government and Public Affairs Committee Chair Vida Maralani came to Washington, DC to [meet with key congressional staff](#) to discuss the organizations' funding and legislative priorities. The following day, Cagney and PAA members David Johnson, University of Michigan and Pamela Herd, Georgetown University, traveled to the National Science Foundation to [meet with Associate Director for SBE Skip Lupia](#); earlier the group met with staff from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the needs and contributions of population science to the nation's behavioral and social science research priorities.

The PAA Government Affairs team was also busy coordinating PAA's response to some important federal RFIs (Requests for Information) of vital interest to population science. In February PAA submitted comments on a [proposed Maternal Mortality Initiative](#) at the National Institutes of Health; in March we submitted comments responding to OSTP's RFI [on Data Sharing](#); in April we submitted comments on the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) inquiry into modifications of the [federal poverty measures](#); and finally on May 5, we submitted comments responding to OSTP's RFI on accelerating [Public Access to Federally Funded Research](#).

The Government Affairs team shared the deep disappointment of all PAA members with the forced cancellation of the PAA annual meeting in April. We were also disappointed that this included cancellation of the Advocacy Counts 2020 meeting on April 22, which was poised to bring more than 150 dedicated PAA members to Capitol Hill to meet with their congressional delegations. However, we are grateful for the enthusiastic interest that these numbers expressed and we hope PAA members will continue to stay engaged by responding to future PAA action alerts. In a COVID-19 context, this is the only way that we can effectively express our community's views on important issues that affect population science.

PERSPECTIVES

On the Long-Term Impact of COVID-19

By Alberto Palloni, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid and Center for Demography and Health of Aging, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Stefan Walter, University Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid

There is a very large body of research on the long-term effects of the 1918 flu pandemic. Most of it focuses on the impact of *in-utero* exposure to the virus and invokes fetal programming and other mechanisms identified within the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) paradigm. The outcomes vary broadly from elevated adult mortality risks and poorer health status of older adult survivors, under par educational attainment, poorer labor market performance and lower wages, unemployment, excess disability, and deficient physical markers of nutritional status. There are, of course, studies that focus not on the effects of exposure to the virus *per se* but on outcomes related to the chaos that ensued. Most of these studies rely on the reasonable assumption that the 1918 flu pandemic created conditions of a natural experiment: it was unexpected and could not be anticipated; with some exceptions, exposure to it could not be avoided; and there were no competing events whose effects could be confounded with those of the flu.

The current COVID-19 pandemic will offer another opportunity to probe effects on many of the outcomes already examined by those engaged with research on the 1918 flu. Of importance are those associated with exposure in

embryonic life, fetal growth, early infancy, and early childhood. But there is something else: the economic crisis that will follow and the (possible) multiple waves of the epidemic. The post COVID-19 economic recession will vary greatly, as will exposure to and experience with COVID-19. There will be massive heterogeneity across social groups, regions, and countries in the effects of the virus and the economic crisis that follows to tease out more cleanly the role of both classes of exposure.

Why not offer future researchers the possibility of assessing effects of interest more robustly than their ancestors could with the scant data available from the 1918 pandemic? There are many possible initiatives but we choose to highlight only one: a longitudinal study of children.

Draw a national sample of women who were pregnant during the pandemic, those who gave birth, and their children aged 0-4. Gather hospital records with information about pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and delivery, take full blood samples from mothers and children, and establish a protocol to follow them up for a period of time until, say, physical growth comes to a halt. Do not forget to include in the sample sibs and twins! In addition to adult and child biomarkers (including, of course, exposure to the virus), one could retrieve conventional demographic and socioeconomic information reflecting various child outcomes, from markers of physical growth to cognitive scores, to school performance, to exposure to risk behaviors (poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking initiation). If, in addition, the child study leads to the creation of a large data bank with identifiers, it will make possible the formulation of additional studies to investigate outcomes at different stages of the life cycle of the population.

The study will be a platform to assess the hardships suffered particularly by the poor and disadvantaged and, perhaps, could also provide the foundation for interventions that prevent or minimize subsequent deleterious effects. Just a few examples:

- a. Online instruction will probably remain in place for some time. The inequalities this mode of instruction can generate are huge and will have potentially sizeable effects on educational attainment, labor market performance, and all those outcomes we know are related to education. Implementation of different and timely interventions that aim to minimize inequality of access to the internet could generate the opportunity to evaluate causes and differences in the rate of success.
- b. In-utero and infant and early childhood exposure to viral infection and nutritional deprivation can cause lasting effects. Inevitably, this class of impact will be felt more strongly in low- and middle-income countries. But it may also impact some subpopulations in high-income countries that are already facing adverse conditions (e.g. migrant populations and minorities). The children's study will provide an opportunity to assess physical and mental growth trajectories and identify those most in need of intervention to reestablish normal patterns of growth when these are derailed.
- c. Parental unemployment and associated hardships could lead to hopelessness, desperation, and fatalism. This will affect parental mental health and will inevitably alter their behaviors (e.g. risk behaviors, labor market participation, socialization norms). What will these conditions do to adult mortality rates, to union stability, to domestic violence, to norms and practices about elderly care, and—more generally—kin relations and the inter-generational contact? Importantly, how will the new household environment affect children? How will their parents' drastically altered future outlooks alter their own view of the world? Will the pandemic become a vehicle to transmit hopelessness and despair? Will existing inequalities beget even stronger inequalities?
- d. Traditional children's social relations will inevitably change. Peer contact will be altered by lockdowns and post-pandemic policies to prevent or reduce social contacts. Childhood activities such as summer camps, athletic and other sport competitions, and even birthday celebrations may be suspended for a while and, when reinstated, they will adopt very different styles whose effects will not be known for quite some time. Could these changes mark children, say, between ages 2 and 5?

How Ignoring “Invisible” Essential Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic can also Place Entire Communities at Risk

By Nadia Y. Flores-Yeffal, Texas Tech University, Department of Sociology

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, several meatpacking plants had to close due to outbreaks, threatening a shortage of meat in stores across the nation. A report dated April 2020 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that outbreaks were reported by 19 states, in which COVID-19 infections occurred in 115 facilities. “Among approximately 130,000 workers at these facilities, 4,913 cases and 20 deaths occurred.” It was found that the factors incrementing the risks of infection “include difficulties with workplace physical distancing and hygiene and crowded living and transportation conditions ([ref.](#))”

Workers at meatpacking plants can be considered invisible because most of them are immigrants, either refugees or undocumented immigrants. For instance, in the Pilgrim’s Pride poultry plant in Minnesota, 80 to 85% of the workers are Somali ([ref.](#)); they are therefore less likely to belong to a labor union and/or to stand for their labor and/or human rights. They receive lower wages than do workers in other industries and lack health insurance and other benefits, such as, paid sick leave. Also, they are more likely to work under risky conditions or even while they are sick. For example, the CDC report found that workers received bonus incentives to show up to work even if they felt sick (facilitating the spread of the virus) ([ref.](#)). In addition, the companies also lacked communication with the immigrants in their primary languages (i.e., the CDC report found that one company reported a workforce with 40 primary languages ([ref.](#))).

Previous studies also found that these workers are more likely to experience a large number of serious work-related injuries, including amputations of fingers, hands, arms and toes ([ref.](#)). In addition, about 56% of the workers end up experiencing carpal tunnel or musculoskeletal injuries related to fast hard cutting knife motions in speedy lines with a lot of repetition ([ref.](#)). Due to the low salaries they receive, lack of paid sick leave, and medical expenses related to their injuries, these immigrants experience high levels of poverty. They are often forced to live in crowded quarters and have to carpool to work, which places them at a higher risk of spreading the virus among themselves and to others.

After several plants closed during the month of April 2020 due to the series of virus outbreaks, several agricultural sectors, including the food supply chain (the lack of meat availability at stores), became a problem. Those affected include animal growers (who lack space for the animals) and agricultural sellers of animal food to the animal growers. On April 28th, 2020 President Trump signed an executive order using the Defense Production Act, declaring meat packing companies essential to protect the food supply chain ordering all meatpacking companies to remain open. The order was accompanied by liability protections to the companies in case workers got sick ([ref.](#)). Federal and state authorities, including the National Guard, are currently assisting with massive testing in these plants. Still, some companies like the JBS Beef plant near Amarillo, TX are refusing to test all of their workers ([ref.](#)). Also, at Change.org there is currently a petition in Spanish asking for signatures to allow the plant Triumph Foods to close for one week in order to test all of its workers and to disinfect the entire plant. They have already collected 2,500 signatures out of the needed 5,000.

It is almost impossible to practice physical distancing in these facilities given that thousands of workers share the same shifts and are forced to work for hours shoulder to shoulder ([ref.](#)). Their working areas are also refrigerated, which facilitates the spread of the virus even further. Due to this series of outbreaks, it has been revealed how essential is the job of these immigrant workers who have remained invisible to everyone and to the government. The truth is that by neglecting these workers, they are also bringing the virus to their homes and infecting their families, and then those families are bringing the virus to the rest of their communities. It is unethical that many lives are being placed at risk, not just the lives of the immigrant workers, but also the lives of those who live in their communities; all of this at the stake of preventing the loss of millions of dollars in the agricultural sector and guaranteeing that all Americans will have meat at their table.

DATA POINTS

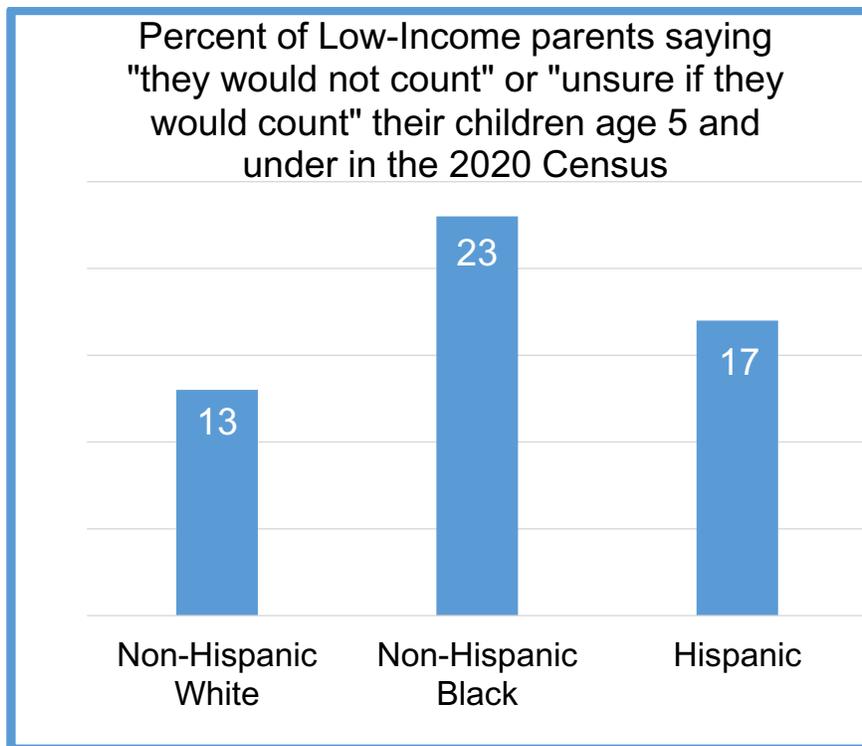
New Results Suggest Why Young Children Are Missed So Often in the Census

By William P. O'Hare, President, O'Hare Data and Demographic Services, LLC

Analysis of the 2010 Census indicates that young children (ages 0 to 4) had a net undercount of 4.6 percent, which is higher than any other age group. Adults had a net overcount of 0.7 percent. The net undercount of young children in the U.S. Census has increased from 1.6 percent in 1980 to 4.6 percent in 2010, indicating it is a persistent and growing problem.

The high net undercount of young children in the Census has challenged researchers to provide an explanation... particularly for young children who are biological children in traditional families who are missed. Recent evidence may provide an explanation.

The results of a survey sponsored by the Count All Kids campaign in the summer of 2019 indicates that many respondents are mistaken or uncertain about whether they should count children ages 5 and under in the census. Figure 1 shows that 18 percent of low-income respondents would not count or were not sure if they would count children ages 5 and under who live in their home (10 percent indicated that they would not count and 8 percent indicated that they were not sure if they would count). These results suggest that many low-income households could erroneously omit young children when completing the census, which may explain a lot of why young children are missed so often in the Census.



CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS (INCLUDING VIRTUAL)

Job-Seeking in the Times of Covid-19: A conversation with Demographers of Color. Friday, 12 June 2020 6-7:30pm EST. This **virtual panel discussion** features four PhD demographers of color who work in and outside academia. Panelists will share about their career and life experiences. Join us for a sincere discussion of pivots, resilience, and hope. We are organizing this panel in response to feedback gathered at the first ever member-organized

Demographers of Color and Allies Reception in April. Panelists: **Gniesha Dinwiddie**, AHRQ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; **Mao-Mei Liu**, University of California, Berkeley; **Eddie Telles**, University of California, Santa Barbara; **Monique B. Williams**, Independent Consultant, MBW Statistical Consulting. Moderator: **Fernando Riosmena**, University of Colorado Boulder. [Register here](#). A confirmation email with meeting info will be sent post-registration.

[Data Integration and Applications Workshop, September 2020, Ghent, Belgium \(in conjunction with the European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases\)](#).

Data are at the core of research in many domains outside of computer science, such as healthcare, social sciences, and business. Combining diverse sources of data produces potentially very useful and powerful sources of information, but it is also a challenging research problem. There are a multitude of barriers to data integration: the data collections to be integrated may come from different sources; the collections may have been created by different groups; their characteristics can be different (different schema, different data types); and the data may contain duplicates. Solving these challenges requires substantial effort and domain experts need to be involved. In the era of Big Data, with organizations scaling up the volume of their data, it is critical to develop new and scalable approaches to deal with all these challenges. In addition, it is important to properly assess the quality of the source data as well as the integrated data. As a consequence, the quality of the source data will drive the methods needed for their integration. Data integration is an important phase in the knowledge discovery in databases process, creating new and enriched records from a multitude of sources. These new records can be queried, searched, mined, and analyzed discover new, interesting, and useful patterns. The goal of this workshop is to bring together computer scientists with researchers from other domains and practitioners from businesses and governments to present and discuss current research directions on multi-source data integration and its application. The workshop will provide a forum for original high-quality research papers on record linkage, data integration, population informatics, mining techniques of integrated data, and applications, as well as multidisciplinary research opportunities. Please see the [website](#) for more information.

The New Reality at the Mexico-U.S. Border: A Presentation by Dr. Douglas Massey, Director of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University will be given at Penn State's 15th Annual De Jong Lecture in Social Demography on **Sept. 17, 2020 at 9:00 am** on the University Park campus. Discussants include Dr. Amy Hsin, Associate Professor of Sociology, Queens College, City University of New York and Dr. Kevin Thomas, Associate Professor of Sociology, Demography, and African Studies at Penn State. [Free registration](#) is available online.

Causes and Consequences of Parent-Child Separations: Pathways to Resilience. October 26-27, 2020 at the Nittany Lion Inn on the University Park campus. Penn State's 28th Annual Symposium on Family Issues will focus on circumstances of parent-child separation that have become increasingly evident in the social-political-economic context of the twenty-first century, namely parental incarceration, migration and deportation, and military deployment. In sessions addressing these three broad domains of parent-child separation, speakers from multiple disciplines will consider the societal factors that have given rise to increasing numbers of children and youth who are experiencing separation and the implications of separation for their well-being. Speakers will also highlight the implications of their research for evidence-based programs and policies that foster youth and family resilience. [More information and registration](#) are available online.

DATA

Public Release of 1940 Full Count Census with Linkages to Mortality Data. The CenSoc team, led by Joshua Goldstein at the University of California, Berkeley, is pleased to announce the first public release of CenSoc individual-level administrative data for the study of mortality disparities. The CenSoc project links the 1940 U.S. Census to mortality records from several administrative sources. The first is the Death Master File (CenSoc-DMF), a collection of over 83 million death records reported to the Social Security Administration, resulting in a matched data set of about 5.7 million cases, currently men only. The second is the Social Security Numident File (CenSoc-Numident), a public

release by the National Archives of nearly 50 million death records and corresponding SS-5 Social Security applications, resulting in 6.8 million matches of men and women. The third data set is the Berkeley Unified Numident Mortality Database (BUNMD), a stand-alone data set based on the Numident records consisting of over 49 million men and women with zipcode-level geographic detail. To learn more about the project and how to download the data visit censoc.berkeley.edu.

BOOKS

Applied Multiregional Demography through Problems: A Programmed Learning Workbook with Exercises and Solutions by Andrei Rogers (Springer 2020). This textbook offers a unique method for teaching how to model spatial (multiregional) population dynamics through models of increasing complexity. Each chapter in this programmed learning workbook starts with a descriptive text, followed by a sequence of exercises focused on particular models of increasing complexity, and then ends with the solutions. Topics covered include spatial population dynamics, population projections and estimations, spatial and age structures of migration flows, and much more. As such, this innovative textbook is a useful teaching and learning tool for teachers, students, as well as individuals who want to study demographic processes across space.

PAA is a nonprofit, scientific, professional organization established “to promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race by means of research into problems connected with human population, in both its quantitative and qualitative aspects, and the dissemination and publication of the results of such research.” Members receive the journal *Demography* and PAA Affairs. An annual meeting is held in the spring. Dues in 2019 are: Regular member, \$130; Emeritus member, \$112; Early-Career member \$90; Student member \$50; members in these categories who select to receive *Demography* in print will add \$22 to their membership fees; this applies to all except low-income members which is \$50. To join, contact: Population Association of America, 1436 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 301.565.6710.

PAA Affairs is the official newsletter of the Population Association of America. Its purpose is to report to PAA members news of the Association in particular and of the profession in general. Brief news items of interest to people working in the population field may be sent to the Editor (see address at right), who reserve the right to select for inclusion among the items received, and to edit items for publication. Deadlines for submission of items for the quarterly issues are as follows:

Spring:	February 15
Summer:	May 15
Fall:	August 15
Winter:	December 5

2020 President of PAA: Eileen Crimmins

Future PAA Meetings

2021 May 5-8, St. Louis, MO
America's Center
2022 April 6-9, Atlanta, GA
Atlanta Marriott Marquis

As stated in the Bylaws of the PAA Constitution, “Meetings of the Association shall be held only at places where there is written assurance that no member will be denied full access to facilities of the meeting place.”

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