**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.

*The 2023 Social Psychology Section business meeting began with the annual Cooley-Mead Award presentation. Following the Cooley-Mead Award, the meeting was called to order by Section Chair Matthew Brashears. The Graduate Student Investigator Award, Outstanding Recent Contribution to Social Psychology Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award were all given. During the remaining time, the current membership of the section was discussed, including trends over time for our section as well as other sections in the ASA. Plans for maintaining and increasing membership were discussed and assigned to section officers to execute, including a plan to contact all recently lapsed members to encourage them to rejoin the section. The current state of the budget was discussed, including successful completion of a section reception for less than the anticipated amount and our overall positive account balance. Finally, departing council members were thanked and new section officers were introduced. The meeting was closed by the new Section Chair Jody Clay-Warner.*

*Forty-one persons were in attendance at the business meeting, representing approximately 8% of the section membership. The specific persons in attendance were (scans of attendance sheet available on request):*

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.

The Social Psychology Section Council convened for our traditional breakfast meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Ashley Harrell was unable to attend the council meeting, but the council was otherwise well-represented. We first discussed the current state of section membership, noting a decline from 549 members to 519 members (approx. -5%). However, this was in context of similar declines observed in other large sections, for example: Racial and Ethnic Minorities (972 -> 922; -5%), Community and Urban Sociology (608 -> 572; -6%), Medical Sociology (943 -> 902; -4%) and Political Sociology (814 -> 785; -4%). Given the similar percentage decreases observed by other sections, often reflecting larger absolute declines, the council was of the view that the issue is likely systemic, resulting from losses following COVID-19 as well as possibly a sense of disconnection resulting from the new ASA Connect system. Plans were developed to contact lapsed members as well as other demographics in order to attempt to increase membership once more or, at worst, arrest the decline. Section council also discussed the current state of the budget. Spending was on track and as of the council meeting, the section is in the black, having started the 2022-2023 term with $19,872 in net assets and concluding with $21,140. At the time of the meeting certain expenses had yet to be accounted for and thus this number is likely to shift. However, the council breakfast and the section reception (hosted in collaboration with several other sections) came in under-budget. Final ending balance amounts should, at worst, be approximately even with beginning amounts and thus the section finances show net no change or a small improvement. The council decided on additional efforts to increase donations to the section as the period for matching donations by an anonymous supporter had not yet lapsed. Additional discussion centered on whether to adjust the current grad student and junior faculty mentorship programs to include some sort of networking event or similar larger-scale event at the next ASA. The issue was passed to the incoming chair for consideration and possible implementation with the council.

Awards

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

Graduate Student Investigator Award was given to Tenshi Kawashima for “Work-Role Identity and Distributive Justice”.

Outstanding Recent Contribution in Social Psychology Award was given to Laura Doering and Amandine Ody-Brasier for “Time and Punishment: How Individuals Respond to Being Sanctioned in Voluntary Associations”. An honorable mention was awarded to Andrei Boutyline and Laura K. Soter for “Cultural Schemas: What They Are, How to Find Them, and What to Do Once You’ve Caught One”.

Graduate Student Paper Award was given to Nicolas C. Smith and Max E. Coleman for “Beyond Empathy: Familial Incarceration, Stress Proliferation, and Depressive Symptoms Among African Americans.” An honorable mention was awarded to Julia L. Melin for “The Help-Seeking Paradox: Gender and the Consequences of Using Career Re-entry Assistance”.

Cooley-Mead Award for Distinguished Scholarship was given to Karen Hegtvedt.

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

The 2023 budget matches well with realized expenses and income. As of the council meeting the section had an expected surplus of $1,268. Several expenses had yet to be allocated including the council breakfast (budgeted at $300; actual of $282), and the graduate student mixer event (budgeted at $200; actual of $200). Of particular importance, the section reception, hosted in collaboration with several other sections, was budgeted for $3,000 but only required $2,522 for the section’s share of the total. At the time of the council meeting the section was running below expected for section awards ($250 expected; $219 actual) but this amount was likely to increase as the award committees made a relatively large number of honorable mention awards and we had only acquired plaques at this point for those persons who would be attending the ASA annual meeting to receive them. Additional plaques purchased subsequently for the remaining members exceeded the originally budgeted total. In summary, section finances are healthy and robust income as well as efficient spending allowed us to end the term in the black.

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.

Communication with members was challenging during the past year. Typically, the section relies on approximately monthly email digests sent to members via the section listserv. However during the past year we were experimenting with the ASA Connect platform. Overall, adoption was not strong. Section leadership posted periodic announcements as well as debut content in an effort to encourage use but little exchange of information occurred. Moreover, it was not clear to us whether most members were receiving the updates or reading digest emails. The section maintains a website, which was kept up to date during the past term but most communications effort was focused on ASA Connect. As usual, our most successful communications effort was our excellent section newsletter, including announcements as well as a variety of columns detailing interviews with prominent sociologists and advice for younger scholars. However, in the
absence of the section listserv distributing the newsletter relied on ASA Connect and the section website. From exchanges with other members, I have reason to think that neither was sufficient for the purpose. Nonetheless, the newsletter was published as planned and continues to be maintained and will resume distribution via the section listserv.

Section website: [http://www.socialpsychologyasasection.com](http://www.socialpsychologyasasection.com)

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

The section continues to emphasize maintaining and increasing diversity of membership as well as of decision-makers. During the past term this was reflected in an emphasis on nominating diverse persons to lead or serve on section committees, to involve graduate students more deeply in section work, and to ensure diverse candidates for section awards. In these respects we were successful, with a relatively large number of committees led by women/persons of color, graduate students playing a larger role in the section mentorship program, and in awarding many of our section awards to persons of color and females. Overall, the section continues to stress diversity and to be succeeding in developing it, though continued effort is necessary.

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).

Social Psychology this year focused on attempting to build connections to other sections via our sessions. We hosted a session on “Mathematical and Computational Models and Methods in Social Psychology” in conjunction with the ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, with additional boundary spanning sessions including “Social Psychology in Sociology and Sociology in Social Psychology,” “Social Psychology on the Cutting Edge,” and “Social Psychology in the Wider World: Policy and Practice”. In each case, the sessions were intended to enrich social psychological thought with new ideas, younger scholars, and research originating in or influenced by non-social psychological streams. Additionally, we hosted open sessions on social psychology, for a substantial offering. Additionally, our section reception was hosted jointly with: Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity; Emotions; Mathematical Sociology; Evolution, Biology and Society; Methodology; and History of Sociology and Social Thought. This facilitated a large, and lively reception bringing together both those who were members of several of these sections, with those who were not. The result was the opportunity to build substantial bridges to other sections and encourage new collaborative relationships. Finally, our annual graduate student mixer was well-attended as usual.

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.
This continues to be an area of effort for the section. Council members recognize the value of developing this infrastructure and are working on improving the function of our mentorship programs, facilitating regular, ongoing contact between persons of different levels of seniority within social psychology. During the past term the shift to ASA Connect presented durable challenges to succeeding in these efforts, though our graduate student mentorship program continues to thrive.