

Annual Report of the ASA Section on Economic Sociology
Submitted by Frank Dobbin, Section Chair 2009-2010
October 10, 2009

The Council of the Economic Sociology section met on Friday, August 9, 2009 at 7:30 am, San Francisco.

Present at the meeting were:

Mark Mizruchi (current president)
Frank Dobbin (incoming president)
Marc. Schneiberg (secretary treasurer)
Greta Krippner (council)
Bob Freeland
Nina Bandelj
Kieran Healy
Marion Fourcade
Alejandro Portes (chair elect)

As the meeting began, President Mizruchi presented the *state of the section*. We currently have 750 members. Students were encouraged to enroll before September 30th census.

Budget: We carried over \$4,024 from last year, plus the section budget allocation of \$2,120. Expenses included \$2,400 or so for this year's reception, add the graduate student award plus incidental expenses and we have a surplus. We will be spending a bit more than we pull in as section allocation for the next few years out.

Mark spoke about the history of our current surplus. Money was accumulated under Frank Dobbin and Ezra Zuckerman, who did an off-site reception at much less than the usual hotel rates. This year we opted for a joint reception with OOW with JG as off-site receptions were very expensive. We took a 40% share, at what looked like \$1,600. The Hilton rates went up at the last minute, which took us to \$2,400. Next year looking at Emory for some ideas on local venues. Frank Dobbin stressed trying to find a place that charges for drinks, but has no room fee, as last year.

We then discussed ideas regarding how to spend. We agreed to provide a \$300 award prize for the graduate student award. We discussed bringing in a speaker, funding a mini-conference (food, speakers); question of host university. Perhaps August 13-16, 2011 in Chicago, with our section meeting on the last day. Discussed issue of coordinating with AOM. Some concern expressed about spending money all at once. Our thought was to devote \$2,000 and maybe leverage some from host institutions.

Awards: Next year's Zelizer prize is a book award and the Burt award is for graduate student paper. Greta Krippner volunteered to chair Burt award committee, Bob Freeland volunteered to chair Zelizer book award committee, and Martin Ruef was volunteered to chair nomination committee.

We then discussed our lack of a student member of council and how to nominate a member. One thought was to draw from pool of Burt award winners, but nominees have to be on the ballot in advance, and Burt winners are often just becoming assistant professors. Nominating committee will have to issue a call for student nominees, and pick two for the ballot.

Officers to be nominated: President, secretary-treasurer (Mark Schneiberg will serve through election to next meeting); 1 council member (Ezra Zuckerman going off; last year elected Damon Phillips, Bob Freeland, Nina Bandelj; this year Greta Krippner and Marion Fourcade). Three year terms.

Committees: This year joint sections were held with Gender (a two year arrangement where we were credited one year, Gender the other year). Mark acted as the program committee and went with the proposals he received: Social Inequality and Development, Politics and Markets, Nature and Org of Economic Life, and Gender and Work. There had been complaints about our reliance on invited panels, so this year, with one exception (the extra financial crisis session during our business meeting), were all open.

This year we did not have roundtables. Frank Dobbin endorsed open section roundtables: with every one in room interested in the same topic, people float. General sentiment was to alternate between invited panels and open section roundtables for that one hour slot. Monica Fourcade suggested something on consumption, Nina Bandelj suggested group organized.

Final matters: to avoid overloading email posts, Mark Mizruchi suggested putting JOB LISTING in header so folks can filter/manage. Frank Dobbin suggested a membership committee so that we can track who has dropped and follow up. Monica Fourcade volunteered for that.

Economic Sociology Business Meeting Minutes

San Francisco

August 9, 2009, 11:50 am

Council members present: Mark Mizruchi, Marc Schneiberg, Greta Krippner, Nina Bandelj, Bob Freeland, Frank Dobbin, Alejandro Portes, Kieran Healy.

Mark Mizruchi presided. He reported that membership seems to be stuck at 750 members; if we get to 800 by September 30 we would get another section, beyond the four we are allowed and encouraged folks to encourage grad students to join.

Mark reported that we are in good shape financially: We have about \$6,100 coming in as revenue and carryover from last year. About 40% of that has gone to the reception, which was costly this year. Last year's reception was held off site and was a great deal. Unfortunately, we could not do that this year, and were stuck with the hotel which then raised its rates by about 1/3 at the last minute. We will look for an off-site, easy access venue for next year's reception in Atlanta.

We have decided to offer a cash prize with grad student award, \$300

We are considering a mini-conference in two years, the day after our section. This was the main issue for discussion which was then opened to the floor.

Open to floor: HH: co-wrote report to pre/post conference mini section. Never after the conference, because of burn out, so do before, and synch it with our ASA day. We could wait three years. We could also choose for the mini-conference between substantive vs. professional development.

Mark Suchman suggested a mid-year conference and the advantages of that. Mark Mizruchi noted costs would far exceed what we might get back from cheaper venues, university support. Bruce Carruthers endorsed the mini-conference idea. But if we have to cover travel, or lodging for a mid-year version, we will wipe out any savings for cheaper venues. Might be best to attach it to ASA.

Heather Haveman suggested an alternative to a mini-conference would be to create a journal. Alejandro Portes thought this might be too labor intensive and would jack up the dues. Martha Zuber suggested a journal outlet for this work, SER. HH did not think it should be an ASA journal. One speaker liked the idea of a journal, good timing, good recognition. Mark Suchman replied that soc psych put out an annual review for a while; not quite ARS level, but we could do that, coupled with a mini-conference. Art Stinchombe said we have enough journals that will take research papers in econ soc, but essays are harder to sell and things like Annual Review get more citations. A. Guseva suggested expanding Accounts. Mark Mizruchi and Frank Dobbin suggested that we might form a committee to look into this.

Other items

A. Guseva suggested it would be nice to have a directory searchable by keywords for folks with emails for putting together panels. That would help us get outside the bubble for panel and section business. Mark Suchman responded that we should have an opt in system, not just take ASA names and post them.

Mark Mizruchi thanked the grad students at Michigan for help with Accounts for doing a first rate job: Erica Blom, Maria Farkas, Russell Funk, Dan Hirschman, Lotus Seeley

Mark then passed the baton for Frank Dobbin, our new chair

Frank greeted the section and urged us to come to Atlanta – great restaurants, inexpensive.

Frank announced that there will be roundtables next year and urged the section to send him suggestions for themes etc, as council did not set them.

Frank also urged the members to attend the meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics next year in Philadelphia. They are an expansive venue for work like ours, where we can have only three panels and 12 papers for 80 submissions. SASE will take papers, and presenters will get a similar audience as we get here.

Head count at business meeting: Forty seven people were in attendance.