

**Committee on Publications**  
**August 12, 2018**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

**Participants:** Committee members present were Claire Renzetti (Chair), Jennifer Glick, Matthew Hunt, Michèle Lamont, Abigail Saguy, David Takeuchi, and Veronica Terriquez. Incoming elected members present as observers were Syed Ali, Philip Cohen, and Kristen Schilt. Editors present for the open session were Matthew Brashears, Richard Carpiano, Mustafa Emirbayer, Brian Kelly, Rory McVeigh, James Moody, Leslie Paik, Rashawn Ray, Linda Renzulli, Fabio Rojas, Michael Sauder, Brent Simpson, and Stephen Sweet. Present from the Executive Office were Nancy Kidd (Executive Director), Karen Gray Edwards (Director of Publications and Membership), Jamie Panzarella (Publications Manager), and Rachel Pines (Publications Assistant).

**Approval of the Agenda.** An updated agenda was distributed and approved unanimously without revision.

**Date of the Winter Meeting.** The winter meeting will be Wednesday and Thursday, January 23-24, 2019, in Washington, DC. Editors will only attend on Wednesday. It is expected to be a full agenda with five editorships to be determined.

**Editor Extensions.** In January 2018, the Committee approved offering extensions to the editors of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior (JHSB)* and *Sociology of Education (SOE)* at the end of their first year of service. Renzulli agreed to extend her term as editor of *SOE*. Carpiano and Kelly were unable to extend their term as editors of *JHSB*. The selection process for *JHSB* has begun. Omar Lizardo and Rory McVeigh were approved for a fifth year as editors of the *American Sociological Review*. The third *ASR* editor, Sarah Mustillo, was not able to serve beyond four years.

**Journal Contract Update.** Kidd updated the Committee on contract negotiations with SAGE. This process involved data analysis from an outside consultant, consultation with EOB and Council, and extensive work with an ad hoc committee composed of Secretary David Takeuchi, President Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, and then-Committee on Publications Chair Renzetti. A new contract has been signed.

**2019 Subscription Rates.** Takeuchi reported on the approved 2019 subscription fees. Most increases are contractually determined; others were approved by the Secretary, as per Council authorization, to meet the publisher deadline ahead of regularly-scheduled EOB and Council.

**Contexts proposals.** The Committee discussed three proposals from *Contexts* editors Ray and Rojas:

- (1) An additional 16 pages for 2018.
- (2) A change in the subtitle of *Contexts* from “Understanding People in their Social Worlds” to “Sociology for the Public.”
- (3) The ability to appoint ad hoc special section guest editors without approval from the Committee on Publications.

**Sociological Theory Request for Additional Pages.** *Sociological Theory* editor Emirbayer requested a one-time page increase of 50 pages in 2019 to reduce the current backlog of accepted papers.

**Social Psychology Quarterly Special Issue and Guest Editor Proposal.** *Social Psychology Quarterly* editors Brashears and Simpson proposed a 2019 special issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly* on “Social Networks and Social Psychology” to be guest edited by Weihua An and Cathryn Johnson.

**Increasing International Topics and Authors in ASA Journals.** The Committee discussed a proposal from Jerry Jacobs for ASA to increase efforts to include international topics and authors in its journals. While the number of international authors is low, the number of submissions from international authors is much higher. International submissions are not getting good reviews. The Committee considered possible efforts for helping international authors improve their submissions and decided to encourage editors of ASA journals to provide information to international authors about submitting publishable manuscripts. Saguy will develop guidelines for international authors to be presented to the Committee on Publications, which can then be published in *Footnotes* and incorporated into the submission information presented to authors.

**Teaching Sociology Mission Statement Revision.** Sweet recommended updating the *Teaching Sociology* mission statement. The current mission statement includes interviews that are no longer published. It has repetition of intent in the first and third sentences. It has incomplete information on format expectations, which are now comprehensively covered on the journal’s website. Proposed new mission statement: “*Teaching Sociology* publishes articles, conversations, notes, and reviews to advance the quality of sociology instruction and the scholarship of teaching and learning in the discipline. Articles provide ambitious explorations of pedagogies, curricula, and assessment. Conversations address ongoing debates or controversies related to teaching sociology. Notes focus on specific teaching techniques in keeping with the standards of the scholarship of teaching and learning. Reviews provide critical analyses of recent books, films, videos, and web resources.”

**State of the Journal/Editor Selection for Journal of World-Systems Research.** The Committee reviewed the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World System’s selection for the next editor of the *Journal of World-Systems Research* as well as the “state of the journal” report required prior to that selection. The Committee endorsed the editor selection but recommended adding a co-book review editor to expand networks as the proposed book review editor is emerita.

**Executive Office and Budget Committee (EOB) Feedback on Compensation for Section Journal Work.** Over the past few years, the Committee has considered possible options for compensating the operating budget for ASA Office resources expended to support section journals after those journals begin to early royalties. The Committee submitted a recommendation to the ASA Executive Office and Budget Committee that 25% of any royalties earned by section journals will be paid to compensate the ASA operating budget for administrative services provided by the Office. The Executive Office and Budget Committee discussed the proposal and section responses at their meeting earlier in the summer. EOB is comfortable with the proposal but requested that Committee on Publications consider whether there is merit to adding a revenue threshold that would trigger the proposed split and/or a sliding scale whereby the amount of the split varies depending on the amount of the royalties.

EOB also asked the Committee to have a discussion on ways to bring section journals into greater conversation with the Committee. The Committee discussed ways to be more inclusive of the section journals, including inviting section journal editors to the August Committee meeting.

**Update on Editor Selections Activities and Nominations for New Editors.** The Committee on Publications will review five editorships in January 2019 (*Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Socius*, and *Teaching Sociology*) and recommend new editors for those journals to Council. The Executive Office and the Committee worked to begin the process earlier than usual. Letters of invitation have been sent to candidates for five editorships ahead of the Annual Meeting; those candidates were encouraged to attend the special session on serving as an ASA editor. Renzetti provided an overview of the selection process and encouraged committee members to submit more names of individual to be invited to apply.

**Editorial Board Nominations.** The Committee discussed nominations for new editorial board members for ASA journals and the ASA Rose Series. *Socius* will submit their nominations at the next meeting of the Committee. Renzetti asked editors to continue to work at maintaining diverse editorial boards, with particular attention to underrepresented minorities. The Committee discussed ways to increase the diversity on boards, including reviewing the rule limiting individuals to serve on one ASA editorial board at a time, writing a *Footnotes* article to explain board members responsibilities and encouraging self-nominations, reaching out to sections, asking the current editorial board members for suggestions, and giving recognition to top reviewers.

***Journal of Health and Social Behavior* Permanent Page Allocation Increase.** Editors Carpiano and Kelly explained the earlier 2018 page request was a one-time allocation to clear out the backlog of accepted articles they inherited. It took a year before the backlog of articles accepted by the previous editorial team was eliminated and they were able to begin publishing articles they had accepted. Submissions to the journal have increased significantly over the previous two editorships, which in turn has lowered the acceptance rate. The editors are asking for a permanent increase in their page allocation of 80 pages per volume (from 556 to 636 per year).

**New Publications Committee Chair.** Renzetti announced that Saguy has agreed to serve as the next chair of the Committee from September 1, 2018, though August 1, 2019, with the possibility of extending for a second year. Renzetti thanked Saguy for volunteering and thanked all who serve on the Committee and the new members for joining.

**Report from SAGE.** Eric Moran and Thomas Mankowski joined the meeting, gave an overview of recent activity, and answered questions about various issues.

**Transition to FigShare for Supplemental Materials/Data.** SAGE has decided to partner with Figshare for their journals and recommended that ASA does as well. Mankowski reviewed the three options available to the Committee for supplemental material for ASA journals with SAGE.

- (1) Currently, authors may provide supplemental materials/data (and many do). The data is hosted on the SAGE journals site and are "paywalled" with the same access restrictions (requiring a member subscription or institutional access) as the full article.
- (2) ASA could choose to continue to have supplemental materials hosted on SAGE Journals but instead have the materials/data open access (but retaining the existing paywall for the article). While the supplemental materials would be open access, this option limits the ability to future share the open data outside the SAGE system.
- (3) If ASA follows SAGE's recommendation, supplemental materials would be hosted on Figshare, but the data would be visualized alongside the article on the SAGE journal sites through a viewing widget.

The Committee ended its open session, with thanks to the editors in attendance, and moved into Executive Session.

The Committee voted to:

- Approve 16 additional pages for *Contexts* in 2018.
- Recommend to Council a change in subtitle for *Contexts* to “Sociology for the Public.”
- Allow the *Contexts* editors to appoint guest editors for special sections without requiring formal approval from the Committee on Publications.
- Approve a one-time 50-page increase in the page allocation for *Sociological Theory* in 2019 to alleviate the manuscript backlog.
- Approve Weihua An and Cathryn Johnson as guest editors for a special issue of *Social Psychology Quarterly* on “Social Networks and Social Psychology.”
- Develop additional information for international authors submitting to ASA journals.
- Recommend to Council a modified mission statement for *Teaching Sociology*.
- Support the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World System’s selection for the next editor of *Journal of World-Systems Research*.
- Recommend to Council that 25% of royalties earned by section journals go to the ASA operating budget to provide staff support.
- Invite ASA section journal editors to attend the August meeting of the Publications Committee to ensure an ongoing discussion on the relationship between ASA and its section journals.
- Approve nominations for new ASA journal and Rose Series editorial board members.
- Approve an 80-page annual increase in the permanent page allocation for the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.
- Approve Abigail Saguy as the next Committee chair.
- Approve a proposal from SAGE Publishing that supplemental article data be hosted in the FigShare open data repository to eliminate subscription access restrictions on such data.
- Request that *Socius* editors inform invited authors that they may request an APC waiver rather than offering an automatic waiver.
- Recommend that articles submitted for special *Socius* collections be reviewed and published independently.
- Formally express the Committee’s appreciation to outgoing chair Claire Renzetti.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.