

SECTION ON METHODOLOGY BYLAWS

AS AMENDED AUGUST 1975, JUNE 2012, JUNE 2016, JUNE 2020, 2024

The purpose of the Section on Methodology is to foster the development of this aspect of sociology through the organized interchange of ideas and research results. It shall encourage the development of methodology and its applications in sociology both through organized meetings and conferences, publication, and such other means as are deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section. The term methodology shall be interpreted in its broadest sense to include the development of investigative methods appropriate to any branch of sociology, of a qualitative or quantitative nature, for data collection or analysis, and such other interests as may be useful in sociological research.

ARTICLE I: OFFICERS OF THE SECTION

Section A: The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Past-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chair-Elect and Past Chair shall also serve in that office for a period of two years prior to becoming Chair. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of eight (8) members, with 6 members elected by section members from a slate of candidates who are regular members and 2 student representatives being elected by section members from a slate of candidates who are current student members. Each of the 6 elected Council members from the regular membership shall serve for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year. Each of the Student representatives will serve for two years, with one new student representative being elected every year. A student holding a position on Council shall be a student member of the ASA, a student member of the Section, and currently enrolled as a graduate student at the time the election is held. Officers shall not succeed themselves. The Chair, the Chair-Elect, the Past Chair, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as members of the Council, with the Section Chair serving as Chair of the Council.

Section B: The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. Any action of the Section, including proposed changes of the bylaws, may be brought to the vote of the Council, by members of the Section. Changes to section bylaws are valid when approved by a majority of Council Members at a Council Meeting and by a majority vote of the Section Membership. The Section Council may only vote on bylaws amendments when a quorum of council members is present in person or virtually. Questions that are interpreted by the Council to be matters of major program development or policy shall be brought before the membership for approval.

Section C: In the event of the death, resignation, incapacity or inactivity of the Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, or Secretary-treasurer, the Council, acting on the initiative of any member thereof, may designate an interim officer to perform the functions of that office for a period of at most one year. Such action shall require the approval of two-thirds of the Council members. The interim officer so designated may be any member of the Section, including a member already holding another office or membership on the Council. In case of death or resignation,

or in case of the continued incapacity or inactivity of an officer for a period longer than the one year permitted for an interim officer, the Council shall call for the election of a replacement at the time of the regular annual election, and the elected replacement shall fill the remainder of the term of office.

ARTICLE II: ELECTIONS AND VOTING

The elections of the Section shall be carried out by mail in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule. A simple majority of the members voting on candidates for Chairperson-elect or for Secretary-treasurer shall determine the outcome. In the election of Council members (normally four candidates for two positions) the two candidates having the largest number of votes shall be the elected Council members. Referenda submitted to the membership should, when feasible, be accompanied by brief statements for and against the proposal. A simple majority of the membership voting on amendments to the by-laws or referenda submitted to the membership shall determine the outcome. Votes at the Section Business Meeting held at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association shall be advisory to the Council only.

ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES

Section A: There shall be a Committee on Nominations, appointed each year by the Chair, with the advice of the Council, within two months following the convening of the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. The Committee on Nominations shall be constituted of three to five members. Two candidates will be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations.

Section B: There shall be a Committee or Committees on Awards, appointed each year by the Chair, with the advice of the Council, within two months following the convening of the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. The Committee(s) on Awards shall consist of three to five members (each) and drawn from the Section membership (including members of Council and a past winner of the Lazarsfeld award for consideration of that award).

Section C: Other committees shall be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the Council or by the Council on an ad hoc basis.

ARTICLE IV: AWARDS AND LECTURES

Section A: The Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award recognizes a career of outstanding contributions to sociological methodology. The Leo Goodman Award recognizes contributions to sociological methodology or innovative uses of sociological methodology made by a scholar who is no more than 15 years past the date of the Ph.D. The Outstanding Publication Award recognizes an outstanding article or book in sociological methodology published in print (or, for online-only publications, released online) the four calendar years preceding the ASA annual meeting at which the award is bestowed. The award will alternate between recognizing books and articles, with books awards in odd years and articles awarded in even years. The Clifford C. Clogg Award recognizes an outstanding graduate student paper in sociological methodology.

The Innovation Award recognizes a discovery, innovation, or advancement representing a significant contribution to sociological methodology. The contribution may have been made at any time prior to the award year. While this contribution will ordinarily be described in one or more publications, this award recognizes the intellectual contribution itself, and not any publication arising from it. The Pedagogy Award recognizes sustained excellence in teaching and mentorship. The Paul F. Lazarsfeld, Leo Goodman, Publication, and Clifford C. Clogg awards are considered annually. The Innovation and Pedagogy awards are awarded on alternating years. Awards committees may choose not to give an award in a given year.

Section B: The awards can, though do not have to, be deliberated on by the same committee. The Section Chair shall notify the section membership of the opening of nominations in late Fall via the listserv and website and encourage section members to make nominations. The committee Chair shall forward nominations made by the membership to the Awards Committee who may add nominations of their own. The Chair can also seek nominations for the Clogg student paper award from organizers of methodology section sessions. The Committee shall discuss worthy candidates and arrive at winners through a committee vote. If the members of the Committee cannot identify a worthy candidate or if controversies arise, they may consult the Council as a whole, asking for clarification of rules or criteria, opening the discussion to Council as a whole, or sending a slate of candidates for a vote. The Committee and Council reserve the right to forgo giving an award in a given year.

Section C: The winner of each Award will be contacted in advance of the meeting. Winners shall be announced via the Section listserv and newsletter, the ASA annual meeting brochure listing award winners, and published in Footnotes. Winners shall be presented with a plaque at the ASA annual meeting.

Section D: There shall be an annual O. D. Duncan Memorial Lecture at the American Sociological Association annual conference. The lecture shall be given by a distinguished methodologist from outside of sociology and from within sociology on alternating years.

Section E: The selection of the Duncan Lecturer shall be discussed at the Council meeting each year. Upon Council's advice, the Chair shall invite the speaker to give the Duncan Lecture at the annual conference in the following year.

ARTICLE V: WINTER/SPRING CONFERENCE

Section A: At the discretion of the Chair and the Council, there shall be an annual winter/spring methodology conference organized by section members for presenting research on methodology, exchanging ideas, and connecting with one another.

Section B: The winter/spring conference shall be open to all section members as well as non-section members and scholars not affiliated with the American Sociological Association.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Section shall be drawn from members of the American Sociological Association, without regard to the classification of their membership, who have expressed or

demonstrated a major commitment to research methodology and measurement in sociology. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls after two years.

ARTICLE VII: DUES

No increase in the dues beyond the requirements beyond the requirements of the American Sociological Association shall be made without the approval of the members as determined by mail ballot.