

SECTION ON SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND TECHNOLOGY

February 1988, Amended 2019; 2024

Preamble

The Purpose of the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology is to promote scholarly research and professional activity in relation to the sociology of science, knowledge, and technology. To this end, the Section will sponsor meetings and conferences, newsletters and publications, and other means of communication deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section.

ARTICLE 1 - ELECTED OFFICERS

I. 1 **Officers of the Section:** The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, the immediate Past Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, and eight additional Council Members (6 non-student members and 2 student members). The Chair shall serve for one year. The Chair-Elect shall serve for one year, after which they shall assume the Chair. The Past Chair shall serve for one year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for two years. Non-student members of the Council shall serve for two years, with three non-student member Council seats being vacated each year. Two Council seats shall be reserved for graduate students or postdoctoral fellows, and these “students” shall serve one-year terms with their seats being vacated each year. No member can hold two elected offices simultaneously. Officers must be voting members of the American Sociological Association and members of the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology.

I. 2 **Powers of the Officers:** The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations of the Section, acting as the representative of the Section. The Council shall make decisions by majority rule of its attending members. Any action of the Section may be brought to a vote of the Section by the Council, by a petition of 10 percent of the members of the Section, or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less.

Between meetings of the Council, decisions requiring immediate attention shall be made by the Chair, in consultation by mail, telephone, or electronic media with members of the Council.

I. 3 **Elections and Voting:** The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected officers shall assume office on the day following the Annual Business Meeting of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association or on September 1, whichever comes first. Newly elected officers may attend meetings of the Council prior to assuming office as nonvoting participants.

I. 4 **Vacant Officers:** If an elected officer resigns or is elected to another office, their office shall be declared vacant. If an elected office is vacated before the

term is completed, it shall be filled through appointment by the Chair for the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the Council at its next meeting.

I. 5 Changing the Number of Council Members: The number of Council Members may be increased by a majority vote of the Council. The number of Council Members may be decreased by a majority vote by the Council following a resignation or the expiration of a Council Member's term of office, providing that the total number of Council Members does not become less than nine. This provision may be used in conjunction with Article I.4 to make appointed Committee Chairpersons voting members of the Council during their term of service.

ARTICLE 2 - APPOINTED COMMITTEES

II. 1 Nominations Committee: There shall be a Nominations Committee of at least two members each year. The Chair-Elect of the Section shall serve as Chair of that Committee, and the immediate Past Chair shall also be a member. At least two candidates will be presented for each office by the Nominations Committee.

II. 2 Program Committee: There shall be a Program Committee consisting of at least three members to be appointed for a one-year term. The Chair of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Program Committee. Other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Committee Chair. The purpose of the Program Committee shall be to develop sessions of interest to the Section at each Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, in cooperation with the Program Committee of the Association.

II. 3 Communications Committee: There shall be a Communications Committee consisting of at least three members to be appointed for a one-year term. Members of this committee, including the Committee Chair, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Section. The Chair of the Communications Committee shall serve as Editor of the Section newsletter. Other members of this committee shall serve as Contributing Editors of the newsletter. The purpose of the Communications Committee shall be to prepare a Section newsletter to be distributed to all Section members three times per year through the American Sociological Association. This committee shall also compile periodic reports as requested by the Council of the Section or the Committee on Publication of the American Sociological Association.

II. 4 Anti-Racism in SKAT Committee: There shall be an Anti-Racism in SKAT Committee consisting of at least four members to be appointed for a one-year term. Members of this committee, including the Committee Chair, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Section and include at least one Council Member. The charge of the Committee is to select winners of the Emancipatory Practice Award and the Ida B. Wells-Troy Duster Award, as well as continue to identify ways to advance anti-racism in and through SKAT.

II. 5 Membership Committee: There shall be a Membership Committee consisting of at least two members to be appointed for a one-year term. Members of this committee, including the Committee Chair, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Section. The charge of the committee is to develop ways to expand the

Section membership.

II. 6 Section Awards Committees: There shall be separate Committees constituted for the Star-Nelkin Paper Award, the Robert K. Merton Book Award, and the Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award. Each Committee shall consist of at least three members to be appointed for a one-year term. Members of these committees, including the Committee Chairs, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Section. The charge of these committees is to review nominations and select award winners.

II. 7 Other Committees: Other committees may be appointed by the Chair of the Section on an ad hoc basis, subject to approval by the Council.

ARTICLE 3 - ACTIVITIES

III. 1 Annual Meetings: There shall be a Section Business Meeting and at least one substantive session sponsored by the Section at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

III. 2 Other Activities: Other activities shall be undertaken by the Council and the membership as seems appropriate to the purposes of the Section and of the Association.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be dropped from the rolls.

ARTICLE 5 - DUES

Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

ARTICLE 6 - BYLAW CHANGES

Proposed changes in these bylaws must first be approved by a majority of the Council, and, finally, approved by a majority of the Section members who vote through a ballot measure shall occur concurrently with Section elections as set forth in Article 1.3.