SECTION ON MARXIST SOCIOLOGY
BY-LAWS

Amended in 2018

The Section on Marxist Sociology will be concerned with developing Marxist Analysis as a method of scientific and scholarly research within sociology. Marxist analysis is not seen as focused on a specific aspect of social life, but rather as a method for analysis of the dynamics of social change, with an emphasis on the interplay of economic, social, and political factors. This method involves a dialectical interaction between theory, method, and practice.

The Section on Marxist Sociology facilitates the work of its members in several ways. First, at its meetings, sociologists exchange ideas, research findings, and experiences in teaching and applying Marxist sociological perspectives. Second, the Section assists in the development of resources for teaching and research which enhance the contribution of Marxist perspectives to the sociological enterprise. Third, the Section encourages the development of local and regional activities by serving as a medium of communication among persons interested in Marxian analysis throughout the country. Finally, the Section encourages the publication and distribution of sociological theory and research bearing on the Marxist perspective.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION. The Officers of the Section shall be a Chair, chair-elect, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Voting members of the Association alone shall be eligible to hold office. The Chair-elect will automatically become Chair in the year following his/her office as Chair-elect. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years.

There shall be a Council consisting of seven voting members. Six of the council members will serve for three years, with two Council seats being vacated each year. In the first election of the Council, two Council seats shall be identified as one-year seats, two as two-year seats, and two as three-year seats. An additional member of council will be a Graduate Student Representative who shall serve for two years. The Graduate Student Representative will be elected in the particular year necessary. Officers shall not succeed themselves. The Chair, Chair-elect, and Secretary-treasurer shall also serve as members of the Council with the Chair of the Section serving as Chair of the Council. The Newsletter Editor shall serve ex-officio on the Section Council.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE SECTION.
All section officers shall have the following common duties:
a. Attend Section Council and Business Meetings.
b. Strive to improve services to Section members.
c. Promote the interests of the Section at the annual convention and, where possible, at regional, state and local meetings. d. Suggest candidates for Section positions.
e. Participate in the election of candidates for Section positions.
f. Solicit volunteers and talent for Section activities, most notably recruiting presenters for the Section’s Roundtable sessions at the Annual Meetings. g. Seek and encourage new Section memberships.
h. Generate ideas and initiate Section projects.
i. Contribute to Section Newsletter.

Other duties and responsibilities of officers and council members:

a. The Chair, in consultation with the Chair-Elect, Past-Chair, and membership at large, will be responsible for determining the academic program of the section. The outgoing Chair will also be responsible for proposing additional sessions related to the following year’s overall conference theme and for proposing additional sessions related to Marxist research in response to the general ASA Call for Papers.
b. If any of the formal committees, listed below, do not have the required number of people, council members are expected to serve on these committees.

POWERS OF THE OFFICERS. The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The functions of the Council include cooperating with the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association in planning the presentation of its field of interest in the Annual Meeting of the Association.

ELECTIONS AND VOTING. The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule. The exception shall be the first election, which shall be carried out noncomitantly with the formation of the Section.

COMMITTEES.

Section A. There shall be a Committee on Nominations. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Nominating Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, with the stipulation that no member shall serve on the nominating Committee for two consecutive years. The Nominating Committee shall present two people for each office to be voted on by the voting members of the Section, by mail or electronic ballot distributed via the Association.

Section B. There shall be a Committee for the Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The
Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Lifetime Achievement Award Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, including one member from the previous year’s committee, with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than three consecutive years on the Committee.

The members of the Lifetime Achievement Award recognize that the basis for the award is distinguished career achievement in Marxist sociology. Nominators should send the Chair of the Committee an email letter stating the case for the nominee for the award and attach a copy of the nominee’s vitae. The award is for a body of work of sociological importance. The deadline for nominations will be listed in the announcement of the award, which will be distributed on the Section’s listserv. The Committee must send the decision to the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section by April 1.

Section C. There shall be a Committee for the Section’s Paul Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Paul Sweezy Marxist Sociology Book Award Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, including one member from the previous year’s committee, with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than three consecutive years on the Committee. The Sweezy Book Award goes to the author(s) of the best book published in the past two years in the area of Marxist theory and research. The Committee will select the book that best demonstrates the most thoughtful, competent, or innovative analysis of a theoretical, empirical, or activist issue(s) that is germane to Marxism, Marxist Sociology, and Marxist Praxis. Nominations should include (by email to all committee members) standard bibliographic information about the work and a brief comment on its merits, and (by mail to all committee members) a copy of the book. The deadline for nominations will be listed in the announcement of the award, which will be distributed on the Section’s listserv. The Committee must send the decision to the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section by April 1. It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Committee to coordinate the review of the books with the other members of the committee in a manner consistent with the goals of the committee (e.g., ranking of the submissions).

Section D. There shall be a Committee for the Section’s Outstanding Marxist Sociology Article Award. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Outstanding Marxist Sociology Article Award Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, including one member from the previous year’s committee, with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than three consecutive years on the Committee.
The Outstanding Marxist Sociology Article Award goes to the author(s) of the best article (or series of articles) published in the past two years in the area of Marxist theory and research. The Committee will select the article that best demonstrates the most thoughtful, competent, or innovative analysis of a theoretical, empirical, or activist issue(s) that is germane to Marxism, Marxist Sociology, and Marxist Praxis. Nominations should include (by email to all committee members) a brief comment on the merits of the published article and a copy of the article. The deadline for nominations will be listed in the announcement of the award, which will be distributed on the Section’s listserv. The Committee must send the decision to the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section by April 1. It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Committee to coordinate the review of the articles with the other members of the committee in a manner consistent with the goals of the committee (e.g., ranking of the submissions).

Section E. There shall be a Committee for the Section’s Albert Szymanski-T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Albert Szymanski-T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, including one member who received the award in the previous year, with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than three consecutive years on the Committee.

The competition is open to both published and unpublished article-length papers (roughly twenty-five pages in length without tables or references) written by a graduate student in the previous two years. The committee will accept sole-authored and multiple-authored papers as long as the applicant is lead or senior author. No student-faculty collaborations can be accepted. The Committee will select the paper that demonstrates the most thoughtful, competent, or innovative analysis of a theoretical, empirical, or activist issue(s) that is germane to Marxism, Marxist Sociology, and Marxist Praxis. The prize for the winner will be $250 from the Section and $250 from Critical Sociology, which underwrite the award. The deadline for nominations will be listed in the announcement of the award, which will be distributed on the Section’s listserv. The Committee must send the decision to the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section by April 1.

Section F. There shall be a Committee for the Section’s Praxis Award. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Praxis Award Committee shall be constituted of at least three members with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than three consecutive years on the Committee.

The members of the Praxis Award Committee recognize that the basis for the award is outstanding achievement, by an individual or in some cases an organization, in the practice of Marxist sociology. Practice may involve (but is not limited to) activism, organizing, and/or outreach to encourage/facilitate social change. Nominators
should send the Chair of the Committee an email letter stating the case for the nominee for the award and when appropriate attach a copy of the nominee’s vitae. The deadline for nominations will be listed in the announcement of the award, which will be distributed on the Section’s listserv. The Committee must send the decision to the Chair and Secretary-Treasurer of the Section by April 1.

Section G. There shall be a Media and Communications Committee, consisting of an Editor-in-Chief, a Newsletter Editor and at least two Commissioning Editors. The Editor-in-Chief and Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with the Council. The Editor-in-Chief shall appoint Commissioning Editors and other Committee members, in consultation with the Section Chair. The Editor-in-Chief shall manage the Section website, blog and social media accounts (e.g. Facebook and Twitter). The Editor-in-Chief may delegate the foregoing tasks as he or she sees fit, and shall serve, ex-officio, as a member of Council. The Newsletter Editor shall solicit and post content for the Section website and compile the email newsletter from material posted on the website and blog.

Other members of the Media and Communications Committee shall serve as commissioning and contributing editors of the Section website and blog, newsletter and social media accounts. The purpose of the Committee shall be to increase the visibility and improve the communications of Section on Marxist Sociology and its members by contributing to the Section’s online presence and preparing a Section newsletter. A central role for the Committee will be to engage in public sociology by commissioning work from Section members to be published on the Section blog. This Committee shall also compile periodic reports as requested by the Council of the Section or the Committee on Publications of the Association and deal with any other publications-related business of the Section.

Section H. There shall be a Committee on Membership. Volunteers will be recruited each year during the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Association and via an online survey following the meeting. The Committee members will then be appointed by the Section Chair, in consultation with Council. The Membership Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, with the stipulation that no member shall serve more than two consecutive years on the Committee. This committee will work to increase membership in the section.

Other committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council, on an ad hoc basis.

**NOMINATION BY PETITION.** Qualified members of the Section may be nominated for any office by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. The choices of the Nominating Committee for each office shall be made known to the membership at least 60 days prior to the deadline for receiving nominations by petition.

**REFERENDA.** Any action of the Council, including changes of the By-Laws, may be referred to a mail ballot of Section members by means of a petition containing the signatures of 10 percent of the Section members or of 25 members of the Section,
whichever is less. Any resolution passed by the annual Business Meeting of the Section shall be referred to Council. If such resolutions are not accepted by the Council, they shall be submitted to the membership by mail ballot.

**MEMBERSHIP.** The membership of the Section shall be drawn from the members of the American Sociological Association who have expressed or demonstrated a major interest in Marxist sociology.

**DUES.** Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.