2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for the
Altruism, Morality, and Social
Solidarity Section

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 2022 to August 2023 and a fiscal year from January 2023 to December 2023. This portion of the report will be shared publicly.

Section Governance
Provide details of your Section’s governance activity during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

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.

**AMSS Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes**
Saturday, August 19, 9- 9:30 am
Philadelphia Convention Center 105B

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE – Attendance varied throughout the business meeting, with a low of 16 and a high of 30 – people come and go.

A NOTE ON DECISIONS – No decisions were made during the meeting.

1. Welcome from the Chair – Penny Edgell

2. Thank you to outgoing section leaders:
   - General Appreciation to those that ran and are still willing to serve ASA
   - Past Chair: David Melamed
   - Outgoing Council members: Lijun Song, Monica Whitman
   - Outgoing Student Reps to Council: Rachel Underwood
   - Program Committee Members: Bin Xu and myself

3. Welcome to new section leaders:
   - Chair-Elect: Dana Moss, University of Notre Dame
   - New Council Members: Yongren Shi, University of Iowa; Candice Robinson, UNC Wilmington; Jeffrey Guhin, UCLA
   - New student representative: Em Maloney, Duke University
   - New communications committee chairperson: Kerby Goff, Rice University

I’d also like to thank all of our continuing council members and section officers, as well as everyone who agreed to stand for section elections this year.
4. Announcement: Our Bylaws proposal was approved. The name of the Publications Committee was changed to “Communications Committee,” in our bylaws and there is now a more accurate description of their activities, which includes managing the section website.

5. Announcement: Our dues proposal was approved. This year, dues for regular members will increase from $10 to $12, and the money raised will be used, starting next year, to help defray the cost of travel to the annual meeting for the winner or winners of the student paper award competition.

6. Announcement: Our reception is tonight, at a nearby Irish pub, Tír na NÓg, at 1600 Arch Street, from 6:30 to 8:30. Please join us!

7. Announcement Our section session on “Interrogating Solidarity” will take place in this room, starting at 10 am. I hope you can all make it, it’s a strong lineup.

8. AMSS Publications Committee Update – Kerby Goff

9. Treasurer’s Report. I will be giving the Treasurer’s report because Daniel is not at the meeting this year.

- Our Section income this year came from our ASA section allocation, and was $1279.
- Our Section expenses from this year total $886. This means that, this year, we have an overall $393 positive balance, which increases our assets.
- Our previous assets were $3471, so with this year’s surplus, our total asset balance is $3864.
- Our balance, now, is $1527 less than it was in June 2022 (that’s a 28% decrease).
- The good news is that we have already pre-paid some of our reception expenses, which we had not done as of June 2022. This means that as of December, we will be at about $1000 below the assets we had in December 2022 (this accounts for the $464 we’ve prepaid for our reception expenses and allows a bit for small incidental expenses incurred over the next 6 months).
- Our section budget allocation from ASA is down a bit (it’s $179 less this year than it was in 2022, because our membership is down a bit, as is the case for ASA as a whole). I’ll talk about that in a bit.
- The cost of award plaques has doubled since 2022.
- Overall we are not in any financial danger but we should be careful stewards of our funds over the next year or two, and think
- We stand at 235 members as of the most recent ASA count. In August of 2022 we had 254 members. We have 159 regular members, 13 emeritus members, 3 affiliate members, and 60 student members.
- Finally, the raise in “regular” member dues from $10 to $12 should raise approximately $318 dollars this first year. The Council and incoming chair will determine how to use this to defray expenses for the winner or winners of next year’s student paper award competition.

10. Awards Ceremony:

Outstanding Student Paper Award. Committee Chaired by Paul Joosse, with Wesley Longhofffer and Aisha Upton. Paul Joossee will present the award.
Outstanding Published Article Award, Committee Chaired by Shai Dromi, with Robin Bartram and Jacqui Frost. Shai Dromi will present the award.

Outstanding Published Book Award, Committee Chaired by Phil Gorski, with Ruth Braunstein and Elisabeth Clemens. Lis Clemens will present the award.

Distinguished Career Award. The Committee was Chaired by Jan Stets and included Brad Fulton and Barbara Kiviat. Jan Stets was unable to attend the meetings this year, but she prepared a report which I will now read.

Calhoun is truly deserving of the 2023 AMSS Distinguished Career Award.

Let’s have a final round of applause for all our section award winners!

11. New Business – Bin Xu, incoming chair, discussing plans to try to attract a more diverse set of members and to showcase international/comparative/global work in next year’s program.

Council Meeting
AMSS Business Meeting Agenda & Minutes
Saturday, August 19, 7-8 am
Philadelphia Convention Center 105B
Presided by Bin Xu, the current Chair

A NOTE ON ATTENDANCE – Attendance varied throughout the business meeting, with a low of 16 and a high of 30 – people come and go.

A NOTE ON DECISIONS – No decisions were made during the meeting.

☐ Discussion of the budget: 1) overview of budget and finance; 2) a few discussion points: reception costs, which are not a concern now but should be watched for; students’ winners’ funds, especially treasurer Daniel Shank’s suggestions: Giving a set amount as an honorarium ($200 or $250); only giving it to the winner; If we allow student co-authors, then they would still get the one honorarium but could split it; We could encourage them to come to the annual meeting and receive it in person, but acknowledge that the honorarium doesn’t not cover the cost; Over time, we might have more in this fund and could revisit

☐ Discussion of membership drive: the Council suggested several ways, faculty members offered student memberships for graduate students, possible fund raising for student memberships, etc.

☐ The Communication Committee report and work plan:

1) Kerby Goff (Chair), Two new committee members Elena G. van Stee (University of Pennsylvania) and student representative Rachel Underwood (Vanderbilt University), and one more is under consideration.

2) 7 podcast interviews with Section members

3) The committee’s plan: 2 newsletters, 6 podcast interviews, and other ways to amplify the AMSS section’s influence and outreach, for example, social media

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

AMSS Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award:
WINNER:

Honorable mention:

**AMSS Distinguished Career Award**

**Craig Calhoun**, University Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University

**AMSS Outstanding Published Article Award**

WINNER:

Honorable Mention:

**AMSS Outstanding Book Award**

WINNER:

Honorable Mention:

**2023 Finances**

Provide a narrative on how the 2023 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2023. Please account for any substantive differences.

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- Our previous assets were $3471, so with this year’s surplus, our total asset balance is $3864.
- Our balance, now, is $1527 less than it was in June 2022 (that’s a 28% decrease).
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ii. Our section budget allocation from ASA is down a bit (it’s $179 less this year than it was in 2022, because our membership is down a bit, as is the case for ASA as a whole). I’ll talk about that in a bit.

iii. The cost of award plaques has doubled since 2022.

iv. **Overall we are not in any financial danger but we should be careful stewards of our funds over the next year or two, and think creatively about reception expenses and other possible means of generating income.**

- We stand at 235 members as of the most recent ASA count. In August of 2022 we had 254 members. We have 159 regular members, 13 emeritus members, 3 affiliate members, and 60 student members.

- Finally, the raise in “regular” member dues from $10 to $12 should raise approximately $318 dollars this first year. The Council and incoming chair will determine how to use this to defray expenses for the winner or winners of next year’s student paper award competition.

**The Previous Year**
Describe Section activities during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Provide an overview of the Section’s communications with its members and include explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Section. Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.

The Chairperson regularly emailed announcements using the ASA Connect system. The chairperson wrote a report for the spring newsletter (can be downloaded [here](#)), outlining the work of the section (thanking all the committee members and those who ran for election), along with a longer recap of the chair’s invited panel from the previous year’s ASA meeting (panelists were asked to write up their panel presentations which were then commented upon by the panel discussant). The theme was on “moral imaginaries” in American public life.

Our newsletter committee underwent a transition, as described in the report the new communications committee chairperson, Kerby Goff, submitted presented at our annual meeting:

**Report:** In June of 2023, Scott Hamilton (University of North Texas) passed off leadership of the Communications Committee of the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity section to Kerby Goff (Rice University). The other committee members, Valentina Cantori (University of Southern California) and Mark Igra (University of Washington) elected not to continue on the committee due to entering the job market or late stages of their graduate program. Two new committee members include Elena G. van Stee (University of Pennsylvania) and AMSS student representative Rachel Underwood (Vanderbilt University), and one more is under consideration.

Scott transferred administrative access to the AMSS website, Twitter account, and newsletter platform. The website on Weebly.com is paid for through October of this year, and Kerby will renew it for an additional two years, to be reimbursed by the section. Before transitioning off the committee, Valentina passed off to Kerby the administrative information and operational information for the podcast platform (Spotify podcasts). In the past year, the committee has produced 7 podcast interviews with section members, the most recent of which was an interview with Hajar Yazdiha on her book *The Struggle for the People’s King: How Politics Transforms the Memory of the Civil Rights Movement*. The podcast can be found by searching for the “AMSS Section Sociology Podcast” on Spotify.
During this next academic year, the committee plans to produce two newsletters, in November and April, and six more podcast interviews. We will also work on a plan for integrating these podcasts and information about section members’ publications with social media to amplify our work. We are especially interested in looking for ways to amplify AMSS work in the broader public, as the topics we address are of increasing interest and need. The committee will meet at ASA and in the weeks after to develop ideas along these lines and to solidify plans for the newsletter and podcasts.

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

The section strives to create an inclusive environment that is welcoming of scholars working in various theoretical traditions and using a wide range of methodologies. We also seek to welcome those from historically marginalized social locations. In the past year, we

- Worked hard, and successfully, to recruit a diverse slate of candidates for section offices, council, and award committees
- Chose a theme for our regular section session that highlighted the work of scholars who draw on critical-theoretical frameworks, including justice-oriented scholarship
- Passed a by-laws resolution to increase dues by $2 for regular members to help defray the cost of attending the annual meeting for our student paper award winners, thus making our section more supportive of, and inclusive of, graduate student members

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).

- Our business meeting kept members informed of section business and provided an opportunity to celebrate together the achievements of our members through handing out the section awards. The section award ceremony was well-attended and there was warm applause for and appreciation of each of the winners.
- Our council meeting included all council members and incoming members. There was a thoughtful discussion of section business, including brainstorming ways to help support our graduate student members, thoughts about managing expenses for the section reception, and a discussion of how to recruit and retain members.
- Our section session, Interrogating Solidarity, organized by Corey Abramson, focused on the intersection of solidarity, justice, and inequality, and posed the question of how can work on social solidarity adequately account for differences in power and resources and how can it engage meaningfully with critical theories? The papers were excellent, and included a quantitative analyses of ANES data examining discrimination’s impact on views of ethnoracial outgroups, a study of contested solidarity using the case of tourism in Palestine to re-think solidarity as an analytical category, and a study of how German intellectuals from Muslim and Jewish backgrounds draw on a relational approach to identity to create solidarity that spans ethno-religious boundaries.
- Our chair’s invited panel, on Morality and Global Civil societies, provided an opportunity for scholars who study civil society around the globe to share their insights on how the study of morality can enrich our understanding of the civil sphere.
- Taken together, our section programming at the annual meeting provided opportunities for participation in section governance and decision-making and for the celebration of intellectual work and achievement, fostered professional networking, and created a
scholarly environment inclusive of critical theoretical work and work that focuses on social justice and access to public and civic spacers.

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.

The vast majority of the section’s programming takes place at the annual meeting.

At the Council meeting, Iddo Tavory, at NYU, volunteered to organize a mentoring program for graduate student members, to facilitate 1-1 meetings between graduate students and faculty mentors at the 2024 Annual Meeting.