

Proposal for the Editorship of *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*

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Editor Information

I am Professor and Chair of Sociology and by courtesy Professor of Applied Mathematics & Statistics at SUNY Stony Brook. I have a wealth of experience serving as editor, associate/deputy editor as well as on editorial board over my career. As a junior faculty, I served as a Deputy Editor for *The Sociological Quarterly* for two terms from 1992 to 2000. A few years later, I became Editor of Sage's *Quantitative Applications in the Social sciences* book series and was in that role from 2004 to 2009. Most importantly, I served as Editor of ASA's *Sociological Methodology* for two terms from 2009 to 2015 successfully, as judged by each volume's content, timely publication, and impact (e.g., the 2012 Karlson, Holm, and Breen article having received 1,270 citations as of November 22, 2023). I am currently an Associate Editor of *Advances in Life Course Research* and a Deputy Editor of *Demography* (with both roles ending in 2025). I have also served on various editorial boards over the years, including *Demography*, *Sociological Methodology*, and *Sociological Methods & Research*. I am currently (2023) on the editorial boards of *American Sociology Review*, *China Population & Development Studies*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*, and have been invited to serve on *Socius*'s editorial board service starting in 2024. Finally, I have published widely both qualitative and quantitative research in social science, statistics, and health/medical journals, notably in a few highly regarded open-access online journals recently including *JAMA Network Open*, *Sociological Science*, and our very own *Socius* (twice).

While it is common to have coeditors today for a journal like *Socius*, which processes over 300 new manuscripts a year, there have been high-volume journals with a single editor. ASR, for example, almost always had a single editor up to Jerry Jacob's term (2003-2006). *American Journal of Sociology*, another high-volume journal, has always had a single editor even up to today. *Demography* receives more submissions than *Socius* and currently has a single editor. *JAMA Network Open*, an extremely high-volume journal, has a single editor-in-chief, who oversees all initial submissions. Based on our editorial model for *Socius*, I am confident that I would be able to handle the task by judiciously working and coordinating with the editorial office staff and the board.

Vision Statement

The current editors at the University of Oregon have done a superb job of publishing high-quality sociological research and increasing the impact of the journal. With over 300 new submissions in 2022 and a current impact factor of 4.5, *Socius* has already become a major player among generalist sociology journals. I plan to continue this momentum and to further increase the journal's visibility, impact, and reach in the following ways.

1. *Socius*'s *Distinctive Model*: Building on the strong foundation established by *Socius*'s founding editors, Lisa Keister and James Moody, and consolidated by the current editors, Ryan Light, Aaron Glickson, and C.J. Pascoe, I aim to continue and further develop the

journal's distinctive publishing model of rapid publication, clear editorial decisions, encouraging digital publication forms and open science, and emphasizing continued growth and breadth of submissions and publications.

2. *Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*: I plan to further the content coverage by guiding the journal to fully live up to its name ("Dynamic World"). This means further improvement in publishing high-quality sociological research with new ideas and observations of new phenomena, patterns, and trends in societies undergoing dynamic transformations around the world. It also means further improving the journal's global reach in terms of authors, reviewers, and readers. As the broad description of our journal well summarizes, "*Socius* is a place to find fresh ideas, early discoveries, and open theoretical problems that can pose new challenges for social science."
3. *Diversity and Inclusivity*: I plan to further improve the journal in this area, a point I will also discuss in the section on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity. This will involve encouraging diverse voices and perspectives within the content as well as the editorial board, with a plan to actively recruit a diverse editorial board and regularly have editorial assistants watch out for new and underrepresented voices and ideas and put our journal on their radar.
4. *Editorial Processes and Timeliness*: Judged by the 2022 ASA annual reports for journals, *Socius* has already done well in this regard. However, compared to our major online competitors, we still have room to further improve. Having published in *JAMA Network Open* and *Sociological Science*, I found their decision-making and reviewing processes speedier. I plan to explore their editorial processes more and learn from their experiences while keeping our distinctiveness.
5. *Metrics and Evaluation*: ASA has already been on the right path in this regard by including a "Metrics and citations" tab with an Almetric score listed at all ASA journals' website. However, some authors may not be aware of this functionality, and we are weak in the department of evaluation. I plan to alert an author upon the acceptance of their paper this "metrics and citations" feature and to ask a graduate assistant to systematically analyze these metrics for finding out which topics, areas, and specific papers may have drawn greater attention.
6. *Visibility and Impact*: With an impact factor of 4.5, our journal has done very well, and its impact has been on a steady increase. Compared to *Sociological Science*, a competitor open-access online journal (which has an impact factor of 6.2), we still have room for improvement. Toward that end, I plan to implement two practices. I have published two *Socius* articles. My 2016 paper has an Almetric score of 2 while my 2021 article has an Almetric score of 49. While the topics of the two papers are related yet different, a major difference is my post-publication action. Upon publishing the 2021 paper, I reached out to my university's new bureau, and they helped organize a press release. I did not do this for my 2016 paper. Hence, we must encourage our authors with accepted papers to do press releases wherever feasible. The other action to consider taking is to increase social media outreach and presence. Our journal already has a Twitter/X account

(@SociusJournal) and regularly tweets new papers. Journalists most often read Twitter and Facebook posts, according to a Pew Research Center report. We may want to consider establishing a presence on Facebook and the new up-and-coming social media, Bluesky (which has been gaining more recent momentum over Mastodon, and journalists have already flocked to Bluesky as a Twitter/X alternative). These two practices may help further increase *Socius*'s visibility and impact.

Editorial Board

The current editorial board consists of 28 members, with a healthy composition of scholars with a variety of expertise. I plan to continue the successful use of the editorial board by expanding it in the following ways. First, I would increase the diversity of our board members representations in terms of both underrepresented groups and less represented but new and rising research areas. Second, I would increase the international and the interdisciplinary representations of the board among ASA international members and members with cross-disciplinary affiliations, with an eye to broadening the global and multidisciplinary reach of our journal.

I would engage the editorial board in a dynamic and robust way, with regular yet infrequent communications, highlighting the objectives, plans, and future goals of the journal, with an open channel for new ideas and suggestions from the board.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is important for me because, first and foremost, I am a sociologist who believes in diversity and equality in society. As a member of a minority ethnic group, albeit not underrepresented in American higher education, I am constantly reminded of the potential, often unexpected, consequences of one's ethnoracial background. An Illinois economist and I have a recently funded project investing potential ethnoracial bias toward East Asians and Asian Americans among college students, and we still analyzing the results.

I have also included DEI awareness in my administrative work. As the head of the sociology department of my previous institution (Illinois), I successfully recruited and hired four underrepresented minority faculty at both the junior and the senior rank, and in my present role as department chair at Stony Brook, I am currently engaged in recruiting a targeted senior DEI hire and interviewing in December four junior scholars, three of whom have underrepresented minority backgrounds.

To further consolidate and improve our DEI efforts for *Socius*, I plan to take a multi-pronged approach:

1. I plan to further increase diversity within the editorial board and the reviewer pool, by seeking individuals from variety of backgrounds, regions, and identities to bring diverse perspectives to the review process.

2. I plan to alert reviewers to recognize and avoid biases in evaluating submissions, encouraging fair assessments. A good online source for peer reviewers to avoid biases in reviewing is found [here](#).
3. I aim to further promote content diversity by encouraging and publishing research that explores diverse perspectives, experiences, and voices within sociology and ensuring a variety of topics and methodologies are represented.
4. As stated in my vision statement, I intend to further increase regional and disciplinary representations of our journal in terms of its authors, reviewers, and readers, in addition to topics.
5. Finally, I strongly believe in implementing and upholding inclusive policies regarding authorship, citation practices, and conflicts of interest to ensure fairness and equity. This means making the board, authors, reviewers, and the editorial staff constantly aware of such policies.

Institutional Support

I am confident that I will be able to secure necessary institutional support for housing *Socius*, based on my understanding and ongoing discussions. Having dealt with institutional support for another ASA journal (SM) before, I know what kind of institutional support will be necessary.

When I edited *Sociological Methodology*, I searched and found a managing editor, Lisa Savage, who was a production editor at the University of Illinois Press back then and has continued with SM as the managing editor for the journal over a dozen years. I also had one or two graduate assistant(s) at the time, depending on their percentage of work for a given year. If chosen for the editorship, I will search for a professional managing editor, and if not available, I will hire three graduate assistants for helping manage and run the editorial office.