

Invitations are invited for the next editor(s) of *Contexts*.

Contexts, ASA's award-winning quarterly magazine first published in 2002, is devoted to bringing sociology to a wide audience by presenting the findings and ideas of sociology in engaging, non-technical language. The magazine has 3,000-word peer-reviewed feature articles, photo essays, book reviews, culture reviews, trends and teaching and learning pieces, and first-person essays. There is a great deal of editorial flexibility around continuing current sections and creating new ones, but the new editor(s) should be committed to addressing a broad public through the magazine's choice of timely topics and accessible style of presentation. By design, it is not a technical journal, but a magazine with a vibrant web presence of related online-only content for diverse readers who wish to be current about social science knowledge, emerging trends, and their relevance.

While potential editor candidates should feel free to submit a proposal based on a sole editorship, the experience of *Contexts*' editors suggests that the best strategy is to enlist a co-editor, who may or may not be at the same institution. (The last two teams were not.) In addition, editors are encouraged to recruit a team of volunteers, including section editors as well as graduate students to handle the "in briefs."

The key elements of the editorial workload include receiving and soliciting contributions for both the magazine and the *Contexts* website; distributing features for scholarly review; working closely with authors to refine their contributions; and intensive editing for the lay audience. Unlike ASA's more traditional scholarly journals, editing *Contexts* involves photo selection, developing graphics and captions, working with a designer to create and finalize its unique "look and feel," and incorporating both featured magazine content and web-only content into the magazine's website. The time demands associated with these responsibilities vary from week to week but, in general, require 5-10 hours per week.

Unlike other ASA publications, *Contexts* has regular web-only content and a lively social media presence, and most editors have published a general reader geared to introductory classes. While these fall outside the scope of the magazine's publication, we hope and expect that the new editors will continue these efforts. Proposals by prospective editors should address (1) how they would produce and direct readers to web-only content to supplement the magazine; (2) how they would encourage the press, policy makers, and the public to access open-access articles on the *Contexts* website; and (3) their ideas for, once during their term, editing a reader of *Contexts* articles to be used in generalist undergraduate courses.

The ASA does not typically pay for office space, release time, or tuition but does provide financial support as necessary to journal editors, including a modest annual honorarium. A full-time (or full-time equivalent) experienced managing editor with professional editing experience has been needed for the work involved in producing the magazine. (The website is managed through The Society Pages separate from the editorial office budget; ASA does not expect the incoming editors to relocate those services.) The current editors use two half-time managing editors with a budget of \$65,000 for salary and benefits. ASA also provides funds for copyediting, photographs/images, supplies, telephone, postage, and reasonable transition expenses as required.

Alternative models of funding may be possible as long as the impact on the overall cost for ASA support is minimal (e.g., institutional support for the managing editor position could allow for use of the ASA budgeted funds for course release or tuition).

Because the support offered by different institutions varies widely, you are encouraged to contact Karen Gray Edwards, ASA Director of Publications and Membership (see e-mail address below), as necessary to ensure the feasibility of your application. At this point in the submission process, letters of support from deans or other appropriate institutional officials are recommended but not required. Specific arrangements with a potential new editor and with that individual and his or her institution will occur after the ASA Council makes a selection and the ASA Secretary, with support from the ASA Executive Officer, works out the final agreement with this candidate.

Editors are required to maintain ASA membership. Members of ASA Council and the Committee on Publications are not eligible to serve as editor, and the appointed editor(s) will be required to resign from service on any other ASA editorial board.

Guidelines for applying for ASA editorships are available online at <http://www.asanet.org/research-publications/journal-resources/asa-editorships>.

The completed packet should be sent by November 1, 2016, to Jamie Panzarella, Publishing and Employment Services Manager, at the ASA Executive Office, 1430 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005; publications@asanet.org.

Review of applications will begin November 2016. At the December 2016 meeting of the ASA Committee on Publications, the Committee will recommend a ranked list of candidates. That list will be sent to ASA Council for its review during its early March 2017 meeting. After their vote, the Association's Secretary will contact the candidate selected by Council to reaffirm their commitment to serve. The candidate then can negotiate with her or his institution and finalize the appointment with ASA. Resources are provided by ASA to facilitate an efficient transition, establish the new editorial office, and ensure a smooth review process.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Gray Edwards, Director of Publications and Membership (edwards@asanet.org); Jamie Panzarella, Publishing and Employment Services Manager (panzarella@asanet.org); or Kathleen Blee, chair of the ASA Committee on Publications (kblee@pitt.edu).