Committee on Publications
January 29, 2018
Washington, DC

Participants: Committee members present were Claire Renzetti (Chair), Mary Bernstein, Matthew Hunt, Michele Lamont, Nancy Naples, Abigail Saguy, Quincy Thomas Stewart, David Takeuchi, and Veronica Terriquez. Editors present for the open session were Matthew Brashears, Brian Kelly, Rory McVeigh, Leslie Paik, Rashawn Ray, Linda Renzulli, Michael Sauder, and Stephen Sweet. Present from the Executive Office were Nancy Kidd (Executive Director), 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.

Date of the Winter Meeting. Renzetti noted the Committee on Publications will now meet immediately prior to the ASA Executive Office and Budget Committee meeting in January. Depending on the number of editor selections on the Committee’s agenda, the 2019 meeting will be scheduled for a full day on Wednesday, January 23, with a possible additional half day on Thursday, January 24.

SAGE Journal Contract Review. The current main journals contract between SAGE and ASA expires at the end of 2019. Kidd reported that the Executive Office and Budget Committee approved hiring a consultant to do an assessment of the existing contract and to make a recommendation about whether ASA should issue a RFP or begin negotiations with SAGE for extending the agreement.

Section/Emerald Book Sponsorship Extensions. The Committee previously approved a set of guidelines for sections to propose sponsoring books or book series which will be reviewed for approval at the ASA Council meeting in March 2018. While the Committee has been developing the new guidelines, it has agreed to extend the existing three agreements (at the same terms) until the new guidelines have been approved. If approved by Council in March, sections can submit new proposals according to the new guidelines as early as August 2018.

State of the journal/editor selection for Society and Mental Health. The ASA Section on Sociology of Mental Health has submitted its “state of the journal” report as well as its recommendation for the next co-editors of Society and Mental Health. The committee discussed the report and will vote on whether to endorse the editor selection later in the meeting.

Report of the Standing Committee on the ASA Portfolio. Takeuchi gave a brief background on the Standing Committee on the ASA Portfolio, which is charged with reviewing the overall publications portfolio to consider gaps as well as potential changes for existing journals, and leading a discussion for the winter meeting. The committee plans to consider, among other things, data on ASA section membership (including trends over time) to consider gaps based on subfields. Takeuchi will have a full report for the August meeting.

Continuing Socius publication fee waivers. The Committee on Publications was asked to recommend to the Executive Office and Budget Committee a permanent extension of the Socius article publication charge waiver option. The waiver has been offered for two years, although during the first year the
process for informing authors about the waiver was flawed, which may have resulted in an “under use” of the waiver option.

**Data Sharing.** The Committee discussed two proposals related to data sharing, one from the Qualitative Data Repository and another from SAGE.

**Qualitative Data Repository proposal.** The proposal asked for formal ASA participation in the Annotation for Transparent Inquiry to produce supplemental versions of journal articles that annotate qualitative and multi-method research in the health and social sciences.

**Using FigShare for ASA journal supplemental data.** SAGE, which publishes most ASA journals, has decided to partner with FigShare, the industry leading open repository of research data, for their journals. SAGE recommends that ASA use FigShare as well, rather than hosting supplemental materials on SAGE, which in effect limits access to supporting data to subscribers. The Committee felt that the discussion would be more productive in August, when representatives from SAGE would be available to respond to questions about the proposal.

**Editorial Board Nominations.** The committee discussed nominations for new editorial board members for ASA journals. At the August 2017 meeting, the committee expressed concerns about the gender balance of some of the ASA editorial boards and continues to stress the importance of supporting editors in ensuring diversity on those boards. The committee discussed new recruitment possibilities to broaden the pool of applicants with stronger strategies.

**Editorial Extensions.** At the end of the first year of an ASA editorship, the Committee on Publications discusses whether to extend an invitation to extend for an additional one or two years. At this meeting, the Committee discussed offering an extension to the editors of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* and *Sociology of Education*, as well as supporting a fifth year for the *American Sociological Review*, even though one of the three editors is unable to extend.

**Change in Subtitle of Contexts.** The editors of *Contexts* raised the possibility of revising the subtitle of the magazine. The committee supported exploring the idea of a name change and encouraged the editors to bring a proposal or additional information to the Committee’s August 2018 meeting.

**Vision Statements.** The committee would like to get a broader overview of the various kinds of challenges that ASA editors face for the broader recruitment of editors. The committee discussed the idea of having editors write a reflection for *Footnotes* as their term ends as well as working to expand the resources available to potential editors. No action was taken.

The Committee voted on the following items:

- Editorships and editorial boards:
  - Support the ASA Sociology of Mental Health section’s selection of Timothy Owens and Susan Roxburgh as the next co-editors of *Society and Mental Health*.
  - Approve two-year term extensions to the editors of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (Richard Carpiano and Brian Kelly) and *Sociology of Education* (Linda Renzulli).
- Recommend to Council an extension of the editorship of Omar Lizardo and Rory McVeigh for the *American Sociological Review* for one additional year. (One current co-editor, Sarah Mustillo, was unable to extend.)
- Approve nominations for new editorial board members for *Contemporary Sociology, Sociological Methodology, and Sociological Theory*.

**Commitment to future discussion:**
- A proposal from the *Contexts* editors to revise the magazine’s subtitle.
- SAGE recommendation to host journal supplemental materials on Figshare.

- Recommend to Council extension of the *Socius* article publication charge waiver option for an additional three years, after which the Committee will review usage data to determine whether to continue for an extended period of time.
- Decided not to participate in the Qualitative Data Repository’s Annotation for Transparent Inquiry project.
- To promote the inclusive nature of *Sociological Methodology*, encourage qualitative and mixed methods scholars in the next call for editor applications.