Committee on Publications Meeting  
December 8, 2016  
Hilton Garden Inn Washington, DC

Elected members present were Kathleen M. Blee (Chair), Jennifer Glick, Douglas Hartmann, Matthew Hughey, Matthew Hunt, Ruth Milkman (Past ASA President), Claire Renzetti, Quincy Thomas Stewart, David Takeuchi (ASA Secretary), and Veronica Terriquez. Elected member Michael Kimmel was unable to attend.

Editors present for the open session were Rory McVeigh (American Sociological Review), Michael Sauder (Contemporary Sociology), Philip Cohen (Contexts), Brian Kelly (Journal of Health and Social Behavior), Lauren Krivo (Rose Series), Richard T. Serpe and, Jan E. Stets (Social Psychology Quarterly), Linda Renzulli (Sociology of Education), and Stephen A. Sweet (Teaching Sociology).

Present from the Executive Office were Nancy Kidd (Executive Officer), Karen Gray Edwards (Director of Publications and Membership), Jamie Panzarella (Publications Manager), and Rachel Pines (Publications Assistant).

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

Report of the Chair. Blee welcomed new committee members and editors. It is her last year on the committee and she gave special thanks to the staff of the ASA Publications Department (Edwards, Panzarella, and Pines) for their support and hard work.

She asked McVeigh to update the committee on whether the new requirement that authors verify their manuscript submission is significantly different than other work they have published has reduced the problem of receiving manuscripts virtually identical to other published work. He indicated that it was too early to tell, but is hopeful it will make a marked difference.

The new statement on alternative models of funding that was incorporated into invitations for editor applications meant that at least one application was received that otherwise would not have been possible.

Blee updated the committee about the success of the two previous sessions ran at the last annual meeting (on being an editor for an ASA journal, and the review process). The sessions were very successful and had an audience who wanted these sessions to be continued at upcoming annual meetings. In 2017, sessions will be held on applying for ASA editorships and reviewing for journals. In 2018, an additional session will be held on navigating the submission process.
Blee asked Terriquez to join the Standing Committee on the Publications Portfolio, which reports each December on possible gaps in the journals published by ASA as well as possible changes to existing journals.

**Report of the Secretary.** Takeuchi gave a very brief overview about institutional subscriptions to different journals, noting the shift from traditional subscription purchases to consortia and large collections of journals. In addition to paid subscriptions, SAGE also provides no-cost access to more than 5,200 libraries and institutions in developing countries.

**Extension of Contexts Publishing Agreement with SAGE.** As recommended by the Joint Committee on the Future of Contexts (chaired by Paula England), ASA has renegotiated its agreement with SAGE to publish the magazine for the Association, with significant expansion of open-access content and expanded marketing efforts directed to non-members.

**Routine Reviews and Discussion of Editor Applications.**

**Contexts.** Hartman presented the Contexts subcommittee’s routine review and noted how the recommendations from the Joint Subcommittee were incorporated in the new agreement with SAGE as well as into the call for editor proposals. The report was followed by a confidential discussion of editor applications.

**Rose Series.** Renzetti reported on behalf of the Rose Series subcommittee. It raised concerns that most volumes were subsidized by the ASA and the Russell Sage Foundation (RSF), and some authors have not submitted manuscripts in a timely fashion. Renzetti also reported on the subcommittee’s efforts to encourage editor applications. The report was followed by a confidential discussion of editor applications.

**Social Psychology Quarterly.** Hunt reported on behalf of the SPQ subcommittee. Its routine review concluded that the journal is operating well, with no grounds for concern, and offered no specific recommendations. The report was followed by a confidential discussion of journal editor applications.

**Standing Committee on the ASA Publications Portfolio Report and Discussion.** Takeuchi briefed the committee on the background of the standing committee, which is charged with reviewing the overall publications portfolio to consider gaps as well as potential changes for existing journals, and leading a discussion each December. The ASA office is charged with presenting to the full committee each August data on submissions, articles published, acceptance rates, income/expense, and totals for ASA sections and areas of interest.

There was a general discussion about growth potential in certain areas, but there were no formal recommendations considered.
Records Retention Policy for Journal Manuscripts and Reviews. Kidd provided an update on the current digital archives project, focusing on manuscripts and reviews from 1990-2009. Pending a final decision, all manuscript and review materials since 2010 have been retained as the committee considers whether ongoing research data collection is sensible.

A new Subcommittee on Journal Manuscript Records Retention was established to lead the work to come to a set of recommendations by the January 2018 meeting. The subcommittee will be chaired by Renzetti, with members Stets and Sweet.

Report of the Subcommittee on the Editor Pipeline. Hartmann gave a brief background on the barriers, real and perceived, that affect the willingness of people to apply for ASA editorships, including the issue of financial support. Calls for editor applications now include information on the dollar amount of the budget for editorial office staff, as well as a stated willingness to consider alternative models of funding that do not significantly impact the “bottom line.”

Section Sponsorships of Books/Book Series. The committee felt the proposed guidelines for section sponsorships of books or book series did not fully address issues of financial support and quality control. As written, publishers can use sections to “sponsor” books or book series for less than it would cost for them to market those books without such sponsorships—and the recommendations do not provide for an adequate review of the quality of the publications recommended for sponsorship. Edwards and Takeuchi were asked to take these concerns and build them into a new set of recommendations for the August 2017 meeting.

Socius Publication Fee Waiver. When Socius was first approved, the Committee on Publications and Council approved waivers for one year to anyone who indicates an inability (for any reason) to pay publication fees upon acceptance of their manuscript. ASA has recently discovered that the fee waiver was not properly built into the post-acceptance information sent to authors. As recommended by Edwards, the committee agreed to a one year extension of the correct waiver process.

Socius Proposal for Additional Manuscript Fee. The editors are inviting data visualization submissions of a few pages plus data tables. As the current fee structure is for full manuscripts, the editors submitted a proposal for a new fee structure that adds new rates for this new kind of submission. The committee agreed to support the proposal, which will be forwarded to EOB and Council for formal approval.

Review of Editorial Board Nominations. The committee discussed and approved nominations for new editorial board members for ASA journals and the Rose Series. It also had an open discussion about difficulties editors encounter in diversifying their editorial boards. The editors of JHSB plan to experiment with soliciting open nominations (including self-nominations) for
their editorial board. The committee was enthusiastic about the idea and asked the editors to report back in August with whether it was successful.

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

Following Executive Session, the committee formally voted to:

- Recommend to Council the next editors of *Contexts*, the Rose Series in Sociology, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*. ASA Council subsequently appointed the following editors:
  - *Contexts*: Rashawn Ray (University of Maryland) and Fabio Rojas (Indiana University)
  - Rose Series: Amy Adamczyk, Richard Alba, Lynn Chancer, Nancy Foner, Philip Kasinitz, and Leslie Paik (City University of New York)
  - *Social Psychology Quarterly*: Matthew Brashears and Brent Simpson (University of South Carolina)
- Recommend sessions and workshops be held each Annual Meeting focusing on serving for or applying to be an ASA editor (to be organized by Douglas Hartmann in 2017), reviewing for ASA journals (to be organized by Claire Renzetti in 2017), and navigating the submission process (to be organized by Richard Serpe in 2017). Due to space limitations for 2017, the session on navigating the submission process was scheduled for 2018.
- Appoint Veronica Terriquez as a new member of the Standing Committee on the Publications Portfolio.
- Establish a Subcommittee on Journal Manuscript Records Retention to consider issues and make recommendations at the winter 2018 meeting whether to keep or change current policy on retention of manuscripts and reviews. The subcommittee will be chaired by Claire Renzetti, with Stephen Sweet and Jan Stets as members. Nancy Kidd and Karen Gray Edwards will serve as staff liaisons.
- Charge ASA Secretary David Takeuchi to work with the Executive Office to revise the proposed guidelines for section sponsorships of books/book series to include statements about quality, editorial oversight, and compensation.
- Recommend to Council an extension of the publication fee waiver for *Socius* for an additional one-year period through 2017.
- Recommend to Council a lower publication fee for data visualizations accepted for publication in *Socius*.
- Approve nominations for new editorial board members for ASA journals and the Rose Series.
- Approve offering term extensions to the editors of the *American Sociological Review, Sociological Methodology*, and *Sociological Theory*.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.