Annual Report for the Economic Sociology Section

For membership year 2016-2017

Prepared by Nancy DiTomaso, Past Chair of the Section.

October, 2017
Section Governance

Business Meeting

The Economic Sociology Section Business Meeting took place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 12, on the first day of the ASA meetings in Montreal. There were 51 people in attendance. A sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting and a number of people indicated willingness to volunteer to help with the Section over the coming year. Section Chair Nancy DiTomaso, Rutgers Business School—Newark and New Brunswick, presided at the beginning of the meeting, while Secretary-Treasurer Rachel Dwyer, Ohio State University, took notes on the meeting.

The Section reception was held the previous evening, jointly sponsored with the Consumer and Consumption Section. In order to accommodate those with potential mobility problems (given the hills in Montreal), the reception was held at the Convention Center and was well attended by both Section membership. The Economic Sociology Section awards were announced at the reception, but the decision was made to officially acknowledge the award committees and award winners and to offer the plaques at the business meeting, so that was the first order of business. After an initial delay because of the mic in the room was not working, the business of the Section was able to proceed.

Economic Sociology Section Awards

The Economic Sociology Section gives out three annual awards, the Zelizer Award for Best Book, the Granovetter Award for Best Paper, and the Burt Student Paper Award. Each award was presented by a member of the award committee. The winners of the Zelizer and Granovetter awards were given a plaque to commemorate their achievements, while the Burt Student award winner was given both a plaque and a small honorarium of $300. The following provides the information on the committee members and the award winners.

Zelizer Award for Best Book

The committee for the Zelizer Award was chaired by Martin Ruef, from Duke University, with Gabriel Abend, from New York University, and Debbie Becher, from Barnard College, as committee members. There were 22 books nominated for the award. The committee chose Marc Steinberg, from Smith College, as the winner, and Jens Beckert, from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, for honorable mention. Debbie Becher presented the awards.


In this book, Marc Steinberg makes a bold and perspective-shifting claim about the orientations of employers and workers to the state during industrial capitalism’s early years. Focusing on sectors of English industry where employers could not discipline workers with mechanization, he demonstrates how those employers took advantage of (and influenced) punitive measures in master-servant law to retain laborers by force. More surprisingly, he shows how laborers found the wage-labor contract appealing compared to the criminal punishments enforced through master-servant law. Employers’ use of the law pushed laborers
to support the establishment of individualized contractual relations and eschew collective appeals for state protection.

The book beautifully demonstrates how a fine-grained study of legal practice can make significant empirical and theoretical contributions to economic sociology. Steinberg takes advantage of perspectives from socio-legal studies in designing the study and in interpreting the findings. Doing so allows him to draw important conclusions about employers’ and laborer’s relationship to the state and to individualism. By excavating court records about master-servant law in more than one locality, Steinberg rigorously and strategically exploits previously ignored data about labor-employer relations during England’s Industrial Revolution.


With this book, Jens Beckert is likely to dramatically shift the direction of research in economic sociology toward investigating how the future is conceived in ways that affect economic relations. Although the idea that capitalism is future-oriented is not new per se, Beckert’s eloquent elaboration is remarkably generative, touching on an immense range of topics in economic sociology: from money and investment to innovation, consumption, and economic forecasting. Sociologists who follow Beckert’s lead can deepen their understandings of these topics, as well as probe the role of fictional expectations in other areas of economic activity, such as work or environmental extraction.

The book focuses scholarship on the exploration of imagination and narrative as crucial processes that are inherent to an orientation toward the future, and thus to economic action. Beckert takes an unapologetically cultural perspective on economic action, allowing the reader to see why thinking about capitalism as future-focused might matter. And it allows him to bring in tools of cultural analysis, such as literary theory, to help us learn how imaginations are constructed. Beautifully written and engaging, the writing invites the reader to a rich synthesis of theoretical ideas from economics, sociology, anthropology, and the humanities.

**Granovetter Award for Best Paper**

The committee for the Granovetter Award was chaired by Timothy Bartley, Ohio State University. Dustin Avent-Holt, Augusta University, and Isabel Fernandez-Mateo, London Business School, served as committee members. There were 25 papers nominated for the award. The committee selected two winners, Christopher Yenkey, from the University of South Carolina School of Business, and a paper with four authors, three from from Stanford University, Christobal Young, Charles Varner, and Ithai Lurie, and fourth author, Richard Prisinzano, currently at the University of Pennsylvania at the Public Policy Initiative. Timothy Bartley presented the awards.


This article casts a keen theoretical eye on markets and social segmentation in a fascinating research setting. The growth of stock investing in poor and middle-income countries is often expected to bring both economic growth and social integration. But when property rights institutions are weak and ethnic segmentation is high, distrust can greatly limit market
expansion. Studying the growth of stock investing in Kenya, Yenkey shows how investing grew dramatically but unevenly as potential investors used the experiences of co-ethnic peers as a proxy for trust—or distrust—in the market. Rejecting simple theories of homophily, though, Yenkey shows that segmentation could be mitigated by particular types of inter-ethnic proximity and market-building strategies that emphasized shared identities. The article ambitiously weaves ideas about trust, identity, inequality, and diffusion together into an important account of the demand-side of market construction.


This article provides a truly definitive account of the extent to which millionaire households in the U.S. move across state lines to take advantage of tax differences in a federal system. Using data from 45 million tax returns, Young et al. examine the general pattern of millionaire migration, the elasticity of tax-related migration, and movements within contiguous border regions. On one hand, Young et al. find some evidence for tax-induced migration, but this is driven almost entirely by a “Florida effect,” in which this state’s lack of an income tax, along with its other features, attracts millionaires from elsewhere. More generally, they find substantial evidence that millionaires are strongly embedded in particular locations, such that the revenue effects of millionaire migration are minimal. They argue that states could increase income taxes beyond any state’s current level without spurring net revenue losses through the migration of millionaires. The article is meticulous in its methodology and has timely implications in an era of massive inequalities and apparent tax cuts for elites at the national level.

Burt Student Paper Award

The committee for the Burt Student Paper Award was chaired by Klaus Weber, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management. Amy Singer, Franklin & Marshall College, and Daniel Beunza, London School of Economics, served as committee members. There were 18 nominations for the award, which was given to Katherine Hood, from University of California, at Berkeley. Daniel Beunza presented the award.


The article investigates how courts and government planners in the United States measure the economic value of human lives. While policy analysts have over the past 40 years replaced a ‘human capital’ approach based on the economic productivity with a ‘willingness to pay’ model based on microeconomic choice, courts have not. This pattern is surprising in an era of strong deregulatory pressures because the ‘willingness to pay’ model generally produces higher values that justify regulation. Hood explains this surprising pattern through differences in the expert authority that academic economists were able to assert in government bureaucracies and the judiciary. She goes beyond more common studies of institutional differences and marketization, to locate variations in valuation logics within rather than between institutional systems, which brings to the fore the organization of expert authority as an important factor. The paper informs research at the intersection of the state, scientific expertise and regulation in economic life. It is elegantly written, well researched and theoretically insightful. The study
also shows a new direction for research on a topic of central interest to section members, the economic valuation of intangible and sacred goods.

**Appreciation for Contributions to the Section**

**Officers and Council Members**

Nancy DiTomaso thanked the outgoing officers and council members. Alya Guseva, from Boston University, served as Past-Chair of the Section during the past year, and as such prepared the 2015-2016 Annual Report, chaired the Nominations Committee, and worked on the Mini-conference as a member of the program committee. Emily Barman, from Boston University, and Marc Ventresca, from Oxford University, were both thanked for their service as Section Council members. Marc will continue in the role of Public Affairs Liaison on behalf of the Section. The new Chair-elect, Sarah Babb, from Boston College, and two new Council members, Alexandra Kalev, from Tel Aviv University, and Jeffrey Sallaz, from the University of Arizona, were welcomed into the leadership of the Section. The incoming Chair of the Section, Frederick Wherry, now at Princeton University, was also thanked for taking responsibility for the Section during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Additional appreciation was offered to many Section members who took on responsibilities on committees and for new initiatives of the Section. We thank each of them in the descriptions below of the Section achievements for 2016-2017. All told, there were over 70 people who served in an elected role, on a committee, or who otherwise volunteered for Section responsibilities during the year. Also, as described in the Section on programming for this past year, the Economic Sociology Section had a total of 121 people participate in the ASA annual meetings and 144 people in the Mini-conference the day before the annual meetings began. Details of the sessions, the topics, and the organizers are outlined in the subsequent section.

**Appreciation for Newsletter Team**

Appreciation was expressed for the Co-editing team who worked on the Accounts newsletter over this past year: Alexandra Gervis (Managing editors), Dilara Demir, Kendall Park, Ryan Parsons, Hannah Waight, and Kasey Zapatka. Details of their efforts and the newsletter content is outlined in the section on Communication Strategy.

**Section New Initiatives**

A number of new initiatives were undertaken this year by Section Members, and these were reported to the attendees at the Business Meeting:

- The successful Mini-conference organized by the team at McGill University of Matissa Hollister, Lisa Cohen, and Elena Obukhova. Details of the Mini-conference is outlined in the Section on programming.
- We created a Student Development initiative headed by our two graduate student representatives, Angelina Grigoryeva, from Princeton University, and Kelly Russell, from University of Michigan. Among other things, they organized 3 Roundtable sessions on topics such as journal publishing, book publishing, and the job market search. Joining them on this committee were Danny Alvord, University of Kansas; Lindsay Bayham, University of California at Berkeley; Mehmet Cansoy, Boston College; Alaz Kilicasian, Boston University; Camilio Leslie, University of Michigan; Alexander Roehrkasse, University of California at Berkeley; Kara Takasaki, University of Texas; and Emanuel Ubert, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
The Section initiated a new program of having Global Ambassadors who do research or work in different parts of the world. The program is being chaired by Kurtulus Gemici from the National University of Singapore, and Olivia Nicol, from Singapore University of Technology and Design. The Global Ambassadors have agreed to contribute items for the Newsletter, such as was done for the Summer issue (described in the Communications Section) on doing economic sociology in different countries, as well as to serve as a point of contact for those who have an interest on research on different countries and to help promote and recruit members from their areas of interest. We expect that more will be forthcoming for the Global Ambassadors as they develop new ways to serve their interests and those of the Section. One small step to help identify those who do research on different countries was for the Section to make available flag stickers to put on name badges at the annual meeting as a way to spark a conversation and to make known that we have people doing research in many different settings. Along with the two co-chairs, the following have stepped forward to serve as Global Ambassadors for Economic Sociology: Daniel Friedman, University of Texas, on Argentina; Philipp Korom, University of Graz, on Austria; Andre Vereta-Nahoum, from the Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning, on Brazil; Clayton Childress, from the University of Toronto, on Canada; Xiaoshuo Hou, from Skidmore College, on China; Victoria Reyes, from the University of California at Riverside, on the Philippines; Lasse Folke Henriksen, from Copenhagen Business School, on Denmark; Isabelle Beulaygue, from the University of Miami, on France; Frederic Godart, from INSEAD, on France; Matias Dewey, from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, on Germany; Belacz Vedres, from the Central European University, on Hungary; Dani Lainer-Vos, from UCLA, on Israel; Ji Wook Jung, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on South Korea; Tuna Kuyucu, from Bogazici University, on Turkey; Zsuzsanna Vargha, from the University of Leicester, on the United Kingdom; and Gabriel Abend, from NYU, on Uruguay.

The Section has a new Teaching Resources Committee chaired by Stephen Lippman, from Miami University of Ohio, and including Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, from UC San Diego, and Aaron Pitluck, from Illinois State University, as committee members. Among other things, a number of syllabi have been added to the website.

ASA has created a new public engagement initiative and asked each Section to identify someone who would take on the position of public engagement liaison. Marc Ventresca, from Oxford University, who is ending his term on the Economic Sociology Council, has agreed to take on this role for the Section.

Overview of Section Membership and Finances

Chair Nancy DiTomaso announced that in contrast to most other Section in ASA, the Economic Sociology Section has gained members over this past year, with an ending total of 783 members. The efforts of our Membership Committee, including Chair Simone Polillo, from the University of Virginia, and Daniel Fridman, from the University of Texas, and Neha Gondal, from Boston University should be credited with this achievement. Our membership was also helped substantially by the opportunities provided to participate in the annual program and by the section sponsoring a Mini-conference, which also substantially expanded opportunities to present work and participate. Details of both the Membership Committee activities and the Mini-conference as discussed elsewhere in this report.

The Chair also informed the membership that our Section budget was in good shape, both because of the increased members, and because we were able to find financial sponsors for the Mini-
Transfer to Incoming Chair

At the end of the Business Meeting, Chair Nancy DiTomaso, introduced the incoming Chair, Fred Wherry, from Princeton University. Fred discussed some of his plans for the coming year, including a Membership Survey which will be sent after the meetings are over. Fred also invited those in attendance to volunteer for duties for the Section and to contribute to *Accounts*, the Section newsletter, and to *Work in Progress* internet publication that helps members get information out about their research through short articles. While the plans are still in progress, Fred also indicated that the 2018 Economic Sessions will mainly be open sessions on general themes. Fred also thanked Nancy DiTomaso for her contributions to the Section over the past year.

Section Council Meeting

The Section Officer and Council meeting was held over breakfast on Sunday, August 12, at the Xo Le Restaurant, at Hotel St. James, in Montreal. The meeting started at 7:00 a.m. so that it could be completed before the start of the 8:30 a.m. Roundtables and the 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting. There were 13 people present: Nancy DiTomaso, current Chair, Alya Guseva, past chair, Fred Wherry, incoming Chair, Sarah Babb, Chair-election, Council members Emily Barman, Rachel Dwyer, Emily Erikson, Angelina Grigoyeva, Alexandra Kalev, Lauren Rivera, Kelly Russell, and Marc Ventresca, and webmaster, Dustin Stoltz.

The agenda for the Officer and Council meeting was as follows:

- Overview of Section Activities
- Membership
- Budget
- Mini-conference
- Sessions and Roundtables for Montreal meetings
- Global Ambassador Program
- Student Professional Development Committee
- Appointment of a Public Affairs Liaison
- Nominations Suggestions
- Change in By-Laws to make Student Representative a one-year term
- Activities for Council members

As was reviewed for the business meeting, the Officers and Council members were told that our membership is up and that our budget is stable and may have a small surplus from the Mini-conference. Chair Nancy DiTomaso also provided an overview of the new initiatives from this past year as well as ongoing activities of the Section. The Officers and Council members were very supportive of the initiatives started for the Section over the past year.

The main topic of discussion was whether the Section should continue to offer a Mini-conference, and if so, how often. There were some who felt that the great success of the two, successive Mini-conferences had created enthusiasm from our members, especially graduate students. Both were
well attended, and there were many expressions of positive enthusiasm for the Mini-conferences by those who were in attendance. Other Council members, however, felt that it was too much of an effort to offer a Mini-conference every year, and that it was more appropriate for the years when our Section day is on the first or second day of the ASA meetings, and less appropriate when our Section day is third or fourth. There was also concern about the potential budget impact of offering a Mini-conference every year. Although for both the two Mini-conferences in 2016 and 2017, we were able to raise enough funds from sponsors to cover the costs of the conference, there was concern that such fund raising may not be as successful in future years. The point was made by Nancy DiTomaso that in both years, we essential spent the money that we raised, so that the expenses were gauged to the available funds. It was left to incoming Chair Fred Wherry to determine whether he wanted to organize another Mini-conference for 2018. Because he plans to send out a member survey, he said that he would seek additional input from the membership before making a final decision.

State of the Section Budget

The Economic Sociology financial accounts are strong. In a year of declining membership in ASA and across many sections, Economic Sociology held steady at 783 (gaining one member relative to the same time in 2016). This will bring us about the same budget allocation as last year, keeping our income steady. In addition, the highly successful joint Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, and Work Mini-conference in 2017 produced a surplus of about $1,000 for each section (exact amount pending), which allows us to carry forward a higher balance into 2018 than for 2017. This surplus is largely due to the fund-raising of Chair Nancy DiTomaso and mini-conference co-organizers Matissa Hollister, Lisa Cohen, and Elena Obukhova. We are grateful to all of the co-sponsors of the Mini-conference, which made it a great success, enjoyable to all those who attended, and an important professional development opportunity for so many of our members. In addition to the fund-raising, we also raised the fees for the Mini-conference by a modest amount, because of uncertainty about whether the fund-raising would cover all of our expenses. Our budget for 2018 projects a continued surplus in our accounts, allowing the section to build a strong foundation for the future.

The Mini-conference expenses included a small fee for the software that was used, badges, printing of programs, and catering, including breakfast, lunch, and an end of the day reception. This year, the organizers also raised additional funds so that they could hold a brunch as a thank you to those who offered their time to do all of the necessary tasks associated with putting the Mini-conference together. The combination of the co-sponsor funds and the registration fees covered all expenses, so that it was not necessary to draw from the Section budgets for either Economic Sociology or Organizations, Occupations, and Work. The surplus which came from the Mini-conference fund-raising and registration fees provides a cushion for the budgets of each of the Sections. Thus, for two years in a row, we were able to cover the expenses for the Mini-conferences without drawing from Sections funds. In both years, the space was made available for free, this past year at McGill University Desautels Faculty of Management. We only had to pay for custodial services after the conference.

Aside from the Mini-conference, our primary expenses for the Section is hosting the reception at each annual meeting. Jointly sponsoring the reception, which we did this year with the Consumers and Consumption Section, helps reduce the costs marginally, although more people also mean a larger expense. In addition, we regularly have to pay for an Officer and Council breakfast, plaques for award winners and a small honorarium for the student paper winner. We have occasionally had other small
expenses, such as this year for the flag stickers and for mailing some of the plaques. We anticipate
similar expenses for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Following are reports on the Economic Sociology Budget Report for 2016-2017 and the projected
operating budget for 2017-2018. The budgets were reviewed and approved by the Officers and
Council members at the annual meeting breakfast.
Economic Sociology

Report for 2017

Note: All shaded areas are self-calculating. This budget template only covers activity for your section's primary account. Any restricted accounts and endowments must be monitored and reported on separately. Please use the Notes field to provide information on miscellaneous or other expenditures. For more information please contact the Section Coordinator, Justin Lini (linsi@asanet.org).

**Expenditures**

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<tr>
<th>Annual Meeting</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Other Meeting Expenses</td>
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<td>Council breakfast</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Summary**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Year’s Income</strong></td>
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<th>Levied Dues</th>
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**Description**: Fill this in using the "Dues Income" from the "Year to Date" Column. Your section may not collect excess dues. Dues income accrues on a monthly basis, so this number will change over time.

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<th>Contributions</th>
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**Description**: These are funds raised from members.

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<th>Royalties</th>
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**Description**: Royalties donated by members or generated through other activities.

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<tr>
<th>Outside Contributions</th>
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**Description**: Donations for mini-conference: $1,000 from Rutgers (Nancy DiTomaso); $780 from Oxford (Marc Ventresca-- $800 minus $20 wire service transfer fee); $500 from Socio-Economic Review (Gregory Jackson); $3000 from MIT (Roberto Fernandez)

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<th>Miscellaneous Income</th>
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**Description**: Registration fees from mini-conference.

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<th>Miscellaneous Income</th>
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**Description**: Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description

| Total                | $10,850.00| n/a        |                |
An operating budget for the coming year approved by the Section Council.

### Economic Sociology

Use this sheet to assist with planning for the next year. **All operating budgets must be approved by the Section Council.**

Note: All green shaded areas are self-calculating. This budget template only covers activity for your section's primary account. Any restricted accounts and endowments must be monitored and reported on separately. Please use the Notes field to provide information on miscellaneous or other expenditures.

For more information please contact the Section Coordinator, Justin Lini (lini@asanet.org)

### Budgeted Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Meeting</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Meeting Expenses</td>
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<td>Council breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
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<td>37370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>from allocated funds. Funds must be</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Expenditures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carryover Balance</td>
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<td>Brought over from current year's report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Est. End of Year Balance</td>
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### Estimated Income

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>Section Allocation</td>
<td>$2,566.00</td>
<td>(Members+2)+A</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>783</td>
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<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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<td><strong>To calculate this amount enter your section’s membership in the shaded box on the left.</strong> See your monthly membership report update for these numbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levied Dues</td>
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**Description**
The Section charges $2 beyond the base $10 for regular members of Economic Sociology.

**Contributions**
n/a

**Description**
These are funds raised from members.

**Royalties**
n/a

**Description**
Royalties donated by members or generated through other activities.

**Outside Contributions**
n/a

**Description**
Funds donated from individuals/entities outside the section.

**Miscellaneous Income**
n/a

**Description**
Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description

**Miscellaneous Income**
n/a

**Description**
Anything not captured above. Please replace this text with a description

**Total**
$3,510.00 n/a

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**Statements, Notes, Observations**

We believe that the Economic Sociology Section budget is in good shape compared to other sections of similar size, primarily because of the surplus funds that became available to the Section from the Mini-conference fund-raising and registration fees. In addition, having added the additional $2 fee for regular members has helped the Section stay within budget and meet its usual obligations through each academic year. We anticipate that we will be able to do so again this year, although with such a small allocation from ASA to sections from the Section dues, it is hard for sections to undertake new initiatives.
The Previous Year

Overview

Participation in ASA Annual Meeting

Those who study economic sociology were very visible and present at the Montreal meetings. The Section organized 4 sessions, and there were 3 sessions organized by the program committee on economic sociology and at least another 24 sessions that were relevant to economic sociology topics and research. The 4 Section sessions were on the following topics:

- Culture and Economy, organized by Michael Loundsbury, University of Alberta
- Economic Sociology and Inequality, organized by Rachel Dwyer, Ohio State University
- Economic Sociology and Public Policy, organized by Donald W. Light, Rowan University
- Markets, Finance, Credit, and Money, organized by Simone Polillo, University of Virginia

There were also 20 Roundtables organized by Emily Barman, Boston University, and Alison Gerber, Uppsala University. The topics were as follows:

- Categories and Classification
- Debt and Credit
- Elites and CEOs, I and II
- Employment, I and II
- Finance and Banking, I, II, and III
- Firms and Employees
- Inequality and the Market, I and II
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship, I and II
- Labor Markets
- Markets and Morality
- Niches
- Public Sector and Public Policy
- Special markets
- Special Monies

In addition, this year, we added 3 Roundtable sessions on professional development, organized by Angelina Grigoryeva, Princeton University, and Kelly Russell, University of Michigan. Each Roundtable session had a faculty facilitator/mentor. The topics of the professional development roundtables were:

- Journal Article Publishing, with Rachel Dwyer, Ohio State University, serving as mentor
- Book Publishing, with Alya Guseva, Boston University, serving as mentor
- Navigating the Job Market, with Roi Livne, University of Michigan, serving as mentor

Including the organizers, presiders, presenters, and discussants, a total of 121 people participated in the annual meetings from the Economic Sociology Section.

Mini-Conference: Fellow Travelers on Different Roads: The Intersections of Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, and Work
The Economic Sociology Section held its second Mini-conference, which was joint with the Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section and held on Friday, August 11, 2017, the day before the beginning of ASA. Faculty members from McGill University, Desautels Faculty of Management, Matissa Hollister, Lisa Cohen, and Elena Obukhova took responsibility for organizing the conference, which everyone agreed was a huge success. The Mini-conference drew 144 participants, with 20 regular sessions, organized two papers to a session for a total of 40 papers, and 8 sessions dedicated to the work of new scholars or new work with two papers to a session, for a total of 16 papers. Across all sessions, there were 94 authors represented in the Mini-conference. Offering the Mini-conference greatly expanded the opportunity for our members and those of the OOW Section to participate in presenting their work in Montreal.

Conference organizers and Sections chairs were able to solicit funds to support the Mini-conference from a number of co-sponsors, including the Economic Sociology Section; the Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section; McGill Desautels Faculty of Management, Rutgers Business School —Newark and New Brunswick; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Program in Economic Sociology; the Oxford University Said Business School Economic Sociology Program; and the Socio-economic Review, the journal of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-economics. The combination of co-sponsor funds and registration fees fully covered the cost of the Mini-conference, leaving each Section with a small surplus from the Mini-conference.

In addition to the extraordinary efforts of Matissa Hollister, Lisa Cohen, and Elena Obukhova, others assisted with the conference organization, including Alya Guseva, Boston University, Roman V. Galperin, Johns Hopkins University, Rachel Dwyer, Ohio State University, Dustin Stoltz, Notre Dame University, and Nancy DiTomaso, Rutgers Business School.

A large number of people served as reviewers of the papers that were submitted, including Pete Aceves, University of Chicago; Brittany Bond, MIT; Joe Broschak, University of Arizona; Santiago Campero, HEC Montreal; Emilio Castilla, MIT; Clayton Childress, University of Toronto; Nicole Denier, Colby College; Laura Doering, University of Toronto; Rachel Dwyer, Ohio State University; Barry Eidlin, McGill University; Apoorva Ghosh, University of California at Irvine; Joris Gjata, University of Virginia; Minjae Kim, MIT; Jessi Pollack Krsticevic, Brown University; Ningzi Li, Cornell University; David Orzechowicz, University of California at Davis; Colby Pereira, McGill University; Maude Pugliese, McGill University; Victoria Reyes, University of California at Riverside; Xavier St-Denis, McGill University; Marc Ventresca, Oxford University; and Peter Younkin, McGill University.

The Mini-conference provided the opportunity for a large number of section members to present their work, be involved in organizing, participate in the conference, and learn the behind the scenes responsibilities of putting a conference together. And neither Section needed to draw from the Section budgets, which is always a good thing for such a substantive contribution to our professional development.

In addition to the Plenary, which addressed issues with regard to the intersection between Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, and Work, the conference offered the following session topics:

**Mini-conference Regular Paper Sessions:**
- What Is the Value of Work?
- Networks, Brokerage, and Institutional Change
- Corporate Governance and Finance
Marking the Borders of Professional Identities
Workforce Diversity
Organization and Workplace Governance in a Neoliberal Age
Workforce Management, Organization Culture, and Performance
Negotiating Professional Identities through the Lens of Race and Ethnicity
The Economic Consequences of Closeness
Narratives and Practices Around Debt
Diversity and Homophily in Work Organizations
Emotional Work and Payment In Professional Services
Workplace Finance
Networks: What Are They Good for?
Language and Organizational Performance
Recruitment and Management of the Workplace
What Affects Wages and Wage Inequality
Professional and Organizational Ethics
Organizational Fields
Cultural Barriers and Contestation in Market Emergence

Mini-conference Paper Development Sessions:
Who Creates Markets and Why?
State in the Economy
Institutional Change
Workplace Practices: Trust, Cooperation, Control
Precarious Work
Careers and Intra-organizational Inequality
Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital
Inequality, Meaning of Work and Employee Well-being

As part of the packet for the Mini-conference, each sponsoring section put together an information sheet and logo. The Membership Committee for Economic Sociology took responsibility for putting this together, and then they have used the flyer as part of their recruitment tools for the Section.

Recruiting and Retention Efforts

The Economic Sociology Section had a very active Membership Committee for 2016-2017, chaired by Simone Polillo from the University of Virginia, and with member Daniel Fridman, from University of Texas, and Neha Gondal, from Boston University. This year, unlike in past years, the Committee made an effort to reach out to potential and former members early in the years, starting in the spring, rather than waiting until after the annual meeting. The Committee submitted the following report of their activities:

1. The Membership Committee carried out three targeted email campaigns. In the first campaign, we wrote to a select number of sociology departments that already had significant graduate membership in the section. Members of the committee encouraged existing members (with whom they had a previous tie) to sponsor more graduate students. Second, we contacted lapsed members individually, focusing in particular on those who renewed ASA membership but not their membership in the Economic Sociology Section. We did
this in March and again in June, once the roundtable/conference participants’ names were released and finalized.

2. The Committee produced an information flyer to be distributed at the Mini-conference. In addition, we wrote individually to all conference presenters who had not renewed membership, and the Committee members will contact all conference attendees who left contact address information on the sign-up sheet at the annual Business Meeting.

3. The Committee members also contacted the graduate student organizers of the professional development roundtables to make sure they would encourage new members to sign up in the course of these new events.

The Membership Committee thinks that one of the main challenges for increasing Section membership, at least from a logistical perspective, is that membership data come in only once a month, often in a format that does not allow for quick analysis of trends. If the ASA could think of better mechanisms of data sharing, that would make the work of the membership committee much easier. The second challenge is how to strike a balance between gently reminding people of renewing their membership/sponsoring others, and spamming people (inaccurate data often means that we send existing members invitations to renew, and we have found that people are annoyed by that). We have tried to be diplomatic in our outreach efforts, but the problems of inaccurate data causes some tensions that might not be necessary with better data.

Communications Strategy

Announcements and Accounts: Economic Sociology Newsletter

The Section communicates regularly with members through periodic announcements that are sent out by the Chair whenever there is enough news to distribute. Announcements include Section information important to members, including the program call and program information, participation opportunities, other calls for papers, information on upcoming conferences, news of member awards or special achievements, the latest from *Work in Progress*, book and article announcements, job openings, obituaries, and other information that members of the Section would like for other Section members to know. Announcements were sent out about every two weeks throughout the year, but sometimes more frequently. In general, information in the Announcements included time-constrained information, i.e., information with impending deadlines and information that would not be of interest over the long term for Section members.

In addition to the Announcements, the Section produces three newsletters over the year, one in the Fall, one in the Spring, and one in the Summer. A talented team of five doctoral students from several universities worked together to produce the three issues of Accounts over this past year. Alexandra (Lexi) Gervis, from Rutgers University served as Managing Editor, meaning that she not only contributed some of the content, but she also worked on the formatting of each issue and making sure that it all came together. The other co-editors of Accounts included Dilara Demir, also from Rutgers University, three Princeton University students, Kendall Park, Ryan Parsons, and Hannah Waight, and from CUNY Graduate Center, Kasey Zapatka. Each co-editor did interviews with prominent scholars on timely topics, wrote pieces on areas of research that fit the themes of each issue, and contributed some pieces from their own research interests.

The Fall issue was generally focused on political issues, with interviews with Larry Bartels, from the Political Science Department of Vanderbilt University; Jeff Manza from NYU, Paul Starr from Princeton University, and Richard
Alba, from CUNY Graduate Center. In addition, we had a collection of reflections from participants in the “pop-up” session on Brexit, which took place at the Society for the Advancement of Socio-economics (SASE) meetings in Berkeley, California, in June of 2016, as the Brexit vote was taking place.

The Spring issue generally focused on issues of economic inequality. The issue included interviews with Ryan Calder from Johns Hopkins University on Islamic finance; with Debbie Becher on the importance of private property for the study of economic sociology; and with David Grusky from Stanford and Lane Kenworthy from University of California at San Diego on the importance of sociological work for formulating public policy. The issue also included an analysis by Isabelle Beulaygue, from the University of Miami, on the French presidential election. Nancy DiTomaso also contributed a review of the movie, *Equity*, about women on Wall Street.

The Summer issue focused on international themes and introduced a number of selections from our new Global Ambassadors, including Clayton Childress and Josee Johnston from University of Toronto and Sylvia Fuller from the University of British Columbia on economic sociology in Canada; and pieces from Jules Naudet from the French National Center for Scientific Research on economic sociology in India; from Matias Dewey from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies on economic sociology in Germany; and from Philipp Korom from the University of Graz, on economic sociology in Austria; and from Zsuzsanna Vargha on economic sociology in the United Kingdom. The issue also included an interview with Jozsef Borocz from Rutgers University on the intersections of the recent migrant crisis in the European Union and an additional comment from Andrew Morton from the University of Leeds on Brexit. Also included in the issue were interviews with Viviana Zelizer, Nina Bandelj, and Fred Wherry, on their new book, *Money Talks*. And there was an overview of the moral dimensions of economic sociology. Then, as has been the practice for the Section, the Summer issue also included an extended statement from the incoming Chair, Fred Wherry, about his visions for the Section and his plans for his year overseeing the Section. The Summer issue of Accounts also always provides information on the program for ASA, and this year as well, on the Mini-conference.

**Economic Sociology Website**

With the contributions of Dustin Stolz, from Notre Dame University, who served for a second year as the webmaster for the Economic Sociology Section, the Section website was greatly enhanced and kept up to date with information on the officers, council members, a list of our new Global Ambassadors, annual meeting program sessions, award committee members, copies of all past annual reports that were available to us, all of our past and current newsletters, teaching resources, bios for students currently on the job market, as well as information about how to contact the webmaster or sign up for the listserv. In addition, Dustin Stolz assisted with the Mini-conference as well, although the Mini-conference organizers used meeting organization software, called EasyChair, that facilitated the easy submission and review of papers, and communication with conference participants.

**Statements, Notes, Observations**

From the experience of the last few years, it is clear that the more opportunity that we offer our members to be involved and to participate in Section Committees, on program participation, and in giving Section members titles that they can use for their own career development, the more enthusiasm that the members have shown toward the Section. We have had a very enthusiastic
membership, with many people stepping forward to join committees and to undertake work to build the section. We rarely had a member say now when asked to participate, and we had a large number of people sign up at the Business Meeting indicating a willingness to volunteer. Over this past year, as Chair, I looked for additional ways to create opportunities for Section members to be engaged, especially for those who signed up and asked to volunteer. Creating the Graduate Student Professional Development Committee, the Global Ambassador Program, the Teaching Committee, expanding the Membership Committee, getting more students involved in producing Accounts, and offering the Mini-conference all contributed to a large number of members being able to be involved in the Section and gain some recognition in doing so. Everyone who was asked to take on responsibilities did so and followed through on their promises to do things on behalf of the Section. We had very little experience over this past year with free riders. Further, all committees, based on the reports from their activities, worked well together and expanded the networking among members within the Section.

The Coming Year

Elections and Nominations

The Section adopted a procedure several years ago that the Past Section Chair would chair the Nominations Committee, which will include two other members appointed by the current Chair. Thus, Nancy DiTomaso will chair the Nominations Committee. The other members have not yet been selected. The Nominations Committee for 2016-2017 was chaired by Alya Guseva from Boston University, and included Jens Beckert from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, and Elizabeth Gorman, from the University of Virginia. An effort was made to select people who do different types of economic sociology research, an including at least one member from outside the U.S.

Plans for the coming year.

Incoming Chair Fred Wherry outlined his visions for the Section and his wish to expand opportunities for Section members to have more involvement in policy, including by engagement, perhaps even activism, with policy-making bodies, with other practitioners, including nonprofit and independent research organizations, and with academics from other disciplines who share our interests. Fred also announced at the Business Meeting that he would be conducting a survey of Section members to determine preferences and expectations. He indicated that his own preference is to continue with more open sessions that enable Section members to submit the work they are doing and thus have our meeting sessions reflect the work that is currently underway.

Under Fred’s leadership, the expectation is that the new initiatives that were started over this past year will be continued and enhanced.

Statements, Notes, Observations
We are very pleased with the active engagement of our members over this past academic year. The Section expanded the number and participation on committees, began a number of new initiatives, looked for ways for members to participate and get credit for it, whether a title as a committee member, or additional program opportunities through the number of Roundtables and the Mini-conference. We started working on Membership early in the calendar year, instead of at the end of the year, and it seems to have paid off. We also have been trying to provide more substantive service to our members who work outside the United States or do research on global issues. And we have endeavored to serve our graduate student members better by providing professional development activities in which they can participate, and giving them ways to be involved in the Section. We are pleased with the availability of the new website that has enabled our Section to expand the information to members on the website. And the use of the listservs has continued to be of great use to keep the members informed and to communicate easily with members.

The Association and the Executive Office

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

The Section Officers and Council Members continue to believe that ASA is not providing sufficient funding for Section activities. Given that all ASA members pay a substantial fee for ASA membership, it does not make sense to the Section members that we receive only $2 for each Section member from the dues that Section members pay. That means that most Section dues revert to paying for the operations of the ASA, over and above the ASA dues paid by members. We feel strongly that the health of ASA membership depends on the membership of the Sections, because most members have a specific research identity and want to be involved with others who do similar work or work in similar or related areas. The Sections provide substantial strength to ASA, and thus, more of the dues paid for Section membership should remain with the Sections to help support their activities and expand their membership.

We also feel that the ASA could provide more timely and helpful information to enable Section membership committees to do a better job of recruiting members. Although we asked regularly for reports that showed lapsed member information, this was not something sent to us routinely if we did not ask. Just having updated membership lists is not as helpful as having information on the difference between previous members and current members, so that membership committees can reach out to those who have let their Section memberships lapse.

Finally, we faced the difficulty for each of the last two years when we organized a Mini-conference of having to figure out a way for participants to register and pay a registration fee. It would be helpful if there were a way for ASA software to allow Sections to handle Mini-conference registration and collect registration fees, so that it was not being done outside the ASA budgeting system. Given that more and more Sections are holding Mini-conferences and other pre-conference or post-conference activity, this would add a useful service from ASA to the Sections.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to ASA Staff?

As a Section we were very pleased through this academic year with the prompt responses that we received from Justin Lini when he was overseeing the Section governance. When he left, there was clearly a major problem for sections until he was finally replaced. We hope that going forward we will continue to get monthly budget and membership reports, and that we can get quick responses to information requests, such as lapsed membership reports. Having someone who is very responsive to Section needs is extremely helpful for running a healthy and growing Section.

Statements, Notes, Observations

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

The Economic Sociology Section members are pleased with the new features that make the annual meeting easier, such as the streamlined registration and the web-based program. The registration could be made even more streamlined if ASA adopted what several other associations do and allow self-registration at kiosks in the hotels, with the opportunity to pick up bags, lanyards, printed name tags, and program booklets for those who want them. Also, the web app for the annual meeting still seems to have some bugs with regard to the transfer of the personal program to the meeting app. But having these services available are a great help, so everything in this regard is moving in the right direction.