Call for Applications:

Contemporary Sociology Editorship

Applications are invited for the next editor(s) of Contemporary Sociology.

Contemporary Sociology publishes reviews and critical discussions of recent works in sociology and in related disciplines that merit the attention of sociologists. Since not all sociological publications can be reviewed, a selection is made to reflect important trends and issues in the field. Contemporary Sociology does not accept unsolicited reviews.

Yasemin Besen-Cassino, Montclair State University, is the current editor, with a term to expire December 31, 2024. The new editor(s) will officially begin their term(s) January 1, 2025, but the editorial transition of workflow will likely start during the summer of 2024. The editorial term is for a minimum of three years (until December 31, 2027), with a possible reappointment of up to two additional years.

Workflow: Journal editors provide leadership by publishing work that is consistent with the mission of the journal. The quality of a journal ultimately depends on the quality of submissions. However, outreach, openness to communicating with scholars about diverse ideas, and a zest for building new bridges and connections by the editor can enhance the significance and breadth of work published in a journal. At present, Contemporary Sociology considers approximately 600 books per year for review. The editor is expected to secure timely and appropriate reviews. The editor is also responsible for maintaining the high standards of the journal, ensuring that issues are filled within the page allotments and preventing an excessive backlog of reviews. Contemporary Sociology is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Editors should expect to spend some time on editorial responsibilities most days, and most editors report spending a combined total of one or more full days per week on editorial responsibilities.

Eligibility: Editors must be ASA members and maintain membership through the editorship. Editors must hold a tenured position or equivalent in an academic or non-academic setting. Members of ASA Council, Finance Committee, and Publications Committee are not eligible to apply to be or serve as an editor. Editors and editors-elect may not serve on any other ASA editorial board. ASA encourages applications for both sole editorships and co-editorships. Applications from members of historically underrepresented groups are encouraged.

Criteria: Given that the Publications Committee receives a number of qualified applications, appointment to the editorship of an ASA journal is selective. In accordance with ASA’s goal of publishing high quality scholarship, the following criteria are considered in selecting editors:

- established record of scholarship;
- evidence of understanding the mission of the journal or series and its operation, as indicated by experience with the journal or series 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 evidence of organizational skill and intellectual leadership; and
• evidence of commitment to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Please note that the ASA Publications Committee seeks editors who embrace the Association’s diversity statement and plan to bring a commitment to DEI principles to their work. The Publications Committee will continue to work with sociologists across our Association to ensure that our work realizes these principles holistically.

Selection process: Review of applications will begin in December. In December and January, applicants may be contacted by members of the Publications Committee to clarify issues raised in deliberations. After its January meeting, the Publications Committee forwards a list of appointable candidates (which may be ranked or unranked) to the ASA Council. In March, Council will review the Publications Committee’s recommendations and select editors. Selected candidates will then be contacted to reaffirm their commitment to serve. The candidate(s) then can negotiate with their institution and finalize the appointment with ASA with a signed formal letter of agreement.

Financial support: The budget for *Contemporary Sociology* provides for the necessary staffing for the work involved in processing and reviewing manuscripts. This includes funds for a full-time managing editor/copyeditor and one additional FTE for editorial assistance, plus funds for copyediting. ASA also provides an editorial honorarium of $9,000 per year (divided in the case of co-editors) and support for office supplies, postage, and telephone. ASA does not typically pay for office space, teaching release, or tuition. Alternative models of funding may be possible as long as the impact on the overall cost for ASA support is minimal (e.g., institutional support for the managing editor or editorial assistant position could allow for use of the ASA budgeted funds for course release or tuition).

It is important for candidates to consider the feasibility of serving as editor in light of the available resources from both ASA and other sources. To this end, candidates are strongly encouraged to discuss possible resource allocation with their institutions in advance of submitting an application. The document, *Talking Points: Benefits to Hosting an ASA Journal for a Department and University*, may be helpful when discussing available resources with your institution.

Because the support offered by different institutions varies widely, you are encouraged to contact Karen Gray Edwards, ASA Director of Publications (edwards@asanet.org), to discuss the level and type of ASA support that could be available to you in the context of your anticipated institutional package. Detailed financial arrangements are not developed until after ASA Council appoints the editor.

Submitting an application: As you prepare your application, it might be helpful to review examples of successful editor proposals. The application packet should be no more than five pages (approximately 2,500-3,000 words) and should include the following:

*Editor/Co-Editor Information:* Provide your name, affiliation, and other important information about yourself and, if applicable, co-editors. Describe the qualifications of the potential editor(s) and include vitae for the potential editor(s) (vitae not included in the packet page limit).

*Vision Statement:* Set forth your goals and plans for the content of the journal or series. This may include an assessment of the current strengths, weaknesses, or gaps that you plan to address and how you will implement your plan.

*Editorial Board:* If appointed, editors will assemble an editorial team by nominating new editorial board members to take the place of those who rotate off at the end of the year. Some editors also
nominate deputy editors. The Publications Committee must approve all appointments of editorial board members and deputy editors once the editor selection has been made. In your application, please discuss how you plan to use editorial board members and any deputy editors as part of your larger editorial team.

Note: Editorial board members typically suggest names of scholars to write book reviews and review essays for the journal. Some journals have deputy editors who sometimes assume the role of editor in cases where editors have a conflict of interest. Prospective editors 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. In fact, prospective editors should not contact potential editorial board members or deputy editors.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Write a statement that (1) critically reflects on how your race/ethnicity, gender, and class background shapes your understanding of sociological scholarship and your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at the individual, organizational, or institutional level, (2) describes your involvement in DEI initiatives and efforts to promote equitable and inclusive leadership citing specific accomplishments and the roles you have played, and (3) outlines specific ways you plan to include marginalized scholars as editorial board members, manuscript reviewers, and authors, particularly scholars from racially marginalized backgrounds and those who are the first in their family to finish college.

Professional Ethics and Scientific Integrity Self-Disclosure: All nominees for Council, standing committees, and editorships are required to answer a self-disclosure question regarding professional ethics and scientific integrity. If you submit an application for an editorship, click here to complete the disclosure online.

Institutional Support: Letters of support from deans or other institutional officials are encouraged as part of your application materials but are not required.

Applications should be submitted no later than December 1 to publications@asanet.org. Please note that It is at the discretion of the search committee to accept applications after the December 1 deadline should there be a compelling rationale. For example, if there is only one application, the subcommittee may consider applications that are received after December 1 to provide a competitive review and to ensure that we have a backup if the single application isn’t viable.

Note: In order to minimize conflicts of interest, we request that you do not submit your own work to the journal or series for which you are applying from January 1, 2024, until a decision has been announced.

Questions? Please feel free to contact ASA Director of Publications, Karen Gray Edwards, at edwards@asanet.org. You should also feel free to contact the current editor at beseny@mail.montclair.edu.