

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Asia and Asian America

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.

The 2025 Business Meeting was held at the annual ASA meeting in Chicago on August 12th, 2025. We began by recognizing the service of the 2024-25 Council members, with special acknowledgment of those who are ASA section panel organizers (Sojung Lim, Elena Shih, Yamin Ortega and Amy Hsin). Our secretary Yi-lin Chiang has provided our section financial landscape. (see details later).

The meeting also included a summary of the Section's activities at the 2025 ASA, with appreciation extended to the organizers of events such as the mentoring luncheon, roundtables, and paper sessions. In the remaining time, we held the Section Awards Ceremony. Award Committee Chairs presented the awards, highlighted the achievements of each awardee, delivered plaques, and congratulated the recipients. The business meeting was well attended.

A major addition this year was the new "Career Opportunities in Asia" event, featuring speakers from leading universities across Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and beyond. This program expanded the section's international reach and offered valuable career insights for members exploring global academic pathways.

The section also organized a joint reception with International Migration Section; a strategic collaboration designed to reduce costs and increase synergies.

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.

The Section convened a virtual Council meeting on August 5, 2025, with the Chair, Chair-Elect, and both current and incoming Council members in attendance, including Feinian Chen, Yingyi Ma, Amy Hsin, Yilin Chiang, Sojung Lim, Olivia Hu, Julie Park, Fanny He, and Le Lin. The Council reviewed budget pressures stemming from rising costs associated with hosting section receptions at the ASA meeting and explored potential fundraising strategies, such as co-hosting receptions with other sections. Members also discussed expanding mentoring opportunities by adding a one-on-one matching program to complement the successful mentoring luncheon. In addition, Yingyi Ma introduced several new initiatives, including a first-time Asian American author book forum and a panel on career opportunities in Asia. The meeting concluded with a discussion of possible themes for the section's sessions at next year's ASA meeting.

Awards

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

Best Student Research Paper

- **Winner:** Liang, Chen — *Asian Americans' racialized incorporation into the political field* (Social Problems, 2025)
- **Honorable Mention:** Liang, Hao — *Residential Mobility and Integration In and Out of Chinatowns* (IMR)

Best Research Paper

- **Winner:** Andy Scott Chang — *Masculinity on the Margins: Boundary Work Among Immobile Fathers in Indonesia's Transnational Families* (Social Forces, 2023/2024)
- **Honorable Mention:** Tate Kihara — *Social Mobility Across the Pacific* (Demography, 2024)

Best Book on Asia / Transnational

- **Winner:** Yan Long — *Authoritarian Absorption* (OUP, 2024)
- **Honorable Mention:** Yang Su — *Deadly Decision in Beijing* (Cambridge, 2023)

Best Book on Asian America

- **Winner:** Hyeyoung Kwon — *Language Brokers* (Stanford UP, 2024)

Each award was supported by committees of distinguished scholars, representing a broad and international network across the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia.

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 section maintained strong and stable membership with 433 paid members, slightly exceeding the previous year. The current balance stands at \$6,239, which combines savings and membership revenue. Projected ASA-related expenses—including the annual reception, awards, and mentoring lunch—are estimated at \$3,500, leaving an anticipated balance of \$2,739 by September 1, 2025.

For comparison, the 2024 cycle also reported stable membership (419) and similar expense patterns, showing consistent financial health and predictable budgeting year over year.

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.

The year we continued our listserv managed by Ting-Syuan Lin. The chair and members have frequently used the platform to communicate about useful webinars, job postings, recent publications, and other news.

Section chair Yingyi Ma has also reached out to leaders in Asian Universities for the career panel prior to ASA meeting, which has attracted about 50 people in attendance

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

The Section remains strongly committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and has continued to make meaningful progress. Working closely with Council members, the Chair and Chair-Elect ensured that appointments to award committees, officer slates, and other leadership opportunities reflect the full diversity of our membership. In addition, the Section is supporting first-time authors by organizing the first-ever book event at the ASA. The event has been a big hit, and we hope to support it next year as well.

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 Section hosted three paper sessions featuring scholarship on (1) Asia, (2) Asian America, and (3) transnational perspectives that bridge the two. Instead of pre-assigning themes, the organizers jointly reviewed all submissions in a single pool and selected papers to create sessions that were both topically coherent and aligned with each geographic focus. The final session titles—"Racial Hierarchies and Identity," "Institutions, Values, and Family Changes in Asia," and "Asian and Asian American Women"—reflected the wide range of interests represented in the Section. In addition, the Section (organized by chair-elect Amy Hsin) organized multiple roundtables built around thematic clusters that emerged from the submitted papers.

The Section also held three major events at the annual meeting.

1) Mentoring Luncheon: Organized by Amy Hsin (Chair-Elect), this event was hosted at a nearby restaurant and brought together more than 50 participants from across the academic pipeline, including graduate students, postdocs, and faculty at various career stages. Seating was intentionally arranged to mix faculty and students and to encourage participants who knew each other to sit separately, creating vibrant opportunities for mentoring, conversation, and networking.

2) Onsite Reception: The Section co-hosted with International Migration Section to reduce cost, and increase synergy an onsite reception at the conference hotel with food and beverages provided. More than 100 members attended, eager to meet colleagues with shared interests and connect with new scholars in the field.

Both events were highly successful in building community and strengthening professional networks among Section members.

3) Career Panel: The Section organized a well-attended career panel featuring two Deans from the University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, one

representative from the National University of Singapore, and a faculty member from Japan. Over 50 attendees—primarily PhD students—participated. The panel offered valuable insights into academic career pathways across Asia and generated rich discussion.

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.

Throughout the year, we maintained consistent communication with members through the Section listserv. We sent bi-monthly announcements that included job postings, recent member publications, membership reminders, award nominations, and other key updates. In addition, we continued our practice of circulating information on webinars organized by external partners, including editorial offices of academic journals and professional organizations.

We also co-sponsored the inaugural “First-Time Book Authors” event featuring Asian and Asian American scholars from our Section. Hosted off-site in Chicago, this gathering marked the first event of its kind and was a tremendous success, offering a supportive space for new authors to share their work and connect with the community.