

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Biology and Society

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 Agenda (Guang Guo presides the meeting)

1. Welcome for chair-elect, Hexuan Liu, and new council members Marissa Thompson and Robbee Wedow.
2. Secretary-Treasurers Report submitted and accepted.
3. Announcement of Section Award winner for this year. Best paper: Trejo, Sam, 2024. Exploring the fetal origins hypothesis using genetic data. *Social Forces*, 102(4), pp.1555-1581.
4. Evelina Akimova of Purdue and Noah Mark from the floor (faculty member at UNC Charlotte) will be the two members on the nominations committee to be chaired by past-chair (Guang Guo).

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.

We did not have a council meeting at ASA.

Awards

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

Best paper: Trejo, Sam, 2024. Exploring the fetal origins hypothesis using genetic data. *Social Forces*, 102(4), pp.1555-1581.

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 account has \$2,379. The beginning balance was \$1,762. The Section allocation was \$640 and spent \$32 on an award plaque. We did not have a reception at the 2025 ASA and this explains the increase in the balance of the Section account.

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.

Now that ASA Connect has been discontinued, we will return to using communications via the section listserv. The new listserv address reflects the new Section title: ASA-BIOLOGY-AND-SOCIETY@LISTSERV.ASANET.ORG. We also have a section website, <https://sites.google.com/view/asa-ebs>. We also have a twitter account, @ASA_EBS. All three serve to keep our section members well informed about section announcements and activities, and to allow section members to inform others about their own achievements, such as new publications.

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

We do not have explicit DEI goals.

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).

We had two sessions at ASA. Noah Mark (University of North Carolina-Charlotte) organized an evolution-focused session with the following papers.

Remarkable concordance in associations between epigenetic clocks and health behaviors across three countries

Eric T. Klopach, University of Southern California; Belinda Hernandez; Claire Potter; Jessica Faul; Claire Hill; Laura Smyth; Colter Mitchell, University of Michigan; Cathal McCrory; Rose Anne Kenny; Amy Jayne McKnight; Bernadette McGuinness; Eileen Crimmins, University of Southern California

Social Networks of the Mind: Understanding Conceptual Networks Through Shared References

Hugo Neri, University of São Paulo; Veridiana Domingos Cordeiro, University of São Paulo

The Economic Origin and Evolution of Monotheism

Lang Luo, Center for Social Research at Peking University Discussant:
Tamkinat Rauf, University of Wisconsin-Madison Session

Hexuan Liu (University of Cincinnati) organized a session on gene-environment interactions with the following papers:

Reconciling Gene-by-Environment Interactions for Regular Smoking

Robbee Wedow, Purdue University; Yeongmi Jeong, Purdue University; Barry Hicks, 23andMe, Inc.; Robert Bell, 23andMe, Inc.; 23andMe Research Team, 23andMe, Inc.; Andrea Ganna, Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland & Helsinki Institute of Life Science; Michel Nivard, University of Bristol Social and Genetic Inheritance of Educational Attainment Amid Rapid Educational Expansion: Family Trio Evidence from Taiwan - Meng-Jung Lin, National Taiwan University; ChiaJung Lin, National Chengchi University

The social and genetic contributions to the intergenerational transmission of fertility

Agnes Fauske, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo; KIFO Institute for Church, Religion and Worldview research; Evelina Akimova, Purdue University; Torkild Lyngstad, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo; Melinda Mills, LCDS, University of Oxford

Biosocial Pathways of Mental and Physical Health in Widowhood

Tiffany Liu, Princeton University; Dalton Conley, Princeton University
Session Organizer: Hexuan Liu, University of Cincinnati

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.

None planned at present.