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.

See attached document

**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.

See attached document

Awards

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

**Lewis Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda Setting:**  
Claudio Ezequiel Benzecry (Northwestern University)

**Theory Prize (article)**

Winner:  

**Junior Theorist Award**

Winner:

**Honorable Mention:**


**Best Student Paper Award**
Winner:
Krystal Laryea, Stanford University, “Playing up Difference: How Identities are Interactionally Navigated in Groups.”

**Honorable Mention:**
Ankit Bhardwaj, New York University, “The Soils of Black Folk: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Theories of Environmental Racialization.”

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

We budgeted for our reception, JTS support, plaques, awards and website. The JTS did not require support from the section this year. We co-hosted the reception with the culture section, and our expenses exceeded our budgeted amount. This was the fault of the venue, who was supposed to stop serving food/drink when our budget had been reached (and they did not). But we have enough of a financial cushion that the overspending on the reception should not impact our financial health as a section. All the other expenses were within our normal range.

**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.

[As all sections did, we got used to the ASA Connect system. Communication was typically in the form of occasional announcements about section activities and events of interest, posted to the discussion board in ASA Connect. We also published 3 section newsletters. Our website is currently down due to an unexpected issue, and we are in the process of transferring all content over to a new permanent home, thus I am not able to post a link to the section website at this time, but will be happy to update this form once we are finished with this process.]
Describe the Section’s diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

[We endeavored to diversify when constructing committees, recognizing work done in the field, as well as when assembling our Section program (which included a session on “Rereading the Black Atlantic after 30 Years,” bringing attention to a seminal contribution to theorizing about race, modernity, and double consciousness. The Coser Salon was focused around racial disparities in Chicago during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In order to increase representation of historically underrepresented populations in our section, we voted at our council meeting to introduce a mentoring program for ASA 2024.]

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).

We had 4 panels, the Coser salon, and a roundtable session. The Coser Salon included a full-length (45 minute long) lecture given by Claire Decoteau, the Coser Award winner in 2022. Claire discussed her new project examining racial disparities in the Covid-19 Pandemic and the city of Chicago’s public health response as it unfolded across three neighborhoods in Chicago.

The titles of the panels were:
1. Reading the Black Atlantic after 30 years: On a Classic of Sociological Theory
2. Modernities
4. Critique of the Sign

The roundtable sessions were well attended and provided an opportunity for a larger group of scholars to exchange research and ideas during the meeting.

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 Junior Theorist Symposium took place right before the ASA Annual Meeting but was organized independently. The event featured 3 panels featuring work presented by junior scholars, an after-panel titled “Why Theorize?” that brought together a diverse set of “scholars, thinkers, and doers” into conversation to explore convergences, tensions, and a range of possible responses to the question: why theorize? Panelists include Zine Magubane (Boston College), Iddo Tavory (New York University), Diane Vaughan (Columbia University), and Karida Brown (Emory University). This event also featured a lecture by the winner of last year’s Junior Theorist Award, Daniel Hirschman, on “Rediscovering the 1%: Knowledge Infrastructures and the Stylized Facts of Inequality
]
Section Business Meeting Minutes
Theory Section 2023

- Introduction of new council members, chair elect, and secretary/treasurer
- Overview of section membership numbers
- Summary of Junior Theorist Symposium provided by Wendy Li
- Nominations collected for Theory Prize, Junior Theorist Award, Graduate Student Paper Prize, and list of names for Nominations Committee generated by Council was approved by a vote
Council Meeting 2023
Theory Section

Members Present:
1) Isaac Reed
2) Maggie Frye
3) Paige Sweet
4) Carly Knight
5) Ankit Bhardwaj
6) Wendy Li
7) Jun Zhou
8) Shai Dromi
9) Claire Decoteau (arrived late)
10) Mo Torres

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

Welcome to:
Chair-Elect: Claire Decoteau
Council: Monica Prasad, Michael McCarthy
Student Representative: Ankit Bhardwaj

Thanks to those retiring from service:
Past-Chair: Claudio Benzecry
Council: Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Julian Go
Student Representative: Luis Flores
Secretary/Treasurer: Claire Decoteau

2. Committee Nominations

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

1) Paige Sweet
2) Cresa Pugh
3) Iddo Tavory
4) Wendy Li
5) Isaac Reed

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

1) Mo Torres
2) Robin Wagner-Pacifici

3. Secretary-Treasurer’s report and budget (Claire Decoteau)
   see attached document (thanks much to Claire for all her labor re this)

4. Membership Report
   Current membership stands at 658. (Last year at this same time 728; the year before
   736). We have lost members in the past year, but so has ASA as a whole. Our current
   membership stands at 90% of what we had in 2021, ASA’s membership stands at 91% of
   what they had in 2021. Hopefully a section mentorship program might recruit new
   members.

5. Perspectives Newsletter Report (Abigail Moore, Vasiye Toprak, Anne Taylor)

6. Introducing new newsletter team: We recruited a new team of 2 editors for the
   Perspectives newsletter: Jun Zhou of University of Michigan and Youbin Kang of
   University of Wisconsin. They have agreed to serve a 3 year term and will start after the
   final issue of the outgoing team is published (expected October 2023).

6. JTS Report (Wendy Li) this year’s JTS was very well attended. The conference came
   in under budget and they have a small surplus to carry over through next year. Wendy
   suggested that there be a bit more communication between the organizers of JTS and
   section leadership, for example a point person on council. We discussed how historically
   council/the chair have been hesitant to play a role in organizing or overseeing JTS
   because it was originally organized as an independent entity, created and run by junior
   members of the section. That said, we agreed to have a point person to serve as a point
   of reference for issues, especially around local organizing of the event.

7. Webmaster Search
   We have put out calls for a section webmaster with no luck. We will do so again. We
   discussed whether we really need a section website and it was decided that we do,
   because it houses resources (historically newsletters, links to old theory syllabi) that
   have been useful to members. It’s also where we share the call for submissions to JTS.

8. JTS Funding/ Reimbursement
   The JTS does not have any need for reimbursement this year because they generated a
   surplus at the conference.

9. Small stipend for newsletter and webmaster positions
   The newsletter is written by junior members of our section, often graduate students,
   and has historically relied on unpaid labor. We have struggled to recruit a section
   webmaster, perhaps if we offered a small amount of money as a stipend, it would be
   easier to recruit someone for this position. Other sections have made an effort to offer
   small stipends for work performed by students. We currently have a surplus in our
budget from last year. We voted on whether to offer a small stipend, starting at $300, and this was unanimously approved.

10. Other items for discussion? Carly Knight proposed starting a new mentorship program for the section, coincident with ASA meeting next year. This was unanimously approved, and Carly Knight and Ankit Bhardwaj will organize it.