Individual and team applications are invited for the position of editor or co-editors of Society and Mental Health (SMH), a journal of the American Sociological Association’s (ASA) Section on Sociology of Mental Health. The official term for the new editor (or co-editors) will begin on January 1, 2022. The editorial transition will start in July 2021 with the first issue of the new editorial team being the March 2022 issue. The editorial term is for a minimum of three years until December 2024, with a possible reappointment of up to an additional two years.

SMH is published 3 times per year and includes original and innovative peer-reviewed research and theory articles linking social structure and sociocultural processes with mental health and illness in society. It also provides an outlet for sociologically relevant research and theory articles produced in other disciplines and subfields concerned with issues related to mental health and illness.

Editor Responsibilities: In 2020 (as of August 31), SMH has received 101 original paper submissions and 36 revised submissions. The two-year impact factor is 2.000, and the five-year impact factor is 2.091. Editors are expected to secure timely and appropriate reviews and make final decisions on manuscripts, informing both the author(s) and reviewers of the final disposition. Editors are also responsible for maintaining the high standards of ASA journals, ensuring that issues are filled within the annual page allotments, and preventing a long backlog of articles for either review or publication. Editors must show openness to communicating with scholars about diverse ideas and eagerness to continue building the journal’s reputation.

Candidates must be members of both the ASA and the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health, and hold a tenured position or equivalent in an academic or a non-academic setting. Applications from members of underrepresented minority groups are especially encouraged.

In accordance with ASA’s mission to publish high quality scholarship, the following criteria are considered in selecting editors:

- established record of scholarship,
- evidence of understanding the mission of the journal and its operation, as indicated by experience with the journal through publication, reviewing, editorial board experience, or other activities,
• assessment of the present state of the journal, its strengths and challenges, and a vision for the journal's future,
• openness to different methods, theories, and approaches to sociology,
• record of responsible service to scholarly publishing, and
• commitment to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as an editor.

The time demands associated with these responsibilities vary, but in general, require 2 days per week. Costs associated with editing the journal are covered by the publisher and the editor’s university or co-editors’ universities. The publisher provides funding to cover basic expenses such as a part-time managing editor and office supplies. Applicants should provide a letter from their institution’s administration assuring a suitable level of financial and in-kind support for the editor/co-editors and the editorial office.

Selection Process: (1) Applications will be reviewed by the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health’s Publications Committee beginning on January 18, 2021. That committee will submit a ranked list of candidates to the Sociology of Mental Health’s Council by January 31, 2021. (2) The Council will vote and submit their editor/co-editors selection back to the Publications Committee. The recommendation is then forwarded to ASA’s Publications Committee, which will review the selection and forward a recommendation to ASA Council. ASA Council will make the final decision.

Applications: The applications should include the following:
(1) Vision Statement: Set forth goals and plans for the content of the journal. This may include an assessment of the current strengths, weaknesses, or gaps you plan to address and how you will carry out your plan.

(2) Editor/Co-Editors’ Background Information: The name, affiliation, and other important information about the potential editor/co-editors. Describe the qualifications and experience of each applicant. If applying as co-editors, please also discuss how you plan to divide and coordinate editing responsibilities. You may (but are not required to) provide names of potential deputy editors. The Committee does not expect you to get commitments to serve from those people as part of your application process. Please do not include names of individuals that you plan to include on the larger editorial board. Contacting potential editorial board members can be a time-consuming task that should be done only after an editor is or co-editors are selected.

(3) Letter of Institutional Support: It is important for candidates to examine the feasibility of serving as editor or co-editor in light of the resources provided by ASA and the home university. At this point, a preliminary letter of support from a dean or other appropriate
institutional official is requested. Specific negotiations will of course take place after a new editor is or new co-editors are selected. Candidates are strongly encouraged to discuss possible resource allocation with their institutions in advance of submitting an application. The document Department/University Benefits to Hosting an ASA Journal may be helpful when discussing available resources with your institution.

(4) CV for the applicant(s).

(5) Professional Ethics and Scientific Integrity Self-Disclosure. All nominees for editorships are required to answer a self-disclosure question regarding professional ethics and scientific integrity. If you submit an application for an editorship or a co-editorship, then please click here to complete the disclosure online. This is required by ASA.

Examples of successful applications for editor and/or co-editors of SMH and other ASA journals can be found here and here. For questions and further information about the application process, please contact: Ning Hsieh (Chair, Publications Committee), Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University; hsiehnin@msu.edu.

Submission: The application packet (including items 1-3 above) should be no more than five (5) pages (excluding CV), and must be received by January 15, 2021. Applications may be emailed as PDFs to Ning Hsieh (hsiehnin@msu.edu) with SMH Editor Application in the subject line.