Committee on Publications  
August 13, 2017  
Montréal, Canada

Participants. Elected members Kathleen M. Blee (Chair), Mary Bernstein, Jennifer Glick, Douglas Hartmann, Matthew Hughey, Matthew Hunt, Ruth Milkman, Nancy Naples, Claire Renzetti, Abigail Saguy, David Takeuchi, and Veronica Terriquez.


Approval of the Agenda. The meeting agenda was approved unanimously without revision.

Announcements. Blee welcomed all members and editors. She noted that this was the last meeting for Hartmann, Hughey, and Milkman, and expressed appreciation to them for their service. Blee indicated that her term is also ending. At the end of the meeting, Renzetti will be formally voted in as Chair and there should be a smooth transition. Blee expressed appreciation to the staff of the ASA for their support and hard work, with gratitude to Edwards.

Date of the Winter Meeting. Blee noted the change in the winter committee meeting schedule to combine the Committee on Publications meeting with that of the ASA Executive Office and Budget Committee instead of the Program Committee. The next meeting of the Committee will be held January 26, 2018.

Editor Extensions. Blee thanked editors who agreed to accept the Committee’s invitation to extend their terms beyond the initial three-year term. These extensions have created a unique situation where the Committee has no editor selections to be made in 2018.

2018 Journal Subscription Rates. Takeuchi reported on the approved 2018 subscription fees. Most increases are contractually determined; others were approved by the Secretary, as per Council authorization, to meet the publisher deadline ahead of regularly-scheduled EOB and Council meetings.

Journal Contract Review. The current main journals contract between SAGE and ASA expires at the end of 2019. The contract will auto-renew at the end of 2018 should we not take any action, so evaluation must begin now. Kidd reported that the Executive Office and Budget Committee approved hiring a consultant to do an assessment of whether we should put out a request for proposals from other publishers or renegotiate with SAGE.
**Digital Archive Project.** Edwards gave a brief overview of the NSF-funded project to develop a research archive of manuscripts and reviews submitted to ASA journals from 1990-2009.

Securing permission from authors and reviewers to include materials has proven more challenging than initially anticipated. The digital archive has been limited to the *American Sociological Review*, but the manuscripts from all journals have been scanned. Of the original 10,000 authors and reviewers for *ASR*, more than a third were unreachable. To date, fewer than 3,000 have responded and provided permission to use their materials.

**Report of the Subcommittee on ASA Policy on Retention of Manuscripts and Reviews to the ASA Publications Committee.** Based on review of the status of the current digital archive project and the results of a member survey on this subject, the subcommittee (chaired by Renzetti, with members Stets and Sweet) presented a recommendation to discontinue archiving manuscripts and related files for research purposes. Further, the subcommittee proposed that manuscripts, reviews, and related materials be retained for administrative purposes only using the standard ScholarOne archive and deletion policies.

**Request for Additional Pages for *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.** The editors of *JHSB* presented a proposal for 160 additional pages in 2018 to reduce their inherited backlog. They have tightened acceptance criteria and held authors strictly to word limits specified by the journal guidelines, but the backlog is too big to reduce with these strategies.

**Support for Executive Office Work on Section Journals.** In December 2015, the Committee approved two recommendations from the Subcommittee on the ASA Publications Portfolio to compensate the ASA Executive Office for work done on behalf of section journals. The recommendations were to increase base section dues by $2 for sections with journals and to pay ASA 25% of future royalties earned by section journals. Input was then requested from the four sections with journals and the ASA Committee on Sections. That input made it clear that the first recommendation was concerning, as it would further add to the cost of section membership over and above the increase already required for a subscription to a section journal. Thus, the Committee was asked to modify its recommendation to include only the second point. Input from the Committee on Sections and relevant sections will be solicited again before the recommendation goes to the Committee on the Executive Office and Budget and Council.

**Section Sponsorships of Books/Book Series.** In December 2016, the Committee considered a proposal for a new set of guidelines for section sponsorships of books or book series. At that time, the Committee felt the proposed guidelines did not adequately address issues of financial support and quality control. Edwards and Takeuchi were charged in December with modifying the guidelines to address the Committee’s
concerns. The new proposed guidelines were submitted for the Committee’s consideration and discussion.

**Subcommittee on the Editor Pipeline.** Subcommittee chair Hartmann talked about some of the barriers that affect the willingness of people to apply for ASA editorships. Hartmann also reported on the session on serving as editor that took place during the Annual Meeting. While the session was not well-attended, the subcommittee recommends continuing to offer it annually and suggested ways to improve participation in the future.

Saguy and Naples were asked to co-chair the continuing subcommittee as Hartmann rotates off the Publications Committee at the end of this meeting; Sweet was asked to join the subcommittee as well. Two recommendations were made regarding the subcommittee’s activity in the future. First, the subcommittee should work with the Executive Office to improve visibility about the annual editor session. Second, the subcommittee should develop a process for asking editors to submit reflective narratives on their experiences as editors for those considering an ASA editorship.

**Report from SAGE.** Eric Moran and Thomas Mankowski joined the meeting and reported on the continued strong performance and quality of the ASA journals and on the changing landscape of scholarly publishing.

**Review of Editorial Board Nominations.** The committee discussed nominations for new editorial board members for ASA journals and the ASA Rose Series. The Committee emphasized the importance of ensuring diverse boards. Members of the committee expressed concerns about the gender balance of some editorial boards and the chair agreed to bring this to the attention of the editors.

Blee asked if there were any questions for the editors or if the editors had anything they wished to report prior to the end of the Committee’s open session. Hartmann asked whether the featured review essays in *Contemporary Sociology* (which started with prior editor Alan Sica) had contributed to the increased impact factor of the journal, and whether continuing that should be formalized by modifying the mission statement. Sauder may consider proposing such a modification, but no formal action was taken.

The Committee ended its open session, with thanks to the editors in attendance, and moved into Executive Session.

The Committee voted to:

- Approve 160 additional pages for the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* for 2018 to reduce the transitional backlog.
- Recommend to ASA Council that 25% of royalties earned by section journals be paid to ASA to compensate the Executive Office for staff support. The Executive Office should first get input from the Committee on Sections and the relevant sections.
- Recommend to ASA Council new guidelines to evaluate proposals for books or book series to be sponsored by ASA sections.
- Retain journal manuscripts, reviews, and related materials for administrative purposes only, using the standard ScholarOne archive and deletion policies.
- Approve nominations for new ASA journal and Rose Series editorial board members as presented in the meeting materials.
- Appoint Nancy Naples (co-chair), Abigail Saguy (co-chair), and Stephen Sweet to the Subcommittee on the Editor Pipeline.
- Charge the Subcommittee on the Editor Pipeline to work with current editors to write reflective narratives about their experience to be made publicly available as a resource to potential future editors.
- Approve Claire Renzetti as the next Committee chair.