Extended and Revised Call: TRAILS Seeks an Editor

ASA is seeking a sociologist to volunteer to serve as the Editor of TRAILS: the Teaching Resources and Innovation Library for Sociology. The editor of this curated library of web-based teaching materials will have a three-year term starting September 1, 2015.

The TRAILS Editor is responsible for working with TRAILS Area Editors and potential authors to expand the range, quantity, and quality of teaching resources in TRAILS, as well as leading the timely and systematic review of submitted resources and making final publication decisions. Additionally, the Editor should demonstrate a willingness to perform outreach, a commitment to communicating with scholars about diverse ideas, and a zest for building new connections to enhance the diffusion, significance and breadth of the sociological teaching resources in TRAILS.

This editorship requires working closely with the ASA Academic and Professional Affairs Program (APAP) and TRAILS Area Editors. In addition to periodic conference calls, the Editor will hold a yearly meeting with TRAILS Area Editors and APAP staff at the ASA Annual Meeting each year of their term, including just prior to the start of the term.

Eligibility: Candidates must be members of the ASA and hold a tenured or emeritus/a position or equivalent in an academic setting. Applications from members of underrepresented groups are encouraged.

Selection Criteria: The following criteria will be considered:

- An established record of contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning in sociology, including the preparation of teaching materials that demonstrate innovative teaching techniques and curricula;
- Evidence of understanding the mission of TRAILS and its operation, optimally demonstrated by having been an active user, successfully having submitted or reviewed TRAILS materials or TRC syllabi sets, or having been an area editor;
- An assessment of the present strengths and weaknesses of TRAILS, and a vision for TRAILS’ future;
- Openness to the variety of methods, theories, and approaches to sociology found in the discipline;
- A record of responsible service to the ASA; and
- Evidence of organizational skill and intellectual leadership.

Deadline: Review of applications will begin on June 1 and will continue until the position is filled.

Selection Process: Electronic applications received by the ASA will be reviewed by the ad hoc TRAILS Editor Selection Committee. Prospective editors may be contacted to clarify matters in their applications. The ASA Executive Officer appoints the TRAILS editor.

Preparing an Application Packet

The Application should be no more than five pages (approximately 2,500-3,000 words, excluding the vita) and should include:
Vision Statement: Set forth your goals and plans for expanding the range and quantity of high-quality teaching materials in TRAILS and for further developing TRAILS’ peer-review process. This may include an assessment of current strengths, weaknesses, or gaps you plan to address and potential strategies for doing so.

Editor Background Information: Include the applicant’s name, affiliation, and other relevant information. Evidence of extensive teaching experience and the ability to provide sound judgment and guidance to potential TRAILS authors is central to the application. Include a vita or resume, which is not included in the five-page limit; no standard format is required.

Candidates should also consider and address their ability to serve as TRAILS editor. The editor of this curated electronic library of teaching resources is a volunteer who does not receive support from the ASA for office space or editorial staff. The TRAILS Editor receives approximately 5 hours a week of editorial and logistic support from the TRAILS Coordinator in the ASA offices, and additional support from the ASA Director of Academic and Professional Affairs. Candidates are encouraged to contact the ASA Academic and Professional Affairs program as necessary to discuss other forms of ASA support that could be available if needed. The TRAILS editorship includes an honorarium of $1,500 per year.

Send an applications packet to TRAILS@asanet.org with the subject: TRAILS Editor Application.