

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Altruism, Morality & Social Solidarity

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 2024 to August 2025 and a fiscal year from January 2025 to December 2025. This report is shared publicly.

Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

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.

Business Meeting in 2024, Dana Moss as Chair (2024-25)

Topics discussed:

- Current thanks to outgoing, current, and incoming members;
- Review of membership numbers and trends in ASA;
- Review of budget (Treasurer's Report), past and projected;
- Review of Publications, Podcast, Webinar and Newsletter activities (Comms Chair);
- Announcements of Award Winners;
- Open discussion: Requesting ideas for next year's ASA and section events, possible new reception collaborations, and graduate student opportunities on the newsletter.

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.

Council Meeting in 2024, Dana Moss as Chair (2024-25)

- Current thanks to outgoing, current, and incoming members;
- Review of membership numbers and trends in ASA;
- Review of budget, past and projected;
- Review of Webinar, podcast, and Newsletter activities;
- Open discussion: Requesting ideas for next year's ASA and section events, possible new reception collaborations, and graduate student opportunities on the newsletter, possible mentoring program, issues with and ideas for expanding membership.

Council Meeting in 2025, Shai Dromi as Chair (2025-26), July 23, 2025

- Thanking outgoing officers, welcoming incoming officers;
- Updates to membership (220 currently, up from 215 year);
- Treasurer updates;
- Publications committee updates;
- Schedule at ASA reviewed, including the ASA Section Open House;
- Updates and voting on section policies;
- Committee vacancies needed (membership, program, publications, nominations, distinguished career award, published book award, published article award, outstanding grad student paper award);
- Additional business, such as clarifications in the award calls.

Awards

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

The 2025 Altruism, Mortality, and Social Solidarity Distinguished Career Award goes to the Frederick and Laura Goff Professor of Sociology **Philip S. Gorski** of Yale University.

(Committee: Michèle Lamont (Chair), Lauren Valentino, and Paul Joosse)

The 2025 Outstanding Published Book Award:

Winner: Wes Markofski, Good News for Common Goods: Multicultural Evangelicalism and Ethical Democracy in America (Oxford University Press)

Honorable Mention: Matthew M. Hollander and Jason Turowetz, Morality in the Making of Sense and Self: Stanley Milgram's Obedience Experiments and the New Science of Morality (Oxford University Press)

(Committee: Shai Dromi (Chair), Jeffrey Guhin, and Matthew Andersson)

The 2025 AMSS Outstanding Published Article Award:

Winner: Chaeyoon Lim and Dingeman Wiertz. 2024. "Civic Lessons That Last? Religiosity and Volunteering on the Way to Adulthood." *American Sociological Review* 89(4):684–707.

Honorable Mention: Minjae Kim, Oliver Hahl, Ethan Poskanzer, and Ezra W. Zuckerman Sivan. 2024. "When Truth Trumps Facts: Studies on Partisan Moral Flexibility in American Politics." *American Journal of Sociology* 130(1):193–240.

(Committee: Candice Robinson (Chair), Yongren Shi, Joshua Doyle, and Barbara Kiviat)

The 2025 AMSS Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Winner: Christine Delp, University of Minnesota, "Cultural Critics as Moral Reputational Entrepreneurs: Controversy, Metaethical Discourse, and Authority in the Documentary Field."

Honorable Mention: Ludovico Genovese, Columbia University, "Neighborhoods, Ethnic Diversity, and Inter-ethnic Cooperation: Quasi-experimental Evidence from a Refugee Dispersal Policy in Sweden."

(Committee: Max Besbris (Chair), Lingxiao Chen, and Joyce Kim)

2025 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2025 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2024. Please account for any substantive differences.

The projected cost of the reception at the 2025 Annual Meeting was \$1,000 while the actual cost for the reception was \$1,500. The projected cost of the award plaques for the section awards was \$300 while the actual cost was \$360. The Council meeting was held virtually, so the projected \$200 for this was not spent. The projected section income in the 2025 report was \$1,342 while actual income year to date as of September 2025 was \$1,235. Net assets as of September 2025 were \$3,077, minus the difference in income and expenses (\$625) left the section with a balance of \$2,452 at the end of that month.

The Previous Year

Describe Section activities during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

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.

We published two newsletters in the past year: Fall 2024, and Summer 2025. Our Communications Chair Kerby Goff, PhD, and his graduate assistants did an outstanding job compiling the newsletter, conducting the webinars, turning them into podcasts, and publishing the content. All of our content is featured here (<https://www.asa-amss.org/>), and the Morality Matters podcast is available on Spotify and other streaming services.

Describe the Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

The section definitely leans more male (he/him)-identifying and Caucasian/White than some of the other ASA sections. Efforts have been made to increase Council and section leadership diversity, and the Nominations Committee will be pursuing a more representative range of future Council members, participants, and members this year. We can do so by collaborating more frequently with different sections, and the 2025 meeting reception will be held with different and more diverse sections in New York. Our Council has an excellent range of scholars now, and we intend to do more individualized recruiting among members in adjacent subfields.

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).

The idea to initiate a mentoring program, either based at ASA or across the academic year, that would pair mentors with mentees was raised in the Council Meeting, and Shai Dromi has made a note to raise this with Council this year. Incoming Chair for 2026, Jeff Guhin, has also suggested that this could be a more informal event with less of a commitment from already overburdened faculty.

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.

Our mission is to promote scholarship and teaching on the sociology of altruism, morality, and social solidarity. Our section is inclusive of a wide range of subfields, perspectives, and methodologies. Our regular webinars feature outstanding books from the AMSS section; our podcast is an excellent resource for students and curious listeners; and our newsletter keeps the section aware of recent publications, conferences, and other opportunities. We also intend to begin a mentoring program, which we hope will draw in young scholars across sub-disciplines with a broader range of perspectives. The intention to provide communication and awareness on AMSS is greatly enhanced by these activities.