

2020 Section Annual Report for Theory Section (Submitted by Greta Krippner, Past Chair)

This annual report covers the period of section activity from September 2019 to August 2020 and a fiscal year from January 2020 to December 2020.

Section Governance

Provide details of your section's governance activity during the period between September 2019 and August 2020.

Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes from the section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting.

Agenda and minutes are attached.

Council Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes of all council meetings. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

Agenda and minutes are attached.

Awards

Provide a list of section awards and awardees conferred in the past year.

Shils-Coleman Award for the best paper produced by a graduate student:

Committee: **Josh Pacewicz (Chair)**, Alex Barnard, Marco Garrido, Barbara Kiviat, Mikell Hyman

Aaron Horvath, "From Accounting to Accountability: Organizational Supererogation and the Transformation of Nonprofit Disclosure."

Junior Theorist Award for the best paper produced by an early career sociologist:

Committee: **Stephanie Mudge (Chair)**, Daniel Hirschman, Shai Dromi, Kyle Green

Neil Gong, "Between Tolerant Containment and Concerted Constraint: Managing Madness for the City and the Privileged Family," *American Sociological Review* 84 (2019): 664-689.

Theory Prize for the best book in the field of social theory:

Committee: **Margaret Frye (Chair)**, Kimberly Kay Hoang, Jaeun Kim, Iddo Tavory, Fiona Greenland

Ari Adut, *Reign of Appearances: The Misery and Splendor of the Public Sphere*, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Honorable Mentions:

Michal Pagis, *Inward: Vipassana Meditation and the Embodiment of the Self*, University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Sarah Quinn, *American Bonds: How Credit Markets Shaped a Nation*, Princeton University Press, 2019.

Lewis A. Coser Award given to a mid-career sociologist whose work holds great promise for setting the agenda in the field of sociology:

Committee: **Greta Krippner (Chair)**, Sharmila Rudrappa, Suzanna Walters, Wendy Simonds, Chandra Mukerji

Kimberly Kay Hoang, University of Chicago

2020 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2020 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2020. Please account for any substantive differences.

Generally speaking, our financial situation is sound. We entered this year with \$5,478 in our coffers. While we donated \$2,500 to the ASA minority fellowship, our only other expense this year had been plaques for the various section awards. Thus, so far, we are finishing this year with \$5,836, putting us at \$358 above our available funds at the beginning of the year. (This budget report is as of August, 2020).

Business Meeting, Tuesday August 11, 2020, 1:30-2:10 PM (Pacific)

(Note: need 25 members to constitute a quorum. Estimated attendance: 37)

1. Introduction, welcome, and thanks

Chair offers thanks to all of section officers and council members, especially those who are completing their terms of service:

Past-Chair: Marion Fourcade
Secretary Treasurer: Iddo Tavory
Council: Rhacel Parrenas, Ellis Monk
Student Representative: Katrina Quisumbing King

Chair thanks all those who chaired committees: Josh Pacewicz (Shils Coleman), Stephanie Mudge (Junior Theorist Award), and Maggie Frye (Theory Prize), as well as the many individuals who served on committees with them. Chair also offers thanks to Stephen Ostertag, Shelly Grant, and Jason Ferguson who worked on our membership campaign this spring.

Chair expresses gratitude to outgoing newsletter editors – Luis Flores, Dylan Nelson, Pinar Ustel – on the completion of their three-year term. Chair also introduces the new editorial team – Vasfiye Toprak, Abbie Moore, and Anne Taylor – who will take over publication of *Perspectives* with the fall issue.

Chair thanks the outgoing webmaster, Neha Gondal, for many years of dedicated service to the Section, and extends a welcome to Petina Powers, who has taken over the website this year.

Finally, Chair thanks the organizers of the JTS (Andrew McCumber and Jaclyn Wypler) for their work organizing this important event, under unusually difficult circumstances.

2. Chair reports on election results:

Welcome to:

Chair-Elect: Claudio Benzecry
Secretary Treasurer: Claire Decoteau
Council: Julian Go, Robin Wagner-Pacifici
Student Representative: Valentina Cantori

3. Committee Nominations:

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
4 names, from council slate or 4 + any floor nomination:

- 1) Alexander (Sasha) White
- 2) Luciana de Souza
- 3) Victor Ray
- 4) Vanina Leschziner
- 5) Xiaohong Xu

Approved.

THEORY PRIZE COMMITTEE (book in 2020):

At least two names, from council or floor nominations:

- 1) Tey Meadow
- 2) Camilo Leslie
- 3) Michal Pagis
- 4) Rachel Parrenas
- 5) Paige Sweet
- 6) Sourabh Sing (self-nomination)

Approved.

JUNIOR THEORIST PRIZE COMMITTEE

Receiving up to 3 nominations from the floor, for the incoming chair's consideration:

- 1) Katrina Quisumbing King
- 2) Besnik Pula
- 3) Neil Gong

SHILS-COLEMAN STUDENT PRIZE: committee at discretion of chair but welcoming nominations or self-nominations

- 1) Fatma Gocek (self-nomination)

4. Awarding of Prizes (presented by Chairs of respective prize committees)

Shils-Coleman Award for the best paper produced by a graduate student:

Committee: Josh Pacewicz (Chair), Alex Barnard, Marco Garrido, Barbara Kiviat, Mikell Hyman

Aaron Horvath, "From Accounting to Accountability: Organizational Supererogation and the Transformation of Nonprofit Disclosure."

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Committee: Stephanie Mudge (Chair), Daniel Hirschman, Shai Dromi, Kyle Green

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Committee: Margaret Frye (Chair), Kimberly Kay Hoang, Jaeun Kim, Iddo Tavory, Fiona Greenland

Ari Adut, *Reign of Appearances: The Misery and Splendor of the Public Sphere*, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Honorable mentions:

Michal Pagis, *Inward: Vipassana Meditation and the Embodiment of the Self*, University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Sarah Quinn, *American Bonds: How Credit Markets Shaped a Nation*, Princeton University Press, 2019.

Lewis A. Coser Award given to a mid-career sociologist whose work holds great promise for setting the agenda in the field of sociology:

Committee: Greta Krippner (Chair), Sharmila Rudrappa, Suzanna Walters, Wendy Simonds, Chandra Mukerji

Kimberly Kay Hoang, University of Chicago

5. Treasurer Report: Iddo Tavory

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6. Membership Report

Current membership stands at 728. Last year at this same time membership stood at 749; the year before 763. 800 is magic number to hit before September 30 in order to

have a 5th panel on the program. This would require a fairly ambitious recruitment effort.

7. JTS Report: Andrew McCumber and Jaclyn Wypler

8. Discussion of Prize Names

We've been discussing our naming conventions for a couple of years now, without arriving at a clear resolution of the issue. The concern, to summarize longer discussions, is that in a moment in which concerns about representation have come to the fore, our named awards may no longer reflect what we as an intellectual community want to convey about who does theory and what kind of theory is most valued.

Currently our prizes are named as follows:

Theory Prize for best paper / book

Shils-Coleman student prize (graduate student prize)

Junior Theorist Award

If we were to have consistent naming conventions:

Theory Prize for best paper / book

Graduate Student Prize for best paper written by a graduate student

Junior Theorist Award

By unanimous vote, "Graduate Student Prize" is adopted as name of our student paper award.

9. Incoming Chair Simone Polillo takes the "podium" to say a few words.

Theory Council Meeting, Tuesday August 11, 2020, 12:30-1:30 PM (Pacific)

Present: Greta Krippner, Marion Fourcade, Simone Polillo, Aliza Luft, Katrina Quisumbing King, Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Iddo Tavory, Claudio Benzecry, Claire Decoteau, Valentina Cantori, Josh Pacewicz, Luna White, Fuyuki Kurasawa

Perspectives: Luis Flores

JTS: Andrew McCumber, Jaclyn Wypler

1. Introductions, announcements, and congratulations to newly elected officers

Welcome to:

Chair-Elect: Claudio Benzecry

Secretary Treasurer: Claire Decoteau

Council: Julian Go, Robin Wagner-Pacifici

Student Representative: Valentina Cantori

Thanks to those retiring from service:

Past-Chair: Marion Fourcade

Secretary Treasurer: Iddo Tavory

Council: Rhacel Parrenas, Ellis Monk

Student Representative: Katrina Quisumbing King

2. Committee Nominations

Nominations Committee – **minimum of 4 nominations to propose at business meeting:**

1) Alexander (Sasha) White

2) Luciana de Souza

3) Victor Ray

4) Vanina Leschziner

Theory (Article) Prize Committee – **need to generate 2 names to propose at business meeting:**

1) Camilo Leslie

2) Tey Meadow

3. Secretary-Treasurer's report and budget (Iddo Tavory)

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finishing this year with \$5,836, putting us at \$358 above our available funds at the beginning of the year (and, as membership dues are updated, this would tick up slightly).

4. Membership Report

Current membership stands at 728. Last year at this same time 749; the year before 763. 800 is magic number to hit before September 30 in order to have a 5th panel on the program. This would require a fairly ambitious recruitment effort.

Thanks to Stephen Ostertag, Shelly Grant, and Jason Ferguson for their service on the membership committee.

Strategies going forward:

Encourage Council members (and other active members in the Section) to leverage their personal networks and/or directly sponsor student memberships.

Take advantage of the move in the Section to rethink the “canon” to capture some of the broader energy in the discipline around diversity issues to extend our membership among scholars who may not have previously viewed the Theory Section as a natural home for their intellectual interests.

5. *Perspectives* Newsletter Report (Luis Flores)

Suggestion is made to change from 3-year to 2-year term and to integrate role of editing the Newsletter and managing the Section’s webpage.

6. JTS Report (Andrew McCumber and Jaclyn Wypler)

7. JTS Funding

Theory Section offers a backstop of \$800 each year to JTS.

There is additional issue of how to provide financial support up front so that graduate student organizers are not covering these expenditures. Is there any mechanism we have as a section to cover these costs? Has JTS looked into fundraising from alumni to create a fund to be used for this purpose? For now, we have rested this obligation on the Chair, but it’s a bit awkward to inform incoming Chairs that they have unknowingly agreed to front expenses for JTS.

For next year, Greta agreed to front expenses (as Marion did last year), but JTS organizers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the fact that they did not incur

many expenditures this year (given virtual meeting) to raise funds for next year so that there is an endowment to pass forward year to year.

8. Minority Fellowship Program

We donated \$2500 of our budget (the amount of our budget that had been allocated to a reception) to support MFP.

Some sections are looking into providing support to MFP on a continuing basis. Should we explore this option?

9. Coser Award Funding

At last year's Council meeting we discussed possibly re-allocating funding for the Coser reception to subsidize the Theory Section reception while ensuring that Coser Lecture is held directly before the Theory Reception. As it happened, we didn't get too far with these plans before the meeting was cancelled, so we need to revisit this for next year. This would involve checking with the ASA, and with the Coser family, to see how much flexibility we have in allocating the endowment.

Founding document states: "In consultation with the ASA, the committee will set the size of the financial reward each year, preserving the award endowment for future awardees, but spending most or all of the endowment's income on the award and award-related expenses."

10. Award Naming Issue

Last year we raised the issue of whether to make modifications to award naming conventions. There was some discussion of the issue at the Business meeting, with little agreement emerging.

A committee was formed (Greta Krippner, Monika Krause, and Hillary Angelo) which unfortunately did not convene due to the disruptions associated with the pandemic. We now need to determine whether there is support in Council for simply making our naming practices consistent across the three awards we directly control (i.e., excluding the Coser Award).

Currently our prizes are named as follows:

Theory Prize for best paper / book
Shils-Coleman student prize (graduate student prize)
Junior Theorist Award

If we were to have consistent naming conventions:

Theory Prize for best paper / book

Graduate Student Prize for best paper written by a graduate student

Junior Theorist Award

Council agreed to propose this change at the Business Meeting.

11. Other items for discussion?