Annual Report
for the Sociology of Law Section

For membership year 2016-17

Prepared by Elizabeth A. Hoffmann, Past Chair of the Section.

August, 2017
Section Governance

Business Meeting
This portion of the report should include an agenda, a count or list of members present and a copy of the meeting’s minutes. If no minutes are available, please provide a summary of decisions made at this meeting.

Our section’s business meeting occurred on August 14, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Hilton Chicago with 31 people attending the meeting. Our agenda was as follows:

1. Call to Order, welcome, sign-up sheet (Elizabeth Hoffmann)

2. Old Business (Elizabeth Hoffmann)
   a. Reminder to sign up your students for the section
   b. Huge thanks to committee chairs and members
   c. Section Reception, explanation of division of costs among three sponsoring sections

3. Budget (Shauhin Talesh for Sida Liu)
4. Mentoring Update (Elizabeth Hoffmann, for Ellen Berrey)

5. Discussion of Publications Committee: Continuation of section newsletter? Open-access requirement?

6. Presentation of Prizes
   a. Distinguished undergraduate paper in the Sociology of Law (presented by Jessica Finch)
   b. Distinguished graduate paper in the Sociology of Law (presented by David John Frank)
   c. Distinguished article in the Sociology of Law (presented by Elizabeth Chiarello)
   d. Distinguished book in the Sociology of Law (presented by Elaine Draper)

7. Pass the Gavel (Elizabeth Hoffmann to Rebecca) with remarks by Rebecca Sandefur

8. Request for ideas for next year’s section session topics (Rebecca Sandefur)

9. Adjourn (Elizabeth Hoffmann)

We followed the agenda closely, and the minutes from the meeting simply note that the above agenda items were discussed and give a bit of additional detail. Committee members and chairs were recognized by committee. We presented awards for the following categories: Distinguished Book, Distinguished Article, Outstanding Graduate Paper, and Outstanding Undergraduate Paper. The secretary-treasurer-elect reported (on behalf of the outgoing secretary-treasurer, who was unable to attend) that the section’s membership and financial condition are both sound, sharing specific figures. The chair also reported that the council meeting, which occurred earlier that day, included a discussion of moving from a newsletter to a blog. The council also considered recommending that work that wins section awards is placed in open-access platforms; a committee will be formed in the next year to consider what the section’s policy on this should be. The chair-elect spoke briefly to encourage members to be involved in committee work and other section activities. The meeting concluded with the passing of the chairship from Elizabeth Hoffmann to Rebecca Sandefur, with Rebecca asking the membership for suggestions for next year’s panel topics.
2017 Sociology of Law Section Council Meeting

Our council meeting took place on August 14, 2017 at 7 a.m. at the GaZette Restaurant, in the Le Westin Montreal, at 270 St. Antoine Ouest. The agenda was as follows:

1. Introductions
2. Membership update
3. Discussion of changing the page limits for undergraduate and graduate student paper awards
4. Discussion of requiring nominators for section awards to be section members
5. Discussion of requiring or recommending that work that wins section awards be placed in open-access platforms.
6. Adjourn

The following council members attended the council meeting: Elizabeth Hoffmann (Chair), Rebecca Sandefur (Chair-Elect), Ruth Horowitz, Mary Vogel, Ron Levi, Steve Boutcher, and Mikaila Arthur (Newsletter Editor). In addition, incoming council members were invited to the council meeting and the following attended: Ashley Rubin, Kathryne Young, and Shauhin Talesh.

The minutes from the meeting are as follows:

After introductions and the membership update, the council addressed the question of whether or not to change the page limits for undergraduate and graduate student paper awards. Currently, both calls-for-papers stipulate that the awards must be 35 page or fewer, including footnotes, references, etc. This issue was raised in response to some members’ concern that senior theses are always more than 35 pages and so are automatically disqualified. The council voted unanimously to remove a page limit and change the call-for-papers announcement to read “article-length papers” in order to allow greater discretion by committee chairs. Next, the council discussed the requiring nominators for section awards to be section members. This issue was raised in in response to some members’ concern that book publishers will automatically nominate books for any and all awards, submitting boilerplate recommendation letters. The council voted unanimously to require nominators for section awards to be section members. The final discussion addressed the possibility of requiring or recommending that work that wins section awards be placed in open-access platforms. This topic proved quite controversial. Various council members had strongly felt, compelling yet opposing, views on this topic. Therefore, the council decided to raise it at the business meeting and create a committee to consider what the section’s policy on this should be.
State of the Section Budget

The following table summarizes current year performance compared to budget with the available data.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>As of 5/31/2017</th>
<th>Montreal Meeting Expenses</th>
<th>16-17 Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets (1st qtr)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5177</strong></td>
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<td>Awards</td>
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<td>Pre-conference Workshop</td>
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<td>Catering</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Mtg Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Fall 17 Projected Net Assets</td>
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<td>Fall 2017 increase (dues)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (est)</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4141</strong></td>
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</table>

This shows that our section operated within its budget.

Operating budget for the coming year approved by the Section Council.

The council approved the amount of $3800 for the coming 2017-18 academic year.

The Previous Year

Overview
The section leadership’s focus was on activities at the ASA 2015 Annual Meeting. We sponsored the following sessions at the Annual Meeting:

Law and Inequality: Mon, August 14, 8:30 to 10:10am
This session features papers exploring topics in the area of law and inequality, broadly construed, including how law and civil or criminal justice systems create or support social or economic inequality;
inequalities in people's civil or criminal justice experiences; tensions between goals of legal systems and other policy goals; and inequality at the intersection of criminal and civil justice.

Session organizer: **Erin York Cornwell**, Cornell University
Presider: **Daanika Gordon**, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Discussant: **Justine Eatenson Tinkler**, University of Georgia

- **Emily Ryo**, USC Gould School of Law, “Predicting Danger in Immigration Bond Hearings”
- **Spencer Headworth**, Purdue University, “Broke People, Broke Rules: The Production of the Welfare Rule Violator through Fraud Enforcement”
- **Mary Rose**, UT Austin; **Shari Seidman Diamond**, Northwestern University School of Law, “Juries Judging Injuries: The Special Role of Special Damages in Personal Injury Civil Cases”

Human Rights and Law from Above and Below I: Mon, August 14, 10:30am to 12:10pm
Papers in this session will explore the relationship between law and human rights in comparative perspective—across social groups, between regional and national contexts, and in different historical periods. Questions addressed by the papers include how legal guarantees secure or fail to secure human rights, how human rights guarantees generate mobilization of law, and how human rights and legal consciousness mutually shape one another.

Session organizer: **Frank Munger**, New York Law School
Presider and discussant: **Kiyoteru Tsutsui**, University of Michigan

- **Ori Swed**, University of Texas at Austin, “Too Much Pressure: The Intended and Unintended Consequences of Sousveillance”

Law and Culture: Mon, August 14, 10:30am to 12:10pm
Papers in this session will explore the relationship between law and culture from a range of perspectives. Questions addressed by the papers include how implementation of facially neutral laws result in housing discrimination, the backlash movement against women’s equality in higher ed., how health care organizations address transgender discrimination, the precarious legal status of the European Roma, and how the war on meth drugs is constructed.

Session organizer: **Kathryne M. Young**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Presider: **Nathan Shelton**, University of Wisconsin, Madison

- **Anna Kirkland**, University of Michigan, “Integrating Organizational Legal Cultures: Sex Discrimination in Health Care Settings”
- **Anna Reosti**, University of Washington, “Landlord Constructions of Fair Housing Compliance in the Information Age”
- **Kathryn Hendricks**, University of Chicago, “Vulnerability and the College Kid: Legal Consciousness, Categories of Risk, and the Contestation of Title IX”
- **Kevin Revier**, State University of New York at Binghamton, “‘Once Again, a Meth Lab Exploded and Somebody Died:’ Constructing a Rural War on Drugs”

Making Organizational Compliance Real: Mon, August 14, 10:30am to 12:10pm
Organizational sociologists have theorized and documented the range and diverse forms of ceremonial conformity to rules and norms. This session will explore when, where, and how law, regulation, and practice generate substantial—if very rarely complete—conformity to rules and expectations.

Session Organizer: **Eunmi Min**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- **Stacy E. Lom**, University of Central Arkansas, “How Did That Happen? The Effects of Perceived Legitimacy on the Formality of Evaluative Cultures”
- **Minjae Kim**, MIT Sloan School of Management, “A Man Is Known by His Cup: Signaling Commitment via Costly Conformity”
- **Hana Shepherd**, Rutgers University; **Idit Fast**, Rutgers University, “Putting an Anti-Bullying Law in Place: Implementation Styles in Schools”
- **Julia DiBenigno**, Yale University, “Rapid Relationality: Staff Influence Over Line Members for Soldier Mental Healthcare”

**Sociology of Law Roundtables:** Mon, August 14, 2:30-3:30 pm
Roundtable organizer: Michael Yarbrough, John Jay College of the City University of New York

**Table 1: Accountability and Surveillance**
- **Dennis Molinaro**, "Wiretapping and the Law: Canada’s Entrance into the Five Eyes Intelligence Community”
- **Jorge Derpic**, University of Texas at Austin, "'Me Van a Procesar': Reducing Corruption, Increasing Uncertainty in Prosecutors’ Decision Making in Bolivia”

**Table 2: Education and Disciplinary Processes in Law and Legal Institutions**
- **Ana Cristina Butera**, University of Houston Law Center, "A Failing Grade For the Post-BAPCPA Credit Counseling and Bankruptcy Education Industry”
- **Ruth Elizabeth Delaney**, CUNY Graduate Center, "Punitive Liminality: Identity Transformation among College Students in Prison”

**Table 3: Law and Intimate Relations**
- **Katherine Maich**, University of California, Berkley, "Domestic Vulnerability: Navigating Labor Rights at Home in New York”
- **Elizabeth Cozzolino**, University of Texas at Austin, "Flat Broke without Children: Policing Nonresident Parents in Child Support Court”

**Table 4: Law and the Production of Knowledge**
- **Timothy O’Brien**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "Gender, Deference to Authority, and Judicial Gatekeeping in Civil Rights Litigation”
- **Michael W. Raphael**, CUNY Graduate Center, "The Culture of Legal Education: Indeterminacy and Methods of Constructing Legal Competence”
- **Daniel N. Kluttz**, UC Berkeley, "The Path of the Law Review: How Inter-field Ties Enable Institutional Emergence and Reinforce Persistence”
- **Zachary Webster Griffen** and **Aaron Panofsky**, University of California-Los Angeles, “VAM on Trial: Rationality and Expertise in Teacher Evaluation Lawsuits”

**Table 5: Mobilization, Meaning, and the Law**
• **Sam Jackson**, Syracuse University, "Principled Law Breaking in America: Nullification and Civil Disobedience"

• **Lauren M. Brenzel**, "Regulating Abortion: The Role of Legislation Type in Predicting Legislative Success"

• **Victoria I. Piehowski**, "Under the Punitive Aegis: Discipline as Empowerment in the Family Justice Center Model"

**Table 6: Stratification in Legal Processes and the Legal Profession**


• **Ronit Dinovitzer**, University of Toronto, and Bryant Garth, American Bar Foundation, "The New Place of Corporate Law Firms in the Structuring of Elite Legal Careers"

**Human Rights and Law from Above and Below II**: Mon, August 14, 4:30 to 6:10pm

One of two paired sessions, co-sponsored by the sections on the Sociology of Law and Human Rights. Papers in these sessions will explore the relationship between law and human rights. Questions include: how do legal guarantees secure human rights, and how do they fail to do so? How do human rights guarantees generate (or not) mobilization of law? How do human rights shape legal consciousness, and how does legal consciousness shape human rights? Papers will address these issues from a comparative perspective, across social groups, regional and national contexts. Law established by states and international actors, as well as legal mobilization from below and legal consciousness will be addressed.

Session organizer: **Joachim J. Savelsberg**, University of Minnesota
Discussant: **Christopher Roberts**, University of Minnesota

• **David John Frank**, University of California Irvine, "Beyond the State: Implementing Human Rights in Everyday Life"

• **Elizabeth Heger Boyle**, University of Minnesota, “The Promise of Shifting Human Rights from a Legal to a Sociological Framework”

• **Monika Krause**, London School of Economics, “Repertoires of Practice in Human Rights NGOs: The Role of the Law”

• **Hassan Abdel Salam**, Dartmouth College, “Stories of Resisting Invention: Human Rights and Islamic Tradition in History”

We also held the council and business meetings on our section day, and held a well-attended section reception off-site at lovely Hotel William Gray at 421 Rue Saint Vincent, Montreal. Other activities during the year included the work of our four awards committees, the membership committee that explored ways to maintain and increase our membership, and the usual committee work on nominations and communications (newsletter and Facebook page). We also held our first pre-conference on the Friday before the official start of the ASA annual meeting.

**Recruiting and Retention Efforts**

Our ad hoc membership committee reviewed current membership rolls and brainstormed ways to maintain and increase membership in the future, but no specific plans were finalized. We have hovered around the 400 mark in membership for the last several years, and it would be ideal to increase somewhat, so as to avoid the risk of losing an ASA session by dipping below 400. This is a perennial challenge for our small/medium section.
Communications Strategy

Our primary means of communicating with our membership include the section listserv, the AMICI newsletter (semi-annual) and the section’s Facebook page. The link to our Facebook page is:

https://www.facebook.com/ASASociologyofLaw

Links to our newsletters can be found on the Facebook page. We would eventually like to expand our presence on other forms of social media such as Twitter, and possibly start a section blog.

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The Coming Year

Elections and Nominations

This year our Nominations Committee will be chaired by council member Ron Levi, with other committee members to be appointed by current section Chair Becky Sandefur. We follow the standard process for section elections and we will need to elect three council members and a Chair-Elect in the 2018 election. Additionally, the chair will appoint a graduate student council member.

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Plans for the coming year.

Planning for the 2018 ASA Annual Meeting is in progress, with Chair-Elect Sandra Levitsky in charge. We will probably sponsor three paper panels and a roundtable session, with details to be determined. Our new Chair Becky Sandefur has begun working on appointing our awards committees and planning our section reception for Philadelphia.

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The Association and the Executive Office

This is your opportunity to put items onto the agenda of the Committee on Sections and ASA Staff.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the ASA Council and Committee on Sections?

Nothing to raise or recommend.

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What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to ASA Staff?

Nothing to raise or recommend.