ASA Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in Sociology
Report to Council, January 2015

C.J. Pascoe, Chair
University of Oregon

Activities
During the 2013-2014 year the Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in Sociology (hereafter the Committee) made a formal recommendation (see text below) to change the gender categories reported by ASA members. While Tom Waidzunas was not a signatory, he also endorses the recommendation (as per his statement at the Committee meeting). The recommendation was passed by the ASA Council at the Summer 2014 meeting. This change will be implemented for the 2016 membership year. As the implementation nears, the Committee will develop a communications plan which includes placing notifications in Footnotes, communications through sections, as well as Member News and Notes.

Statement regarding ASA’s Sex and Gender Categories
Committee on the Status of GLBT Persons in Sociology

As a committee we appreciate the work that has been put in to creating sex and gender categories that accurately represent the identities of our members. As a committee made up of members with personal interests and academic expertise in these topics, we suggest an alternate categorization schema as follows:

Please select all that apply:
- Male
- Female
- Transgender Male/Transgender Man
- Transgender Female/Transgender Woman
- Genderqueer/Gender Non-conforming
- Different Identity _____________

This schema is drawn from the UCLA Williams Institute, an organization dedicated to research on sexual orientation and gender identity research. You can see more information about their suggestions here: http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/GenIUSSS-Gender-related-Question-Overview.pdf. It allows members a broad range of options. It will likely reduce an undercount of transgender and an overcount of cisgender members of ASA, by providing several ways to identify. It is not perfect, but closer to member’s lived reality than some other options.

Again, thank you for addressing this important issue. Please contact us if you have questions about our recommendation.

Sincerely,
CJ Pascoe
Tey Meadow
Ellen Scott
Kimberly Davies
Ashley Currier
August 2014 Meeting Summary

At the Committee meeting during the ASA Summer 2014 meetings the following members were in attendance: Ashley Currier, Kim Davies, Tina Fetner, C.J. Pascoe (Chair), Ellen Scott, Tom Waidzunas, and John Curtis (ASA staff liaison). A guest was also in attendance because she was interested in learning about the committee and its activities.

The following topics were covered at the meeting

- Content and passage of the gender categories recommendation
- Relationship of the Committee with the LGBTQ Caucus as well as the Sexualities Section
- Identity and mission of the Committee including: name, visibility, composition, appointment process as well as future and history.
- Recommendations made in the 2009 Committee report.

Out of these discussions came the following activities and recommendations.

Recommendations

- Propose a change in the name of the committee from Committee on the Status of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in Sociology to Committee on the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Persons in Sociology to reflect more current usage and mirror the name of the LGBTQ Caucus
- To begin to address the identity and mission of the Committee we will draft a description of the Committee (including its mission, membership, appointment process, and location of past reports) to be featured on the Committee’s page on the ASA website. CJ will draft the description and it will be approved by Committee members before it is posted. This addresses point #10 raised in the 2009 report (add documentation on Committee activities to the existing page). It will also aid in the visibility of the committee, since when LGBTQ persons in sociology have a concern they are not always sure where to take it or what we do as a committee.
- To address the issue of a lack of institutional memory for the Committee we will create a central repository of past reports and meeting minutes such that knowledge of the history of this committee isn’t dependent on members or liaisons, but exists independently.
- The committee will now appoint liaisons each year to the LGBTQ Caucus and the Sexualities Section. Doing so addresses concerns raised by Committee and Caucus members as well as point #7 in the 2009 report (duplicating the work of the Sexualities Section or the Caucus). These liaisons will enable the Committee to be familiar with the work occurring in those organizations, be informed as to what members needs are, and provide a formal avenue through which Section and Caucus members can communicate with the Committee and vice versa.
- Suggest that the topic of addressing gender identity and sexual orientation among applicants and faculty members (tenure, promotion, mentoring) be on the program for the department chairs workshop. Ellen Scott will take the lead on this.
- To ensure continuity and that these goals are met, given the lack of historical memory and continuity, CJ was approved to stay on as chair an extra year through the 2015 meetings.

Issues for Future Committees to Address

- **Success of Gender Neutral Restrooms**: It seems that the arrangements for the 2014 meeting produced varying levels of success. The Hilton had unclear signage, while it seemed the Parc 55 replaced single-gender restroom signs with official signage designating the restrooms as gender inclusive. Future committees may want to specify best practices regarding gender-inclusive restroom signage.
**Committee Composition**: The Committee members raised questions as to how committee members were appointed, concerned about the lack of gender, racial and ethnic diversity.

**Other recommendations from the 2009 report**: This committee was not able to address all of the recommendations made in the 2009 report. We encourage future committees to address the following points specifically.

- #4: Support for junior sociologists to organize sessions, in terms of mentorship and providing opportunities for participation.
- #5 and #6: Job market preparation for both candidates and hiring committees regarding issues of sexuality and gender.
- #9: Public statements on LGBT issues. What is the Committee’s input on these? When should ASA issue public statements on these issues?