

Section 40

Annual Report for the Section on Economic Sociology

**The Committee on
Sections**

**American Sociological Association
2012-13 Fall/Winter
Teleconference**

Annual Report for the Economic Sociology Section

For membership year 2011-12

Prepared by Woody Powell, Past Chair of the Section.

October, 2012



Section Governance

This first section of the report details your section's governance activity during the last year.

Business Meeting

This portion of the report should include an agenda, a count or list of members present and a copy of the meeting's minutes. If no minutes are available, please provide a summary of decisions made at this meeting.

___ See Appendix 1 _____

Section Council Meeting

In this portion of the report, please discuss your section's deliberations at its Council Meeting. This portion of the report should include an agenda, a count or list of members present and a copy of the meeting's minutes. If no minutes are available, please provide a summary of decisions made by the Section Council. Please include information on all other Council Meetings conducted during the previous year.

State of the Section Budget

Did your section operate within its budget for this year? Please include a copy of last year's projected budget and compare it with actual expenses.

___ See Appendix 2 _____

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

*A separate spreadsheet is provided to calculate the planning budget and track expenses. Please work with your Section's Secretary Treasurer on this point. The budget is of critical importance to the Committee on Sections and **must** be included with the section's annual report.*

Statements, Notes, Observations

Please feel free to use this space for anything that does not fit above.

The Previous Year

This section discusses your section's activities during your term as Section Chair.

Overview

Please provide an overview of your section's programming for the last year. We also invite you to include information on the state of the section, sentiments of the members, important issues in the field.

I inherited a section from Alejandro Portes that was in very good shape. In some respects, the section seemed to run quite well on its own momentum. The section is fortunate to have council members who are extremely engaged with the section and quite loyal to it. Once I became chair, I had a series of goals - - one, to enhance and expand the newsletter, *Accounts*; two, to organize sessions at the meetings that involved younger scholars; three, to maintain and possibly increase our section membership; four, to improve the section's webpage. Looking back, I can count one success, two things we held steady, and one disappointment. Let me detail them. My big focus of attention for the year turned out to be on the newsletter *Accounts*. With the benefit of a strong local editorial collective and the engagement of graduate students at a number of other universities, we are able to produce a newsletter that contained new empirical information, such as studies of how the literature in economic sociology appears in syllabi across the world, and an analysis of the changing modes of journal production in various disciplines, as well as essays and book reviews by a variety of young scholars. The newsletter got talked about, blogged about, and written up on various websites such as orgtheory.net and crookedtimber.org. We count that as a big plus.

With regard to sessions for the meetings, I have to report some disappointments. In particular, my plan was to turn the roundtable sessions into a more active, engaged event. And on the day of the meetings, the room was packed and the spillover into the business meeting was most welcome. But, the plans did not fully succeed for reasons that I would like to share. We changed the roundtable format in two ways - - we added a roundtable organizer and a discussant, who typically was an established scholar. We lined up excellent people for these tasks, and were super excited that notable scholars were willing to contribute. But then a week or two before the meetings, we started getting cancellations from people who it seemed to us were blowing off attending the meetings and the roundtables. These cancellations typically came from graduate students and young faculty, perhaps not well schooled in the mores of the discipline. We were disappointed in part because Kaisa Snellman and Matt Vidal had done so much work in organizing the roundtables, but also because we had to do an extraordinary amount of reshuffling. Nevertheless, on the day of the meeting, the roundtables went off quite well in terms of the level of enthusiasm and engagement. The other sessions were also well attended and intellectually stimulating. We did one other new move, which was to have a session organized around our book prize. But as it turned out, our prize winning book - - Greta Krippner's *Capitalizing on Crisis* - - was

given an ASA-wide author meets critic session so we both piggy backed on it and had a session around a second book, Kate Kellogg's *Challenging Operations: Medical Reform and Resistance in Surgery*. At the business meeting, there was debate as to whether we should continue to have sessions organized by specific people or have open sessions, and the discussion pivoted around the fact that the ASA econ-soc sessions are open and whether there should be more focused topics organized by the section. No final decision was reached and the new president, Vicki Smith, will take this issue on.

With regards to membership, there are several points I'd like to share. We are a fairly large section, with more than 800 members. We tried hard to attempt to reach the 1000 mark. The membership committee, led by Alya Guseva, organized a raffle in which members of the section contributed more than forty copies of their new books, and new graduate student members were awarded these new publications. That effort reflected the vitality of the section and the generosity of its members. But despite such efforts, our membership stayed pretty much the same. We discussed this at some length at our council meeting, and realized one of the issues is our ability to engage new members from other countries and other disciplines. If the bar were simply joining the section, our expectation is that economic sociologists in countries where the subfield is vital and active, such as Germany, Italy, France, and Russia, would quickly join. But our members in those countries tell us that young faculty and graduate students simply cannot afford to join the ASA as well. I don't know that there is any way of having a section membership and waive the general membership fee for a year for young scholars from foreign countries, but that clearly would be one way in which we could expand membership, and might be something for the ASA to consider in general. The same applies, though much less so, obviously, to graduate students and younger faculty in professional schools. Although we have a very healthy membership from business schools, there is a sense among our council members that there are younger scholars in organizational behavior, law and society, and public policy with an interest in economic sociology. If we are ever going to reach membership of 1000, we will need to figure out how to attract more of those scholars.

Finally, we made some efforts with the webpage, transferring its operation to a PhD student, Craig Tutterow, at the University of Chicago, who made some considerable improvements on the page. But as a section, we do not use the webpage as much as, say, the Organizations, Occupations, and Work section does. That, too, is an area that could be improved.

Our nominations committee consisted of Bruce Carruthers, Northwestern University and a past chair of the section, Marion Fourcade, UC – Berkeley and CSO-Paris, and Kate Stovell, University of Washington. They generated a list of names for section offices, spoke with potential candidates, and came up with a roster of very attractive candidates. Again, our efforts were focused on attracting younger members to the section so we were pleased at having two high profile associate professors run for the office of chair. As it turned out, all of the winners in the election were at public universities. Looking at

the election results, I wonder if there isn't a natural advantage for public universities and that should be considered when a slate of candidates is drawn up.

Recruiting and Retention Efforts

What efforts did your section make to retain last year's members and reach out to new members? What were the results of the section's retention efforts?

Communications Strategy

How does your section communicate with its members? Did it begin using any new technologies or techniques, if so were they effective? Please include links to your section's website, newsletter and other electronic media used.

Statements, Notes, Observations

Please feel free to use this space for anything that does not fit above.

The Coming Year

This portion of the report discusses your section's plans for next year.

Elections and Nominations

This section details who is on the section's Nominations Committee and how they were appointed. If your section does not have a standing Nominations Committee, please discuss your process for nominating candidates for next year's elections.

Plans for the coming year.

What sort of programming will your section conduct for next year's Annual Meeting. Will the section begin any new projects before then?

Statements, Notes, Observations

Please feel free to use this space for anything that does not fit above.

The Association and the Executive Office

This is your opportunity to put items onto the agenda of the Committee on Sections and ASA Staff.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the ASA Council and Committee on Sections?

This is your opportunity to make policy suggestions or discuss any difficulties that your section encountered during your tenure as Section Chair.

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

Please feel free to suggest improvements to sections procedures or services provided to sections.

Statements, Notes, Observations

Please feel free to use this space for anything that doesn't fit above.

Section on Economic Sociology
American Sociological Association

Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes
August 17, 2012

ATTENDANCE

- Tim Bartley
- Jens Beckert
- Vicki Smith
- Woody Powell
- Monica Prasad
- Alya Guseva
- Chris Yenkey
- Dan Hirschman
- Nina Bandelj
- Leslie McCall
- Adam Goldstein
- Greta Krippner
- Yuval Millo
- Sarah Turner

MINUTES

Events

The question of whether to have a joint reception with another section, such as the Culture Section, which has been done in the past, was raised. This did not work out this year because the Culture section was having their reception onsite, which tends to be more expensive and offer a less diverse menu of options. But perhaps this is something we can consider again for next year's conference in New York City, where outside venues are likely to be more expensive than in Denver.

This led to a discussion of other events during next year's annual meeting. Yuval Millo volunteered to head a subcommittee to consider organizing an Economic Sociology mini-conference targeted toward young scholars (graduate students and new assistant professors), along the lines of the Young Theorists conference sponsored by the Theory Section. Several ideas were raised, such as focusing on dissertation research, other kinds of work in progress, research proposals, and converting a paper into an article. The Academy of Management offers another model, where a junior scholar is paired with a senior scholar. Some of our Roundtable sessions may be devoted to this format as well. Yuval mentioned that he may be able to find university space for the mini-conference to save money.

Finances

The idea of hosting a mini-conference and the additional expense of a monetary prize for the best graduate student paper prompted a discussion of finances, and, specifically, whether it will be necessary to raise section dues.

Net revenues for the section before incurring the costs of the 2012 annual meeting were \$4,192. The 2012 reception cost \$1729; the 2012 monetary award cost \$300; and the 2012 plaques cost \$132. The remaining funds after deducting the expenses for the 2012 meetings are \$2,031. Based on our new membership level (823 after the close of the most recent membership drive), our expected increase in revenues is \$2,646. This level is comparable to levels of previous years. Our next financial statement should thus reflect a balance of \$4,677. This is about a \$1000 less than the peak of revenues during my tenure as Secretary-Treasurer from 2010 to the present. Conference expenses in Las Vegas were particularly steep and cut into our savings.

Considering this, and the additional expenses mentioned above, the council agreed to recommend an increase of one dollar to section dues, bringing the dues to eight dollars.

Membership

This prompted a brief discussion of raising membership levels and whether a raise in the dues would disproportionately impact or deter new membership from overseas, as new members must pay the regular ASA membership rate as well as section dues. It was suggested that we consult Justin Lini regarding the possibility of offering first time members from outside of the U.S. a discounted rate.

There was also a broader discussion of ways to increase membership above the 800 level, and this target was achieved this year (823 as of September 30, 2012).

Awards

The Mark Granovetter Prize for Best Article was awarded to Donald MacKenzie for "The Credit Crisis as a Problem in the Sociology of Knowledge" (2011, AJS 116: 1778-1841). An honorable mention was given to Jason Davis and Kathleen Eisenhardt for "Rotating Leadership and Collaborative Innovation: Recombination Processes in Symbiotic Relationships" (2011, ASQ 56: 159-201). Greta Krippner chaired the committee.

The Ronald Burt Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper was awarded to Adam Goldstein, "Revenge of the Managers: Labor Cost-Cutting and the Paradoxical Resurgence of Managerialism in the Shareholder Value Era, 1984-2001." An honorable mention was given to Todd Van Gunten, "Cohesion, Consensus and Conflict in Bureaucratic State Elites." Tim Bartley chaired the committee.

The Viviana Zelizer Prize for Best Book was awarded to Greta Krippner for *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance* (Harvard University Press, 2011). Monica Prasad chaired the committee and Nina Bandelj, Miguel Centeno, and Kieran Healy served on the committee.

Other Business

Committee chairs need to be designated and volunteers were solicited.

The early morning time (7:00 am) of the council meeting was debated but left unresolved. The early time allows us to use all of our session slots for panels and roundtables rather than take up one of the slots for the council meeting. We are prohibited from meeting as a council during session times unless it counts as one of our section sessions. Vicki Smith, the incoming section chair, will revisit this issue.

For the second year, the council debated the idea of sponsoring a new journal of economic sociology. Some continue to feel that a new journal is not needed, as economic sociology is published in a wide range of existing journals. Moreover, the new journal could compete unnecessarily with other economic sociology journals such as *Socio-Economic Review* and *Regulation and Governance*. Although there are indications that interest in economic sociology is growing because of recent events, such as the financial crisis and great recession, Nina Bandelj said that submissions to SER have not increased. There is an abundance of paper submissions to our section sessions, however, indicating a healthy supply of research.

Others suggested that if we were to have a new journal, it should operate on an on-line model and not replicate the current model with long turnaround times and heavy overhead costs. Many suggestions were raised, such as an on-line and open source site of working papers (e.g., NBER, though this is most likely too difficult to replicate), short think pieces or long think pieces, and policy oriented papers. We would want to maintain high quality standards, however. Monica Prasad, Adam Goldstein, and Yuval Millo agreed to form a committee to review this.

Concerns were raised about the number of cancellations by scholars slated for the roundtable sessions. Some asked whether there should be a letter from the section chair on the unprofessional nature of this behavior, or whether there should be sanctions, such as being ineligible to submit papers the following year, or whether the next newsletter should feature an article on this topic, noting legitimate and illegitimate reasons for backing out (financial reasons may be unavoidable). Better management of the roundtables so that confirmations of attendance are obtained early in the process may help prevent this from recurring in the future.

Section on Economic Sociology
American Sociological Association

Business Meeting Agenda and Minutes
August 17, 2012

The meeting was scheduled in the same room where the roundtables met, which were still going strong at the start time of our business meeting. Given concerns about last minute cancellations by participants to the roundtables, Woody reiterated the importance of the roundtables as a way to integrate new scholars into the field.

Announcements from Section Council Meeting

Woody gave an overview of the discussion of launching a new economic sociology journal with a non-traditional platform. A graduate student wrote a review of the idea in *Accounts* and a subcommittee will be exploring the idea further this year (Monica Prasad, Yuval Millo, Adam Goldstein).

Woody gave an overview of the proposal to organize a mini-conference focused on young scholars at the dissertation stage of research. Yuval Millo will explore this possibility.

The cost of membership will increase in order to protect against unusually high reception costs when the meetings are held in expensive cities (e.g., Las Vegas) and to finance new events such as the proposed mini-conference.

A motion was made to raise the cost of membership by one dollar to eight dollars. There was unanimous support in favor of increasing dues.

Suggestions for 2013 Section Session Topics

This discussion opened with a suggestion to have open sessions only and not pre-arranged topics decided by council members. This is more democratic in the sense that the membership and submitters then have the power to influence the content of the sessions, and those who may not fit under the pre-arranged titles have a chance to participate. Also there is the risk of repeating core themes and not branching out to new areas. It was mentioned that the Law section has one session that is a big draw panel and another that is open or has a very general title.

Others thought that coherence and thematic unity were just as important for the success of a session and were needed to draw attendance. The council also seeks to develop new and cutting edge themes in order to attract new members. Moreover, the regular sessions often have general topics (i.e., Economic Sociology) and draw a large number of submissions that can be organized into multiple regular sessions. It is also possible to bargain with ASA for more regular sessions if the number of submissions warrants this.

Thus the regular sessions would remain open and the section sessions would be more focused. The section sessions could also invite open submissions rather than invited submissions, though the former is more labor intensive and finding volunteers is very difficult. Appeals to organize a session are more successful if the organizer can shape the theme.

The incoming chair will consider these options and discuss further with the membership before deciding on the structure of the section sessions for the 2013 meetings.

Committees and Council Updates and Call

Thanks were expressed to all committee members for their service to the section during the 2011-2012 year.

Vicki Smith was introduced as the incoming Chair.

Vicki invited volunteers to participate in the section (e.g., on committees), to contribute ideas and articles for Accounts (e.g., reviews, interviews, as well as articles are welcome); to nominate colleagues for service on the council and for section awards; and to join in the effort to increase membership beyond the 800 level, which will result in an additional section, and to especially encourage graduate students to join. The lottery for obtaining donated books from section members as an incentive to join was very successful last year and may be offered again this year.

Adjourn to the Reception (where awards were announced)

ATTENDANCE

- John-Paul Ferguson
- Christopher Whept
- Santiago Campuo
- Romani Galperin
- Alya Guseva
- Lionel Paolella
- Erik Larson
- John Padgett
- Ying Yao Wang
- Ningzi Li
- Fred Wherey
- Heather Haveman
- Daniel Beunza
- Mark Suchman
- Patrick Thornton
- Young Choon Kim
- Brandy Aven

- Kees V. Veen
- Laura Doering
- Victor Nee
- Elizabeth Gorman
- Tim Bartley
- Nina Bandelj
- Daniel Hirschman
- Beth Popp Berman
- Carl Gershenson
- Carly Knight
- Kuangchi Chang
- Amy Myrick
- Jerry Davis
- Yuval Millo
- Monica Prasad
- David Stark
- Alejandro Portes
- Donald Light
- Jayanti Owens
- Charles W. Smith
- Diana Rodriguez-Franco
- Todd Schlfeling
- Josh Pacerwicz
- Jens Beckert
- Ohuk Plante
- Dustin Avert-Holt
- Matthew R. Keller
- Jared Peifer
- Jason Owen-Smith
- Lyn Spillman
- Jason Radford
- Patricia Fernandez-Kelly
- Jin Yan
- Mark Mizruchi
- Vicki Smith
- Leslie McCall
- Woody Powell