Introduction
Annual reports are used by the Sections Committee to assess the health of a Section, measure the Section’s vitality, and identify processes, programs, or initiatives that could serve as a model for other Sections. In addition, they serve to provide institutional memory, socialize new Section leaders, and promote transparency to Section members.

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2021 to August 2022 and a fiscal year from January 2022 to December 2022. This portion of the report will be shared publicly.

Section Governance
Provide details of your Section’s governance activity during the period between September 2021 and August 2022.

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. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

Culture Section Business Meeting ASA 2022
Sun, August 7, 11:00 -11:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 404A

1. Chair’s update: Ann Mische (5 min)
   1. Programming highlights: ASA sessions, Culture in Contemporary Life
   2. Diversity and inclusion initiatives
   3. Communications
   4. COO report: Clayton Childress (3 min)
2. Mentorship program report (Marshall Taylor) (2 min)
3. Publication awards (15 min)
   1. Douglas Award for Best Book (Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra)
   2. Geertz Award for Best Article (Hillary Angelo)
   3. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper (Mariana Craciun)
4. John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant (Lauren Valentino) (2 min)
5. Invitation to contribute to the Culture Section (3 min)
   1. Nominations committee
   2. Communications team (webmaster, social media, discussion platform)
   3. Other committees: Link to volunteer for Culture Section committees
   4. Suggestions for next year’s CCL and ASA program (Vanina Leschziner)

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.

ASA CULTURE SECTION COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 2022
1-2PM

Attendees: Ann Mische (AM), Clayton Childress (CC), Jean Beaman (JB), Juan Pablo Pardo Guerra (JPPG), Amin Ghaziani (AG), Nino Bariola (NB), Amy Zhang (AZ), Vanina Leschziner (VL), Terence McDonnell (TM), Japonica Brown-Saracino (JBS), Mathieu Desan (MD), Mariana Craciun (MC)

1. Diversity and inclusion initiatives: update from Jean Beaman
   a. Survey (survey of membership on demographics and feelings)
   b. Other ideas in discussion (audit of who is winning, being nominated, etc.)
   c. Interfaces with other committees (CCL, Mentoring, Program, Awards, etc.) (Honorary lecture during CC&C; how to do mentor matching; CCL Great Success)

2. John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant
   a. Submission guidelines and selection procedures: Jean (statement or just radio button)
   b. Procedures for additional donations: Clayton (create master document)
   c. Promoting the award: Clayton and Nino (ASA Footnotes)

3. Communications strategy
   a. Better use of our website and social media
   b. Newsletter format: blog or current form (pdf plus website)?
   c. A communications committee/coordinator?

4. Newsletter
   a. Compensation: research/travel grants for editors?
   b. Continuation of support for webmaster?
   c. Recruiting new team members
   d. Editing support

5. ASA meeting plans
   a. Reception: on or offsite? (tbd)
   b. Mentoring coffee event? (request from Marshall Taylor) (On agenda not discussed)
   c. Online contingency plans? (On agenda not discussed)

ASA Culture Section Council Meeting, August 2, 2022 (12-1pm ET)

1. Chair's update (Ann) 5 minutes
   --Lots of signup for committees
   --Strong panels; questions about hybrid options.
   --Energy and focus of D&I Initiatives has been really strong
   --CCL Panels were strong
   --Communications can be improved

2. COO report (Clayton) 5 minutes
1. Membership –good shape
2. Budget – is in good shape; we can learn from other sections
3. Committee reports (these can be brief updates)
   1. CCL went well.
   2. Mentorship program (Amy); matching and mismatching is being solved; non-academic positions can be better represented; BIPOC Resource Sharing Network; Really positive experience.
3. Publication awards (JP, Matt (5 min)
   --Guidelines across years are useful
   --John Mohr: International students clarification; Email faculty at institutions
4. Diversity and inclusion report (Jean) (15 minutes)
   1. Demographic and climate survey report: quarter of section responded; most people felt neutral; issues raised around what is valued as cultural sociology in the section; US-centered; concerns about who is winning awards and on council; not doing a Culture+ model
   2. Future steps
5. Communication strategy (15 minutes)
   1. ASA Connect (with Vanina)
   2. Communications team coordination
6. Suggestions for next year’s program (5 min)

Awards

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

Mary Douglas Award for Best Book
Committee: Juan-Pablo Parda Guerra (chair), Matt Clair, Michal Pagis, Victoria Reyes, Fernando Dominguez Rubio, Anna Skarpelis

Co-winners:


Honorable Mention:

Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article
Committee: Mathieu Desan (chair), Hillary Angelo, Jelani Ince, Carly Knight, Caroline Lee, Blake Silver

Winner:

Honorable Mentions:


Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Graduate Student Paper
Committee: Mariana Craciun (chair), Holley Campeau, Chloe Hart, Amy Singer, Kris Velasco, Celso Villegas

Winner:

2022 Finances
Provide a narrative on how the 2022 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2022. Please account for any substantive differences.

We spent about $60 more than we estimated on awards plaques. We also brought in additional outside donations which allowed us to increase the awards amount of the John Mohr Dissertation Improvement grant to two $1,050 awards. Other than that were were no meaningful differences between our projected budget and actual expenses and income.

The Previous Year
Describe Section activities during the period between September 2021 and August 2022.

Throughout the year, section Chair Ann Mische communicated by email with section members at least once a month. The listserv was used to circulate information about section activities, events, and awards, as well as to circulate announcements that were channeled to the Chair by section members (calls for papers, conference announcements, publications, etc.) We wanted to promote our value of being inclusive and welcoming in all communications and gave frequent credit to work being done by committees.

In addition, we produced three editions of the Culture Section Newsletter, which is available on our website. The newsletters were produced by an editorial team consisting of 3-4 graduate students per issue (including Bo Yun Park, Manning Zhang, Elizabeth Trudeau, Man Yao, and our webmaster Bamban Trihadmojo). You can find links to each of the newsletters below (in addition to direct links to all material on the website).

2022 Vol. 38 Issue 1 [PDF]
2021 Vol. 37 Issue 1 [PDF]
2021 Vol. 36 Issue 1 [PDF]
We also maintained a Culture Section website – here is a direct link to the [homepage](#).

We posted information about our “Culture in Contemporary Life” series on its own [website page](#) and also on this [YouTube channel](#).

We also sent out announcements about section events via our [Twitter account](#).

Describe the Section’s diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

We have worked hard to make the Culture Section a more welcoming place for all by deepening our commitment to **Diversity and Inclusion initiatives**. Recently launched projects that will continue into the coming year include:

- **The launch of the John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grants**, which will fund two racially or ethnically underrepresented graduate students at a public institution each year. Our first two awardees are **Maia Behrendt** (University of Nebraska) and **Edwin Grimsley** (CUNY). I am grateful for the leadership of **Clayton Childress** in setting up this donor-funded award, building on suggestions from last year’s D&I committee. Thanks to the Mohr Award committee for thoughtful stewardship of our inaugural year. The committee was chaired by **Lauren Valentino**, with **Nino Bariola**, **Julia Cheng**, **Jun Fang**, **Jonathan Mijs**, and **Rachel Rinaldo**.

- **A demographic and climate survey** conducted by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee chaired by **Jean Beaman**, with **Elena Ayala-Hurtado**, **Elisabeth Becker**, **Barbara Harris Combs**, **Daniel Karell**, and **Mikki Liu**. The committee will produce a report as the basis for an expanded discussion on how to deepen our commitment to justice and inclusion within the section. This will be accompanied by a [diversity audit](#) of section awards, nominations, and offices.

- **The launch of a BIPOC Resource Sharing Network**. This is an initiative of the Membership Committee, with the goal of creating an ongoing network of support and resource exchange for BIPOC scholars within the Culture Section.

- **The prioritization of a discussion of racial justice** in our first [Culture and Contemporary Life](#) webinar on “Revising Cultural Methods to Address Racism” in January (described below).

- **An ASA programming focus** that incorporates attention to race and ethnicity as well as to international scholarship on culture. This includes a two-year commitment to joint panels with the section on Race, Gender and Class. We are co-hosting a 2022 panel on “The Racial Politics of Culture? Critical Perspectives from Cultural Sociology” (organized by Derron Wallace). We also sponsored a panel on “International Perspectives in Cultural Sociology” (organized by Vanina Leschziner).

- **Preliminary discussion of the formation of a Research Network on Race and Ethnicity**. We have collected preliminary expressions of interest and are looking for more culture section members interested in participating.
Provide an overview of the section’s programming at the annual meeting and include explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

You can find a complete link to all of the 2022 ASA Culture Section section programming in this google document. See note in the section above on how this fits our diversity and inclusion goals.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-pqqeGj6yi4UHZw7u4OawU67zlPJDCiG296ths_nuN4/edit?usp=sharing

1. The Racial Politics of Culture? Critical Perspectives from Cultural Sociology
Sat, August 6, 8:00 to 9:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 303B

What is the relationship between the cultural and the racial? What political factors and social forces shape the racial politics of culture? How are processes of distinction, consumption and reproduction shaped by white supremacy? What is lost or limited when culture is framed as a race-neutral formulation in the field of sociology and wider society? For this panel, we invite empirically grounded and theoretically sophisticated papers that engage with one or more of these questions. We are open to related questions not noted here, too. We are especially interested in papers that interrogate the role of race, racialization or racism in shaping discourses on culture as a system of complex meaning-making, nationally and internationally.

This is a joint session with the Race, Gender, and Class Section.

Organizer and Presider: Derron Wallace, Brandeis University

From “Critical Race Theory” to CRT: the new front in the American Culture Wars. Yagmur Karakaya, Yale University

Stuff White People Like: BDSM, Polyamory, Neo-Paganism, and… Cats. Julie Lynn Fennell, Gallaudet University

‘Decolonising fashion’: Fashion consumption and clothing practices of the South Asian Muslim communities in Glasgow. Rohit K Dasgupta, University of Glasgow; Nazli Alimen, Birmingham City University

Examining racialized sentiments towards Muslim women’s dress using social media data. Jessica Stallone, University of Toronto

Symbolic Divisions and Symbolic Violence: Multilingual Latina/o Peer Mentors and Racialization of 'ESL Students.' Melanie Jones Gast, University of Louisville; James Chisholm, University of Louisville; Yohimar Sivira Gonzalez, University of Louisville

2. International Perspectives in Cultural Sociology
Sat, August 6, 10:00 to 11:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 303B
This panel invites papers that introduce concepts, theories, or perspectives in cultural sociology beyond the U.S. The goal of this panel is to expose audiences to analytical tools that are instrumental for the sociological study of culture which are heretofore little known in the U.S. Papers could focus solely on analytical tools that remain little known in the U.S. or put those analytical tools into dialogue with approaches that are more commonly used in cultural sociology in the U.S. We welcome papers that present and develop novel theoretical materials as well as those that apply new analytical tools to empirical data.

Organizer and Presider: Vanina Leschziner, University of Toronto

Literary structuralism and transnational politics. Lucile Dumont, EHESS

Migrating Artists and Migrating Art: Decentering the Global Art World. Kangsan Lee, New York University; Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College; Chantal Valdivia, Wellesley College

Tastes, complex tastes, and meta-tastes. Xiangyu Ma, University of Chicago

The Network Structure of Cultural Elements and Organizational Creativity. Hang-Jun Cho, INSEAD; Frederic Clement Godart, INSEAD; Charles Galunic, INSEAD

Discussant: Vanina Leschziner, University of Toronto

3. Crisis of Democracy? New Perspectives from Cultural Sociology
Sun, August 7, 8:00 to 9:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 304A

In recent years, mature and young democracies alike around the globe have been experiencing intensified challenges, as exemplified in the January 6th Capitol Riot in the U.S., Brexit in the U.K, Turkey’s failed coup in 2016 and its aftermath, etc. The underlying cultural-political trends, such as populism, ultra-nationalism, and authoritarianism, are prompting us to ask if liberalism and democracy are now in crisis, why we have reached this point, how social actors are envisioning new paths forwards, and how such inquiries challenge us to rethink sociological theories and paradigms. With a focus on cultural sociology, this panel welcomes papers that address these questions through empirically grounded analyses.

Organizer: Ming-Cheng M. Lo, University of California-Davis
Presider: Stephanie L. Mudge, University of California-Davis

A Cultural Backlash in Europe? Evidence from the European Values Study 1999-2017. Tim Reeskens, Tilburg University; Quita Muis; Ruud Luijkx, Tilburg University; Inge Sieben

Bad Company? Civil Society and Democracy in Comparative Perspective. Andrew P. Davis, North Carolina State University; Yongjun Zhang, Stony Brook University

Politics of Nationhood and the Decay of the Media in Turkey. Defne Over, Texas A&M University-College Station

The Dual Legacy of John Locke: Exceptionalism & Racism in America. Chandra Mukerji, University of California, San Diego
Religious Dissolution and the Crisis of Liberalism: Inside a Christian Brotherhood and a Masonic Lodge. Graham Wilson Hill, University of Bern

4. Culture in a (Post)Pandemic World (Graduate Professionalization Panel)
Sun, August 7, 10:00 to 11:00am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 404A

The pandemic is having a significant impact on multiple aspects of contemporary cultural life—from rendering collective rituals (like concerts or sports games) risky, absurd, or less accessible, to altering the ways in which we build interpersonal trust, and challenging how people think about and calculate risk. How are cultural scholars doing research about these dynamics?

Organizer: Amy Zhang, George Mason University
Presider: Nino Bariola, The University of Texas at Austin

Panelists:
Rachel Skaggs, Ohio State University
Fernando A. Calderón Figueroa, University of Toronto
Vivian Shaw, Vanderbilt University
Brenton David Kalinowski, Rice University

5. Section on Sociology of Culture Business Meeting
Sun, August 7, 11:00 to 11:30am, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 404A

Organizer and Presider: Ann Mische, University of Notre Dame

6. Action in Unsettled Times
Sun, August 7, 12:00 to 1:30pm, LACC, Floor: Level 2, 304B

Social life amidst the Covid-19 pandemic is, by all accounts, unsettled. Disrupted habits, disturbed routines, suspended rhythms, and unpredictability: these have come to characterize a kind of new normal. But what does it mean to act in such times of constant unsettledness? The very idea of an “unsettled context” is of fundamental importance to post-Parsonian theories of action. This panel invites papers that are willing to explore big ideas about disruption, helping to build our toolkit for understanding action in unsettled times of seemingly interminable duration.

Organizers: Christina Simko, Williams College; Michael Strand, Brandeis University
Presider: Ann Swidler, University of California-Berkeley

Repertoires of repair: confronting ontological insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. Ryan Hagen, Columbia University; Denise Milstein, Columbia University

The Domestic Violence Victim as COVID Crisis Figure. Paige L. Sweet, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Maya Glenn; Jacob Caponi

The Meaning of Masks: Tracing Trajectories and Stabilizing the “New Normal.” Terence Emmett McDonnell, University of Notre Dame; Rachel Keynton, University of Notre Dame
The Temporal Structure of Capitals: Lessons from the End of Life. Zhuofan Li, University of Arizona; Daniel Dohan, University of California-San Francisco; Corey M. Abramson, University of Arizona

Too “Essential” For Domestic Labor? Ambiguous Availability in Essential and Remote Worker Families During COVID-19. Angela Clague, University of California, Los Angeles

Discussant: Ann Swidler, University of California-Berkeley

7. Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtables Session
Sun, August 7, 2:00 to 3:30pm, JW Marriott, Floor: Gold Level, Gold Salon 2

Organizers: Gordon Brett, University of Toronto; Martin Lukk, University of Toronto; Taylor Price, University of Toronto

8. Joint Reception: Section on Sociology of Culture, Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
Sun, August 7, 7:00 to 9:00pm, JW Marriott, Floor: Gold Level, Gold Salon 2

Organizers: Ann Mische, University of Notre Dame; Rory M. McVeigh, University of Notre Dame

9. Formal Models of Culture
Tue, August 9, 8:00 to 9:30am, JW Marriott, Floor: Level 3, Plaza III

We invite papers that use formal (mathematical or computational) approaches, broadly speaking, to study culture. These papers could focus, for example, on how culture forms and evolves, how cultural elements relate to one another, or how cultural elements influence thinking and behavior, among other possible topics. We are open to papers that present and develop theoretical models using formal techniques as well as those that apply formal methods to empirical data. The methods used in these papers could include (but are not limited to) network analysis, word-embedding or other forms of natural language processing, mathematical models, or agent-based computational models.

This is a joint session with the Mathematical Sociology Section.

Organizer and Presider: Daniel DellaPosta, Pennsylvania State University

Ideological Transformation and Rhetorical Creation of the Market in China's People's Daily. Shilin Jia, University of Chicago; Linzhuo Li, University of Chicago

Influence and Constraint: A Synthesizing Simulation Model of Cultural Alignment. Austen Mack-Crane, Cornell University; Michael W. Macy, Cornell University

Partisan divergence in political discourse in the UK Brexit referendum on Twitter. Roland Adorjani, University of Bern; Sarah M. G. Otner, Kingston Business School
Provide an overview of the Section’s programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

We held three very successful sessions of the Culture and Contemporary Life Series. Thanks to Yan Long and the CCL committee (Alejandra Cueto Piazza, Amin Ghaziani, Rachel Keynton, Ian Waller and Xiaohong Xu) for their thoughtful, creative work in pulling these three panels together. The CCL series was launched by Past Chair Terry McDonnell in 2020-21 as a forum in which Culture Section members can share their expertise in lively conversations about what cultural sociology has to say about pressing issues in the news. The series is a way to bridge professional and public sociology while generating an intellectual community between ASA meetings.

Links to videos from all of the sessions from the past two years can be found on the CCL YouTube channel. In 2021-22, sessions included the following (see summaries of the last two sessions in this newsletter):

- **Fake News? Perspectives from Cultural Sociology**, with Gary Allen Fine, Jaron Harabam and Francesca Tripodi.

We also carried the Culture Section Mentorship Program into its third successful year. This year our Membership Committee – consisting of Marshall Taylor (chair), Tania Aparicio, Barbara Kiviat, Sam Leonard, Rachel Skaggs, Ana Velitchkova and Amy Zhang - recruited 21 senior scholars to compose mentoring “pods” with 70 junior scholars. (See the complete report, pasted below). Many of these pods met either online or in person in the weeks around ASA and they will continue their consultations and mutual exchange through the coming year.

**State of the ’22 ASA Culture Section Mentor Program**

Marshall A. Taylor
New Mexico State University

This is now the third year for the section’s mentoring program. The first two iterations of the program laid a foundation of excellence, and our goal this year was to continue that success (“if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”), while also looking for new ways to make the program even better. Together with the committee—Barbara Kiviat, Rachel Skaggs, Amy Zhang, Ana Velitchkova, Samantha Leonard, and Tania Aparicio—the consensus this year is: So far, so good.
The mentor program is now well underway. The actual mentoring structure looks the same as it did the first two years: pods consisting of one mentor and two to three (or so) mentees. The pods were announced in early May, with the expectation that each pod would communicate with one another to find the meeting time, structure, and format that best fits their needs. We have a total of 21 pods consisting of 21 mentors and 70 mentees. Each pod consists of three or four mentees. The table below provides some descriptives on the makeup of the mentor and mentee pools for the ‘22 program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Pre-ABD</th>
<th>ABD</th>
<th>NTT</th>
<th>AcP</th>
<th>Asst Prof</th>
<th>Assoc Prof</th>
<th>Full Prof</th>
<th>App</th>
<th>Ind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentor</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentee</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. This position includes postdocs, visiting professors, lecturers, and other non-tenured academic positions.
2. This position includes applied sociologists, professionals, or other members outside of the academy.

Our pod construction process was a bit different this year. The biggest change is we fielded two different application forms: one for mentors and another for mentees. We used the section announcements to keep members informed about when each application form would open and close. The mentor application opened on March 1st and closed on April 8th; the mentee application opened on April 15th and closed on May 8th. The main reason we structured the sign-up process this way was to give mentees a bit more agency in determining who they would like their mentor to be.

Specifically, in the mentor application, we gave applicants a list of potential mentorship areas—ranging from general networking, research and publishing, and teaching, to parenting and/or caretaking in academia, scholar-activism, and BIPOC in academia. We asked mentors to select the three to five areas on which they would like to mentor. Then, after the mentor application closed, we created anonymous “profiles” for each mentor consisting of a comma-delimited list of these mentorship areas along with their scholarly interests, position (e.g., associate professor), and type of institution (e.g., U.S. liberal arts college). We then provided a link to these mentor profiles in the mentee application and asked mentees to rank-order the five mentors (based on these anonymous profiles) that best matched what they hoped to achieve in their mentorship. The committee then constructed the mentor pods based on a combination of these rank-orderings and mentor/mentee time constraints (which we also gathered in the application forms). Any applicant could serve as a mentor and a mentee (though, obviously, in different pods), and we had some applicants do this.

Once the pods were constructed, we emailed the set of 21 mentors to inform them that the pods would be announced in the next couple of days. The purpose of this email was to lay out mentor expectations: namely, that the type and frequency of meetings was at the discretion of each pod, that meeting in person at ASA was not required, that we hoped each pod would meet at least three times throughout the calendar year, and that mentors should set up the first video call at some point before the ASA annual meeting in August. We emailed each pod individually to introduce the members to one another. The pods were then off and running!

Our plan is to field an exit survey just before the next membership committee is formed to assess what mentors and mentees liked and didn’t like. That said, we have two preliminary thoughts for the ‘23 program. First, based on informal discussions with program participants, we think that the “profile ranking” system is the way to go. Mentees seemed to appreciate the
opportunity to see what mentors could or were willing to offer; and, importantly, the mentees’ rank-orderings made it much easier to construct the mentor pods. Second, as the table above shows, non-academic positions are woefully underrepresented (nonexistent!) in the mentor pool. Interestingly, not many mentees explicitly mentioned non-ac/alt-ac interests in their application forms; but these sorts of career trajectories are becoming more common and this program should be able to facilitate those mentoring relationships. Our main form of advertisement for the program was through the Culture Section listserv announcements, so perhaps some alternative outlets are necessary to get the word out to non-ac/alt-ac cultural sociologists interested in being a mentor.

There is one last thing that the committee did differently this year that extends beyond the mentorship program. We are starting a BIPOC Resource Sharing Network, with the goal of creating a new listserv within the section for scholars interested in sharing resources surrounding being BIPOC in academia. The mentor and mentee forms had an opt-in item for this network, and we are now fielding a separate form for section members who did not participate in the mentor program but who want to be a part of this initiative. (If you want to be a part of this, please sign up here!)

Thanks to the ’22 mentors, mentees, and committee members for making the mentor program a success so far!