

Annual Report for the Economic Sociology Section

For membership year 2014-15

Prepared by Greta Krippner, Past Chair of the Section.

October, 2015



Introduction

Dear Section Past Chair;

Section Annual Reports are an important tool for building your section's institutional memory and history. In addition, they are one of the most valuable tools that the Association has to assess the vitality of your section. These reports are read and discussed by the Committee on Sections at its Fall/Winter meeting. Afterwards they are retained in the ASA's Sections archive and will be available upon request for future section members and officers.

Annual Reports should cover your section's activities during your term as chair, or approximately from the end of the previous year's Annual Meeting to the end of this year's.

Please send your completed report to the Executive Office by October 15th of this year. We prefer your reports are sent in electronic format rather than in print. Any printed materials sent to us will be converted into an electronic format.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, comments or concerns. I am here to assist you. Thank you for your hard work and creativity over these last several years, and congratulations for the successful completion of your term as Chair of your Section.

Sincerely,
Justin Lini, MA
Program Coordinator for Sections, American Sociological Association.
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Section Governance

Business Meeting

August 25, 2015, Chicago, Illinois

(In lieu of absence of Delia Baldassarri, Secretary-Treasurer, meeting notes were prepared by Nancy DiTomaso, Section Chair-elect.)

Meeting commenced at 1:40 p.m. (due to time to clear the room from previous activities); chaired by outgoing Chair, Greta Krippner, with **34 members** in attendance.

1. Attendees were welcomed to the meeting
2. The Chair provided the following reports on section activities for the past academic year and for the Chicago meetings:
 - The Economic Sociology Section organized 6 panels, including two invited panels, three defined topic but open submission, and one open topic. Thanks were offered to panel organizers:
 - Marion Fourcade, Political Economy, Rebooted (invited)
 - Sarah Quinn, Economies of Difference (invited)
 - Leslie McCall, Economic Inequality (open)
 - Andrew Schrank, The Economic Sociology of Development (open)
 - Alya Guseva, Social Economies of Households (open)
 - Jen Bair, Open Topic
 - The Section also organized roundtables on 12 different topics. Thanks were offered to Ryan Calder for selecting and organizing papers into topics.
 - The Economic Sociology Section coordinated with the Economic Sociology regular session organizer, Richard Swedberg, who organized an additional 7 panels on economic sociology topics.
 - The Section organized mentoring meetings for graduate students working on dissertation projects who expressed an interest. Thanks were offered to the faculty who participated (of whom there were too many to name individually). Thanks were especially offered to Lindsey Ibanez for heading up this effort for the second year in a row.
 - The Section published three issues of *Accounts*. Thanks were given to those who contributed features, and thanks were especially offered to the University of Michigan editorial team: Kelly Russell, Mikell Hyman, Linroy Marshall, and Rick Rodems.
 - The Chair also thanked outgoing Council members, Sarah Quinn and Lindsey Ibanez.
 - Thanks were also offered to outgoing Chair, Nina Bandelj, for being generous with advice during the year, and to the incoming chair, Alya Guseva, for riding shotgun.
3. The Chair shared a report on membership as follows: Jen Bair and Emily Barman oversaw a membership drive in the fall, hitting the magic 800 threshold so that the Section could have an extra session. At the moment, the Section membership stands at around 725 members, which means we will again need to hold a membership drive if the Section wants to be granted an extra session, because sections are allocated sessions based on the number of members. The Section budget is also determined by the number of members. Section members can help increase the number of Section members by encouraging friends and colleagues to sign up for the Section and by faculty directly sponsoring student memberships. Sponsoring a student member is easier now than ever to do given that the ASA has created a feature on its website to do this directly online. Information on how a faculty member can sponsor a student will be sent to the members following the

meeting. A student has to be an ASA member already in order for the faculty member to sponsor Section membership (which currently costs \$5.00 for a student Section membership).

4. The Chair gave the following report on the Section Finances: Section treasurer Delia Baldassarri was not able to attend the Business Meeting, so the Section Chair summarized the report that she provided. The bottom line is that Section income slightly exceeds expenditures, and the Section has been slowly building up a surplus over recent years. The Section budget in 2014-2015 was approximately \$4,600. This includes approximately \$1,000 carried over from the previous year and the Section allocation from membership dues for this year of close to \$3,600.

Section expenditures included the reception, council breakfast, award plaques, and a monetary award for the student paper awardee. The Section officers estimate total expenses for the Chicago meeting of approximately \$3,000, which will leave the Section with \$1,611 to carry over into the next fiscal year.

5. Announcement of Section Prizes:

The Chair expressed personal thanks to all those who served on award committees. This is a very time consuming task, but one that is really critical for showcasing the excellent work being done in economic sociology. All of the committee chairs reported that they had many, many excellent submissions, an indication that the Section is intellectually vibrant.

- **Burt Prize for Best Student Paper:** Simone Polillo chaired, but in Simone's absence Laura Doering, who also served on the committee, presented the award. The other committee member was Tod van Gunten. The Committee reported the following winner and honorable mention:
 - The winner of the Burt Prize for Best Student Paper is Daniel DellaPosta, with a paper entitled "Bridging the Parochial Divide: Closure and Brokerage in Mafia Families." DellaPosta's paper breaks new theoretical and empirical ground: the dynamic relationship between brokerage and closure now constitutes the frontier of social network research, and this paper presents a very original, new take on who can span structural holes through the creative use of data on 24 mid-century Italian-American mafia families. Theorizing the tension between in-group solidarity and the necessary network diversity of the boundary-spanner is a useful contribution to our understanding of how social groups gain power and access to valued resources while maintaining control over their identity and the loyalty of their members.
 - The Committee also recognized with honorable Roi Livne, for his paper entitled "Economies of Dying: The Moralization of Economic Scarcity in U.S. Hospice Care." Livne's paper makes an original contribution to several literatures: the sociology of morality, the sociology of commensuration, and the sociology of markets for intimate goods among others. Using mixed methods, he shows how in US hospices, there is an historical convergence between the moral motivations of the practitioners and those of the policymakers and of the insurers, a convergence based on a focus on scarcity. Unexpectedly scarcity, in spite of being couched in economic terms, is a moral issue these various parties use as a way to make ethical sense of difficult decisions. By focusing on quantity rather than quality as morally significant, Livne significantly expands the scope of economic sociology.
- **Granovetter Prize for Best Article:** In absence of Marc Ventresca, who chaired the committee, John-Paul Ferguson, also a committee member presented the award. Lawrence King and Juan Pabro Pardo-Guerra were also committee members. The winner and honorable mention were as follows:
 - The winner of the 2015 Granovetter Prize for Best Article was awarded to András Tilcsik for "Imprint-Environment Fit and Performance: How Organizational Munificence at the Time of Hire Affects Subsequent Job Performance," published in *Administrative Science Quarterly*. This paper also won for best paper from the Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section. Tilcsik's study examines how socialization into firms affects subsequent employee performance. In particular, he emphasizes that employees' early learning of how to do their jobs "imprints" them with a particular set of habits and practices, especially surrounding client interactions. Because the conditions within firms change over time, employees who are hired in unusual periods are likely to be imprinted with a maladaptive set of work habits, relative to those hired in more typical periods. Tilcsik explores this in the context of two IT service firms, where employees who are onboarded

during particularly flush periods learn a gruff, transactional style of client interaction, while employees who join in lean periods learn to develop thick interactions with clients. In both of these cases, senior managers whom Tilcsik interviewed saw these extreme behaviors as less efficient and counter-productive during regular operations. Tilcsik's study is carefully documented and artfully written; but it is ultimately the *usefulness* of such findings, from the perspective of those who want both to understand and to change organizations, that makes it a stand-out piece of work.

- Honorable mention was awarded to Kieran Healey (Duke) and Marion Fourcade (Cal) for their paper, “Classification Situations: Life-Chances in the Neoliberal Era,” published in *Accounting, Organizations and Society*. Fourcade and Healey’s article argues that we should invert two assumptions of class analysis: (1) that class is generated on the production side, through differential attainment of wealth, status, and power deriving from different locations within the labor market and occupations structure, but our focus has led us to ignore the consumption side, particularly the provision of, access to, and regulation of consumer debt and credit and (2) that the segmentation of consumers through their assignment to different quantitative buckets via actuarial techniques means that the market is itself a driver of class distinction and durable inequality. Healey and Fourcade introduce the concept of “classification situations” to describe these instances when the market condenses social differences.
- Zelizer Prize for Best Book: Sarah Quinn, who chaired the committee, presented. Other committee members were: Ofer Sharone, Lyn Spillman, and Cristobal Young. The Committee reported the following winner and honorable mention:
 - The winner of the 2015 Zelizer Prize for Best Book in Economic Sociology was awarded to Martin Ruef for *Between Slavery and Capitalism: The Legacy of Emancipation in the American South* (Princeton University Press, 2014). This book draws from a remarkable range of sources – from surveys and census data to memoirs and historical interviews – to trace the transformation of Southern labor after the Civil War. With clarity and rigor, Ruef details a set of interconnected changes in labor contracts, land tenure, and credit distribution, which together evolved into a new system of capitalist institutions that existed in an uneasy tension with the lingering institutional structures of slavery. Noting that this was a transition fraught with uncertainty, Ruef shows how institutions allow people to cope not just with risk and classical uncertainty, but also with categorical uncertainty, or an inability to reliably classify various social practices and objects. In all, the Committee found the book to be an outstanding contribution to our understanding of labor markets and institutional change, one that shines new light on how institutions come to stabilize the systems of classification and categorization that underscore social and economic life.
 - The Committee also recognized Dan Lanier-Vos’s book *Sinews of the Nation: Constructing Irish and Zionist Bonds in the United States* (Polity, 2013), with an Honorable Mention. Reconstructing Irish and Zionist fundraising attempts abroad, Lanier-Vos brings insights from the study of morality and markets to bear on the study of group formation and national attachments. This carefully researched book offers a fine-grained look into how social forces are reflected in, and constituted through, monetary transactions forged within particular organizational contexts. Committee members noted that “[t]his book is a beautifully constructed comparison that generates insights on the link between exchange and nation building. It is well written, deeply researched, and very original.”
6. The outgoing Chair, Greta Krippner, introduced the incoming chair, Alevtina (Alya) Guseva from Boston University, Department of Sociology, who took over chairing the meeting from this point forward.
 7. The incoming chair, Alya Guseva, thanked the outgoing chair, Greta Krippner, for her contributions over this past year. She also expressed her appreciation to everyone who participated in making the Section flourish over the past year and underlined the importance of the contributions of the Section members to the success of the Section.
 8. A request was made to those attending to contribute to support graduate student memberships for the coming year.
 9. An announcement was made that the Section needs a new webmaster. Volunteers can work with the new members of the *Accounts* team that has recently been appointed. Any member who is interested or who might have a graduate student who would see this responsibility as an opportunity should get in touch with the Section Chair. ASA is changing their website infrastructure, which is hoped to make the website more

useful to members. They expect the new web structure to be operation by mid-2016. Thanks were also extended to Emanuel Ubert for his services as Section webmaster.

10. A reminder was made that a sign-up sheet for Business Meeting attendance was being circulated to each table. It is required that the Business Meeting report include the number in attendance. The attendance count was 34.
11. The incoming chair, Alya Guseva, provided an overview to the attendees about her plans for the coming academic year and the areas where participation is welcomed and solicited. The following goals for the Section were outlined:
 - Promotion of the intellectual vibrancy of economic sociology.
 - Service to all members of the Section, recognizing that members in different circumstances or stages of their careers may need different services.
 - Intellectual and social ties across subfields to avoid subfields becoming insulated. Members were asked to think of ways to sustain dialogues across subfields and to branch out to new areas for economic sociology.
 - Promotion of dialogue across national boundaries.
 - Creation of additional opportunities for intellectual exchange of the members through such activities as the following:
 - Submissions for *Accounts*.
 - Volunteering for Section responsibilities. Members were invited to volunteer for various activities on the circulating attendance sheet.
 - Hosting of a mini-conference to precede the 2016 Meetings in Seattle, given that the Economic Sociology Section Day is the first day of the conference.
12. The incoming chair, Alya Guseva, provided additional information about the plans for a mini-conference for the 2016 meetings in Seattle. A general theme of “Frontiers of Economic Sociology” has been suggested, with themes to range widely to include, for example, inequality, climate change, the European crisis, financial crisis, and many others. The membership will be asked to provide additional input into suggested themes. At present, we are hoping that the mini-conference can be held at the University of Washington in Seattle. Although final plans have not been made, there are plans for perhaps two concurrent sessions with about 50 people in attendance at each, for a total of about 100 mini-conference participants. There will be an additional fee for participation in the mini-conference to cover the costs of food and rooms as necessary. Sarah Quinn is looking into the logistics of what may be possible for this conference.
13. Given the current membership count, the Section should have 5 panels to organize for the Seattle meetings, with a hoped for additional panel if the membership reaches 800 before the end of September. The Chair and Council members expect to select topics for the sessions, after a solicitation to Section members for their suggestions.
14. Other Business: A discussion ensued under New Business with regard to whether the panels for the meeting for 2016 should be open topic and formed out of the submissions for the Section or whether topics should be selected in advance by the Chair and the Council members. There was a difference of opinion about which format was likely to present the greatest number of opportunities and the widest possible participation for Section members.

Greta Krippner argued that having specific topics for the Section sessions, with open submission for Regular Sessions (organized by the ASA Program Committee) will ultimately expand membership, because a large submission to the Regular Session solicitation makes it possible for the Regular Session organizer to request additional sessions for economic sociology topics. If having specific topics organized by the Section limits

the number of submissions to the Section panels, it will likely expand the number of submissions to the Regular Session panels, making it more likely that additional panels on economic sociology topics will be available. This plan, however, assumes that the organizer of the Regular Session panels, who is Victor Nee for 2016, acts quickly and makes a strong enough case to ASA for additional sections for Economic Sociology Regular Session panels.

Nancy DiTomaso disagreed with this assessment and argued that having open submissions for both Section panels and Regular Session panels is the best way to represent the research actually being done by Section members and to provide the best opportunity for all Section members to participate in the program. She further argued that limiting submissions to Section panels by having specific topics that may or may not represent current Section member research is not a good strategy and that it will not necessarily increase the number of overall opportunities for participation at the meetings. Instead, she argued that it creates a sense of exclusion for many members who do not feel that the topics announced in any given year offer a place for their research to be considered.

Alya Guseva added that with the Mini-conference planned for the 2016 meetings in Seattle there will be additional ways for members to present their research at the meetings. She also mentioned that Richard Swedberg, who organized the Regular Session panels for 2015 meetings in Chicago, included 5 papers in each panel, with no discussant, thus increasing the number of papers that could be presented at the meetings.

After a lively discussion, it was noted that this will be an issue that is likely to continue into the future. Other sections have addressed it as well, with Organizations, Occupations, and Work voting this year to have all open panels for the next year. Members who feel strongly in either direction should let the Chair know of their preferences.

Alva Guseva noted that if there are any announcements that should be circulated to the members, they should be sent to her by e-mail at aguseva@bu.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Section Council Meeting

August 24, 2015, Chicago Illinois

(In lieu of absence of Delia Baldassarri, Secretary-Treasurer, meeting notes were prepared by Greta Krippner, Section Chair.)

Meeting commenced at 7:15 am with the following members of Council in attendance: Greta Krippner (Chair), Alya Guseva (Incoming Chair), Nancy DiTomaso (Chair-Elect), Lauren Rivera, Simone Polillo, Emily Barman, Sarah Quinn, Lindsey Ibanez, Angelina Grigoryeva.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Membership: Chair reported that we are currently at 725 members and that competition for members continues to be acute as the number of sections in the ASA grows. She suggested that the Section may need to establish a more continual thrust on the membership front if we are to hold ourselves above the 800 threshold. Following discussion, we determined that we could take a more relaxed stance on membership this year, as we are planning a mini-conference and will therefore have ample opportunity to disseminate the research of Section members even if we end up with 4 rather than 5 panels on the official program. Council nevertheless agreed to hold a membership drive in September, and to follow up with lapsed members in December, in order to maintain membership at healthy numbers.

3. Mentoring Activities. We discussed our mentoring efforts tied to membership drive last year (in which a “coffee” with an established member of the section was raffled off to a select number of new student members) and decided that, while this had been an interesting experiment, we are unlikely to continue this effort in its current form in the future. The Chair reported hearing back from faculty who complained about feeling increasingly taxed by the proliferation of mentoring events across sections. Lindsey Ibanez reported on our other, ongoing mentoring activity, which simply involves matching interested graduate students to faculty with related research interests for an informal conversation. This initiative, now in its second year, seems to be successful, and the consensus was to continue it in some form. There was some discussion about having this occur as a group conversation (i.e., one faculty member paired with multiple students rather than the current one-on-one meeting). There was also discussion of different types of mentoring opportunities that could be folded into the planned mini-conference.

5. Webmaster. Chair reported that our current webmaster is stepping down and that we need to recruit another person to fill this role. We discussed ways of making the position more attractive, perhaps by bundling this task together with the newsletter by making the webmaster a member of the editorial team. This would give the webmaster a greater stake in creating content and also facilitate coordination between the website and newsletter. (The Theory Section uses the model, and their current webmaster/newsletter editor, Erin Metz McDonnell, offered to consult with our Section on their process.)

6. Restructuring Chair Responsibilities. The Chair raised the issue of how our Section allocates responsibility for Section business between Past Chair, Chair, and Chair Elect. Our model puts full responsibility on the Chair for managing Section logistics (overseeing membership drive, nominations and election process, award committees, announcements, planning the reception, Council and Business meetings, etc.), programming for the meeting, AND publishing the newsletter; other sections decouple the second and third tasks from the chair position. The Council discussed various ways of differently dividing these tasks, both to make the chairing task less onerous in any given year, and to leave the Chair more opportunity for strategic vision. One option, which is consistent with our current bylaws, would be to decouple chairing from publishing the newsletter. Currently, the Chair appoints and oversees her own editorial team to publish the newsletter. This means there is year-to-year turnover in the *Accounts* editorship and that a significant amount of the Chair’s energy goes toward this task. Council discussed the advantages of relieving the Chair of this responsibility, suggesting that an independent editorial team (ideally overseeing the publication of *Accounts* for a two or three year term) could improve the quality of newsletter and might also allow for an integration of functions with the webmaster (as discussed above). No immediate action was taken on these issues, and the Incoming Chair and Chair-Elect agreed to continue discussions regarding how chairing tasks could be most effectively organized.

7. Treasurer Report. In the absence of the Secretary Treasurer, the Chair presented her report, which show section finances in a healthy state, with our fund increasing modestly after having been depleted following years in which we hosted receptions in expensive cities.

8. Mini-Conference. The Council unanimously voted to hold a mini-conference on the day before the first day of the 2016 meeting, and to put aside \$500 of the Section budget towards this purpose. The organizing committee will attempt to raise funds to support the conference, and will use Section resources only if those efforts are insufficient.

The Council favored the idea for the topic and scope of the conference to focus on important contemporary problems facing human societies, such as deepening of inequality, restructuring of the traditional organizational forms and the crisis of capitalism, the economic consequences of climate change and the effects of wide-spread political unrest on global migration and capitalism, emergence of new risks, including to national security and to privacy, emergence of new forms of work, rise of new currencies, and the role of technologies in proliferating some of these phenomena and containing others.

The Incoming Chair solicited volunteers for planning the mini-conference. Sarah Quinn volunteered to help with logistics.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 am.

State of the Section Budget

We operated within our budget this year, expanding a small surplus we accumulated last year.

Economic Sociology

Report for Current Year (2015)

Note: All shaded areas are self calculating. This budget template only covers activity for your section's primary account. Any restricted accounts and endowments must be monitored and reported on separately. Please use the Notes field to provide information on miscellaneous or other expenditures.

For more information please contact the Section Coordinator, Justin Lini (lini@asanet.org)

Expenditures			
Annual Meeting	Amount	Code	Notes
Reception	\$2,220.44	37300	Council breakfast
Other Meeting Expenses	\$223.59	37310	
Misc		37320	
Other		37370	
Total	\$2,444.03	n/a	
Awards	Amount	Code	Notes
Student Awards	\$300.00	37360	
Award Plaques	\$349.55	37360	
Misc		37360	
Other		37360	
Total	\$649.55	n/a	
Communications	Amount	Code	Notes
Website		37330	
Misc		37370	
Other		37370	
Total	\$0.00	n/a	
Miscellaneous	Amount	Code	Notes
Membership		37370	Gift Memberships may not be funded from allocated funds. Funds must be raised for this purpose.

Misc		37370
Other		37370
Total	\$0.00	n/a

Summary	Amount	Notes
Total Expenditures	\$3093.58	
Current Year's Income	\$3,580.00	
Carryover Balance	\$1,030.00	From Net Assets, Beginning Balance in Q1
End of Year Balance	\$1,516.42	

Income			
	Source	Amount	Calculated
	Section Allocation		2448
Description	Fill this in using the "Section Budget Allocation" from the "Year to Date" Column		
	Levied Dues		Special
Description	Fill this in using the "Dues Income" from the "Year to Date" Column. Your section may not collect excess dues. Dues income accrues on a monthly basis, so this number will change over time.		
	Contributions		n/a
Description	These are funds raised from members.		
	Royalties		n/a
Description	Royalties donated by members or generated through other activities.		
	Outside Contributions		n/a
Description	Funds donated from individuals/entities outside the section.		

	Miscellaneous Income		n/a	
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description			
	Miscellaneous Income		n/a	
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description			
	Total	\$0.00	n/a	

An operating budget for the coming year approved by the Section Council.

We are again projecting a surplus in our account for the following year. We may spend down some of accumulated surplus next year, as a result of our plan to hold a mini-conference. Although every effort will be made to make the mini-conference self-supporting, Council voted to “backstop” the mini-conference with a \$500 budget if fundraising falls short of expenditures. We do not include this expense in our projection here as it is not certain, but note that we have ample funds to cover this expense should it be necessary.

Budget for Next Year (2016)

Economic Sociology

Use this sheet to assist with planning for the next year. *All operating budgets must be approved by the section council.*

Note: All green shaded areas are self calculating. This budget template only covers activity for your section's primary account. Any restricted accounts and endowments must be monitored and reported on separately. Please use the Notes field to provide information on miscellaneous or other expenditures.

For more information please contact the Section Coordinator, Justin Lini (lini@asanet.org)

Budgeted Expenditures			
Annual Meeting	Amount	Code	Notes
Reception	\$2,000.00	37300	
Other Meeting Expenses	\$350.00	37310	council breakfast (estimated)
Misc		37320	
Other		37370	
Total	\$2,350.00	n/a	

Awards		Amount	Code	Notes
Student Awards		\$300.00	37360	
Award Plaques		\$300.00	37360	
Misc			37360	
Other			37360	
Total		\$600.00	n/a	

Communications		Amount	Code	Notes
Website			37330	
Misc			37370	
Other			37370	
Total		\$0.00	n/a	

Miscellaneous		Amount	Code	Notes
Membership			37370	Gift Memberships may not be funded from allocated funds. Funds must be raised for this purpose.
Misc			37370	
Other			37370	
Total		\$0.00	n/a	

Summary		Amount	Notes
Budgeted Expenditures		\$2,950.00	
Estimated Income		\$3,500.00	(got this number from Lini's document)
Carryover Balance		\$1,516.42	Brought over from current year's report
Est. End of Year Balance		\$2,066.42	

Estimated Income				
Source	Amount	Calculated		
Section Allocation				796
Description	"A" is determined by the overall membership size: Sections with fewer than 200 members receive a base allocation of \$500. Sections with less than 300 members but more than 200 members receive a base allocation of: (# of section members minus			

100) multiplied by \$5. Sections with more than 300 members receive a base allocation of \$1,000. In addition the section receives two dollars from dues of each member. **To calculate this amount enter your section's membership in the shaded box on the left. See your monthly membership report update for these numbers.**

	Levied Dues		Special	
Description	Your section does not levy additional dues			
	Contributions		n/a	
Description	These are funds raised from members.			
	Royalties		n/a	
Description	Royalties donated by members or generated through other activities.			
	Outside Contributions		n/a	
Description	Funds donated from individuals/entities outside the section.			
	Miscellaneous Income		n/a	
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description			
	Miscellaneous Income		n/a	
Description	Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description			
	Total	\$0.00	n/a	

The Previous Year

Overview.

We organized six panels for the 2015 ASA Program.

Two invited panels:

- 1) Political Economy, Rebooted (organized by Marion Fourcade)
- 2) Economies of Difference (organized by Sarah Quinn)

Four open submission panels:

- 3) The Economic Sociology of Development (organized by Andrew Schrank)
- 4) Economic Inequality (organized by Leslie McCall)
- 5) Social Economies of Households (organized by Alya Guseva)
- 6) Open Topic (organized by Jenn Bair)

The Chair proposed the two invited panels, and Council selected the open submission panels from a list generated from membership. In both cases, our intention was to emphasize topics that have not been as salient in the subfield as we might expect given our conceptual toolkit. Thus, we prioritized encouraging innovation in the subfield over revisiting topics that have been exhaustively examined over the years. Panels were for the most part well attended (particularly given our placement on the last date of a late conference) and in general papers were of very high caliber!

Recruiting and Retention Efforts

We ran a successful membership drive (under the direction of Jennifer Bair and Emily Barman), achieving a membership of over 800 members at the end of September.

Communications Strategy

Communication with the membership primarily occurred through an approximately monthly email distributed by the Chair with news and announcements of interest to membership. We also communicated through the newsletter *Accounts*, edited by the Michigan team of Mikell Hyman, Kelly Russell, Linroy Marshall, and Richard Rodems. We published three issues of *Accounts*, containing much original content, including a new “Conversations” feature, which invited established scholars to participate in a discussion on a topic of interest to the field.

<http://www.asanet.org/sectionecon/newsletter.cfm>

Our website is where our existing communications strategy is most lacking. We have some information posted on our website, but much of the site contains information that is out of date (although we did make an attempt to update the content before transitioning to the new Chair) and the website is used in a rather passive fashion.

<http://www.asanet.org/sectionecon/econ.cfm>

The Coming Year

Elections and Nominations

Greta Krippner, past Chair, will serve as Chair of the Nominations Committee. She will appoint two or three other members of the committee in consultation with the Chair.

Plans for the coming year.

In addition to regular Section programming, we are also planning to hold a mini-conference in 2016 the day before the ASA begins. Themes are still being developed but we are particularly interested in examining what economic sociology has to offer to an understanding of current social and political problems (see above.)

Another major project is to improve our website. We are waiting until the ASA rolls out its new platform before putting too much energy into this, but broadly we would like our website to be more attractive and useful to membership.

Finally, the Incoming Chair intends to survey membership to gather information regarding how members use services the Section currently provides, and what services they would most like to see the Section offer in the future.

The Association and the Executive Office

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to ASA Staff?

The late date of the meeting negatively impacted our ability to get as good a turn-out at our sessions as might otherwise have been possible. We understand that we have to take our turn on the last day of the meeting, but when the ASA is held after schools are back in session this imposes an unnecessary burden on sections scheduled late in the meeting.
