

SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY AND EMBODIMENT

November 2009, Amended June 2016; June 2024

The purpose of the section on sociology of the body and embodiment is to encourage and enhance theory, research, teaching, and other professional aspects in the study of sociology and body/embodiment. This section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in the interdisciplinary study of the body and embodiment, as well as with other sections of the ASA.ⁱ The aim of the Section on the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment is to support and encourage sociological scholarship on a wide range of embodied dynamics including human and non-human bodies, morphology, human reproduction, anatomy, body fluids, biotechnology, and genetics, as well as theories of embodiment, virtual bodies, productivity of bodies, changing bodies, life course and the body, body and spirit/soul, unequal bodies, micro and macro sociological analysis of the political, and social and individual bodies.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION

The officers of the section shall include past, present and future Chairpersons, a Secretary-Treasurer, and eleven-member Council, including two student representatives. There shall be a Past Chair, Chair Elect, and Chair, all of which will serve for a period of three years: one year each as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair. The Chair-Elect will automatically become Chair of the section in the year following her/his service as Chair-Elect. The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected for a term of three years.

The Chair-Elect will work with the Chair of the Section to ensure a smooth transition between Chairs. The Chair-Elect of the Section will also serve as chair of the Nominations

Committee.

The Chair of the section will preside at business meetings and council meetings, and ensure that the section's committees are staffed and aware of any relevant deadlines. Most importantly, the Chair is responsible for planning, submitting, and overseeing the section's program for the Annual Meeting of the ASA, with the advice of Council. The Chair may also plan programs for special conferences, and approve disbursements on behalf of the section, with the consent of Council. In addition, the Chair will work with the Communications Co-Chairs, Web Manager, and Social Media Managers to ensure effective communication with section members. Finally, outgoing chairs will submit an Annual Report of the section's activities to the ASA.

The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected every 3 years. The Secretary-Treasurer supplies minutes of meetings, collects and reports on financial statements, and communicates, along with the Chair, with the ASA offices for any matters related to awards. The Secretary/Treasurer also compiles and distributes a bi-weekly digest of items of interest to section members via the section list-serv.

There shall be a Council of nine elected Members, each serving a three-year term, plus two graduate student representatives. The student representative's terms will last one year each. Three new three-year term Council Members and two one-year term Student Representatives will be elected each year, starting in 2016 (Unless ratified by a majority of the Section's membership, all three-year terms are to be occupied by Section members holding a Doctoral degree.) The Council

will carry out all necessary operations for the section, acting as the representatives of the membership of the Section. Council members will also serve on one of eight committees: Nominations, Program, Membership, Mentorship, Communications or one of the three Award committees. Council Members are expected to attend regularly the annual Council and Business meetings.

The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meetings by a majority vote of its attending members and between meetings by mail, e-mail, conference phone call or any similar method designed to allow all Council Members a chance to register their votes. An action to be made on behalf of the Section may be brought to the next Section Business Meeting for a vote by the request of three or more Council Members or a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members, whichever is less.

ELECTION/VOTING

The elections of the Section shall be carried out by e-ballots in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to its schedule. In exception to this rule the first election will be held by e-mail ballot as soon as is feasible. Officers and Council elected in the first election will serve through the first year the Section is accepted into the Association.

Newly-elected officers shall assume office immediately after the adjournment of the Business Meeting of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the ASA. A simple majority of the members voting for Chair-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer shall determine the outcome, as it shall for all referenda or revisions of by-laws as may be submitted for vote. In the elections for seats on the Council, the three candidates having the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the elections for Student Representative seats on the council, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote for any of the elected offices, the tie will be broken by a run-off vote.

COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise provided in these by-laws, all appointments to Committees shall be made by the Chair with the concurrence of the Council.

The Committee on Nominations shall consist of the Chair-Elect plus two additional members appointed by the Past-Chair. The Committee on Nominations each year shall solicit suggestions for nominations from the members; it shall name two candidates who are Section members in good standing for each office to be filled. These candidates shall not be announced until they have consented to serve. The Committee on Nominations may also submit to the Council the names of persons to be considered for appointment to the other regular committees.

There shall be a Program Committee consisting of at least four members appointed for one-year terms by the Program Committee Chair with the concurrence of the Council. The Chair of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Program Committee. One of the Graduate Student Representatives shall serve on the committee. Other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Program Committee Chair. The Program Committee shall 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. The Program Committee may also develop programs outside of this framework with the consent of the Council.

Award committees: Sociology of the Body and Embodiment Book Award, Sociology of Body and Embodiment Best Article Award, and Sociology of the Body and Embodiment Graduate Student Paper Award. The section gives three awards every year, each with its own evaluation committee composed of at least three members appointed for a one-year term by the Section Chair. These committees evaluate award submissions, and confer awards according to policies established by the Section Council. Student representatives may serve on awards committees, but not as members of the Graduate Student Paper Award committee, unless the student representative in question is the immediate previous award winner.

The Communications Committee shall consist of at least four members appointed for one-year terms by the Communications Committee Co-Chairs. These members include two Co-Chairs, one Website Manager, and one Social Media Manager. The Co-chairs will be non-student Council members appointed for one-year terms by the Council. The Communications Committee is responsible for securing posts for the section blog, maintaining the section website, and featuring information about the section and its members on social media sites (such as FaceBook and Twitter).

The Membership Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed for one-year terms by the Membership Committee Chair. The Chair will be a non-student Council member appointed for a one-year term by the Council. The Membership Committee will endeavor to attract new members to the section and to engage existing section members.

The Mentoring Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed for one-year terms by the Mentoring Committee Chair. The Chair will be a non-student Council member appointed for a one-year term by the Council. At least one committee member will be sought from the section's graduate student membership. The Mentoring Committee is responsible for organizing the mentoring program, which pairs graduate student section members with faculty mentors and junior faculty section members with senior faculty mentors at their request.

Other committees may be established by the Chair of the Section on an ad hoc basis, subject to approval by the Council.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Section on the Sociology of the Body and Embodiment is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of the membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

DUES

Dues shall be set by the Council in accordance with the requirement of the American Sociological Association and in order to cover the costs of the section.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended through a favorable majority vote of those voting at a Business Meeting, provided this action is subsequently confirmed through a favorable majority vote of those voting by a mail ballot to the Section membership.

Appendix: Year-by-Year Council Expansion Plan

In the example, below, the date indicates when each council member rotates off the council:

Current council (7 members)

Member A, 2016

Member B, 2016

Member C, 2017

Member D, 2017

Member E, 2018

Member F, 2018

Student Representative: Grad Rep 1, 2016

In the past, we have always voted each year to replace the two council members and one graduate student representative who rotate off council each year. By adding one new council member and a second additional graduate student representative starting in 2016, and continuing in 2017 and 2018, the section will have an 11-member council by 2019.

2016 election:

ELECT THREE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS INSTEAD OF TWO AND TWO GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES INSTEAD OF ONE, thereby moving from a 7-member council to 9 members.

Member C, 2017

Member D, 2017

Member E, 2018

Member F, 2018

Person 1, 2019

Person 2, 2019

Person 3, 2019

Student Representative: Grad Rep 2, 2017

Grad Rep 3, 2017

2017 election:

CONTINUE TO ELECT THREE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TWO GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES, thereby moving from a 9 member council to 10 members.

Member E, 2018

Member F, 2018

Person 1, 2019

Person 2, 2019

Person 3, 2019

Person 4, 2020

Person 5, 2020

Person 6, 2020

Student Representative: Grad Rep 4, 2018
Grad Rep 5, 2018

2018 Election:

CONTINUE TO ELECT THREE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TWO GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES, thereby moving from a 10-member council to 11 members—which is where the section will remain in all subsequent elections, with each council member being in a cohort with two other peers and each of the three cohorts having three members.

Person 1, 2019

Person 2, 2019

Person 3, 2019

Person 4, 2020

Person 5, 2020

Person 6, 2020

Person 7, 2021

Person 8, 2021

Person 9, 2021

Student Representative: Grad Rep 6, 2019

Grad Rep 7, 2019

ⁱ Before the section was established in 2009, work about bodies was scattered among the Medical Sociology, Sexualities, Sex and Gender and Science, Knowledge, and Technology Sections (and Disabilities Section, then in formation). This section brings together researchers across these fields and moves beyond a focus on the biological being, or gender and sexual identities, to places body and embodiment at the center of sociological study and theorizing.