

Discussions/Actions from the December 6-7, 2008 Meeting of the ASA Committee on Publications

Elected members present were Neil Fligstein, Patricia Hill Collins (ASA President), Patricia Yancey Martin, Cecilia Ridgeway, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey (ASA Secretary), Christine Williams (Chair), Amy Wharton, and Howard Winant.

Editors present for the open session were: Julia Adams, Gary Alan Fine, Liz Grauerholz, Douglas Hartmann, Randy Hodson, Daniel Levy, Eliza Pavalko, Vincent Roscigno, Barbara Schneider, Alan Sica, and Yu Xie.

Present from the Executive Office were Sally T. Hillsman (Executive Officer), Karen Gray Edwards (Director of Publications and Membership), and Janine Chiappa McKenna (Journals and Publications Manager).

The Committee voted to:

- Invite editors of *Contexts* and the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* to extend for another three years.
- Send recommendation for a new journals publishing partner to Council and EOB.
- Send recommendations to Council for new editors of *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Education*, and *Teaching Sociology*.
- Approve the proposal for the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* extra issue on key findings from 50 years of medical sociology, contingent on successfully securing external funding.
- Decline the proposal from the Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco section to take over the *Journal of Drug Issues*.
- Accept the report and editor selection for *City & Community* from the Community and Urban Sociology section.
- Create a subcommittee to review and revise the publication portfolio guidelines.
- Publish an article in *Footnotes* about journal acceptance rates.
- Approve revised *Contexts* guidelines.
- Decline the request for extra pages for *Social Psychology Quarterly*.
- Decline flexible funding for ASA journals.
- Approve editorial board nominations for *Contemporary Sociology* and *Sociology of Education*.

Editorial Extensions. The current *Contexts* editors will be invited to extend for an additional three years, contingent upon Council's continuation of *Contexts*. The *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* editor will be invited to extend for up to an additional three years.

New Publishing Publisher. The Committee is very supportive of the process that ASA has undertaken to select the new publishing partner and looks forward to continued oversight during the transition.

Editorial Nominees. The Committee reviewed the applications for the editorships of *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Education*, and

Teaching Sociology and made ranked recommendations to send to Council. Council subsequently appointed the following new editors:

- *American Sociological Review*: Tony Brown, Katherine Donato, Larry Isaac, and Holly McCammon (Vanderbilt University)
- *Sociological Methodology*: Tim Futing Liao (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- *Sociological Theory*: Neil Gross (University of British Columbia)
- *Sociology of Education*: David Bills (University of Iowa)
- *Teaching Sociology*: Kathleen Lowney (Valdosta State University)

Journal of Health and Social Behavior Extra Issue. The journal will publish an extra issue in 2010 on 50 years of medical sociology if a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is received to cover the cost of the issue. The articles will be solicited by a guest editor and in addition to the issue a series of briefs will be prepared by a science writer to disseminate the information to policymakers and other relevant parties.

Assume Publication of Journal of Drug Issues. The Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco section proposed acquiring the *Journal of Drug Issues* from Florida State University, where it has been housed and funded by an endowment.

City & Community Editor Appointee. The Community and Urban Section presented a report on the status of *City & Community* and appointed Hilary Silver as new editor for the journal.

Subcommittee Appointed to Review and Revise Portfolio Guidelines. The Committee appointed a Subcommittee to review and revise ASA's guidelines on its portfolio of publications.

Journal Acceptance Rates. Concerns were raised to the Committee about the current method of determining acceptance rates and that they might be artificially low. The current method is the industry standard and acceptance rates are used in tenure decisions. There was discussion on publishing an article in *Footnotes* on the current method being the industry standard, as well as potential alternative methods.

Revised Contexts Guidelines. The Committee had previously appointed a subcommittee to review the Publications Manual editorial guidelines and revise them to make them specific to *Contexts*, particularly with regard to soliciting articles and peer review. The Committee reviewed the proposed new guidelines.

Additional Pages for Social Psychology Quarterly. The editor of *Social Psychology Quarterly* requested an additional 40 pages for the journal in 2009 for a special section of solicited articles.

Flexible Funding for Journals. An editor proposed allowing all editors to use their annual honoraria to pay for journal upgrades, such as color covers.

Editorial Office Nominations. *Contemporary Sociology* and *Sociology of Education* proposed nominations for new editorial board members.