

**2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for
Communication, Information Technology, and Media Sociology (CITAMS)**

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.

1. Welcome (Celeste)
 2. Secretary/Treasurer report (Celeste proxy for Danny)
 3. Award presentation (Celeste, Dhiraj, Ashley, Tim)
 4. Public announcements
 - a. Jeremy Schulz discussed the Media Sociology symposium and opportunities with ESMC
 - b. Grant Blank discussed the need to move the meeting time for roundtables. Celeste stated she would bring this up to Meeting Services.
 5. Incoming Chair's remarks (Dhiraj)
- Attendance count: 16

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.

CITAMS Council Meeting 2025 Minutes

7/22/2025 at 3pm EST

Present

Celeste Campos-Castillo, Daniel Karell, Timothy Recuber, Marcus Brooks, Julia Ticona

Agenda

I. Secretary/Treasurer's report (Danny)

- As of July 8, 2025: 405 members (2024 was 389; 2023 was 370; 2022 was 373)
- Currently have \$11,982
- Last year in July at this time, we had \$12,368
- Ended 2024 with \$9,688
- Expenses for awards, small stipend to newsletter editors, and reception is usually between \$2500 and \$3000. I think we can expect the same this year.
- In recent years, this expense has been offset by section allocation from ASA and small donation from Taylor & Francis for the special issue
- In 2025, this result in an income of \$2,284

II. Chair's report (Celeste)

1. Update on CITAMS Special Issue

This will be complete September/October. A new problem that arose was that last year's Career Award winner wanted to submit an empirical paper, rather than a commentary (which is what the winners have done for the past ~5 years). We need to discuss whether to allow this in the future.

- Good idea to recruit junior scholars to help with reviewing and editing
- In general, it's a slow process and should aim to make the process faster
- Should we have a policy for what the Career Award winner can submit?
- Consensus that we consider adding language that Career Award winner is invited to submit an essay or commentary

2. State of our X/Twitter account

This has not been updated since December. Other sections have moved to Bluesky. We need to discuss whether we should continue with X/Twitter and/or start a Bluesky account.

- General consensus to start a Bluesky account and make that the main channel
- Perhaps also copy content onto X
- What is the engagement with the X account? Could we get rid of it?
- Who takes on this role? Potentially newsletter editors? A new person?
- Increase stipend for newsletter editors or recruit a new person as social media role (the current stipend is \$300).
- Use ASA to launch the Bluesky account and sign up/follow people
- Pay someone to initially establish and hype the Bluesky account, then the maintenance of the account can be part of the Communication Committee's work

3. State of the "DEI Committee"

We have members conducting the survey of award and officer nominees to determine how well they represent the demographics of our section membership. We need to discuss whether we should continue the committee and, if so, what it should be called.

- Possibly rename committee "community something", e.g., "Community and Membership", "Community and Culture"

- Since the committee is in the bylaws, a name change would have to be a vote among members
- What are survey data used for?
- Could compare pool of nominees to the section's demographic composition and, if misaligned, target-recruit nominees from particular demographic groups to make it proportional
- Could add tasks to the DEI's mandate in the bylaws
- Mentorship program
- Collect survey data and report data
- Assist with recruiting nominees

4. Rethinking committee workload

We encountered two workload issues:

- a. Nomination committee chair: This person chairs two committees, Nominations and Public Sociology Award. They are the only person who chairs two committees. We need to discuss whether we want to redistribute workload. This discussion may also touch on last year's discussion about whether we should continue to offer a Career Award and Public Sociology Award each year. This year, we had a total of 4 nominees across the two awards.
 - General consensus to alternate awards across awards
 - Committees would consolidate and the new committee would just switch between Career and Public award
 - Also consider soliciting nominations for career award from council members, deliberating to generate names before the deadline, and have a nominations box at ASA sessions.
- b. Self-nominations for awards by council members: Every council member sits on an awards committee and some chair an award committee. We need to discuss what should happen when a council member on an award committee wants to self-nominate for the award, and whether this should be different when the council member is chairing the award committee.
 - Potentially use the non-chair members of nomination committee to fill in for people who want to self-nominate or when there are conflicts of interest

5. Changes to bylaws

Any changes resulting from discussion around c and d above require changes to the bylaws. We (this includes myself) have been punting on bylaw changes for years. If there are any changes to the bylaws that we want to make this year, we need to come up with a plan to support the Chair-elect (Dhiraj) in submitting them.

- The autumn is crunch time: Chair is doing the special issue of ICS *and* bylaws need to be submitted.
- Potentially enlist Secretary/Treasurer to help with writing bylaws

Awards

Career Award

Ya-Wen Lei, Harvard University

Public Sociology Award
Jan G. Voelkel, Cornell University

Best Book Award
Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, Franklin and Marshall College
In Defense of Solidarity and Pleasure: Feminist Technopolitics from the Global South, Stanford University Press

Best Paper Award
Co-winners

1. Arvind Karunakaran, "Frontline Professionals in the Wake of Social Media Scrutiny: Examining the Processes of Obscured Accountability", published in *Administrative Science Quarterly* 2024, 69(3), 747-790.
2. Benjamin Shestakofsky, "Cleaning Up Data Work: Negotiating Meaning, Morality, and Inequality in a Tech Startup", published in *Big Data & Society*, 2024, July-September: 1-14.

Best Student Paper Award
Co-winners

1. Tyler Leeds, "The influencer-intellectual tactic and social media advertisements: How PragerU advances partisan knowledge." in *New Media & Society*
2. Jun Zhou, "Unequally Human: How Socio-Emotional Skills Cannot Save Us From Automation"

2025 Finances

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

Actual expenditures were broadly in line with the 2024 budget. A few expenses came under budget (we budgeted \$2000 for the reception and spent \$1,834, \$174 for the website and listserv and spent \$96). We are still waiting to receive the bill for a few remaining expenses, but we expect we will end 2025 with \$9,502 which is approximately \$500 more than we anticipated in the 2024 budget.

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 continued to communicate via the listserv and newsletters to reach registered members. To enhance the visibility of our section and reach those who may not currently be registered members of our section, we continued to communicate via our webpage (www.citams.org). The webpage includes links to newsletters from the past year. By communicating beyond those who are currently registered, this will encourage outreach to those who are unable to be registered (e.g., due to finances) or who had never considered registering for our section.

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

Our goals is to broaden participation in the section and in receipt of awards. We continued to be mindful of the diversity of those appointed to adhoc positions. For example, each of the seven students and early career scholars who were mentioned above as being involved in editing the special issue identify with at least one minoritized identity. We also streamlined our award nominations process so that it occurred online to facilitate collection of background information and benchmark these against official ASA counts. For the later purpose we ran a voluntary online survey for nominees to indicate their demographic characteristics. Survey non-response makes it difficult to generalize regarding nominee demographics. We did find that nominees for the best student paper, best paper and book awards were overwhelming self-nominations. The best book and best article nominees who responded were also all tenured or tenure-track. We will consider approaches to educate members that award nomination is largely self-nomination in order to account for biases due to differential self-nomination. We will also make a special encouragement to scholars off the tenure track to submit their work.

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 initiatives this year included continuing to forge cross-over ties with other sections. In the spirit of this year's ASA theme, "Reimagining the Future of Work," we reached out to the section, Organizations, Occupations, and Work (OOW) to collaborate for this year's annual meeting. We co-sponsored a paper session titled, "Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace," which was co-organized by emerging scholars, Barbara Kiviat (representing CITAMS) and Simone Zhang (representing OOW). We also had a joint reception with OOW, and were joined by two other sections: Consumers and Consumption; Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society. These collaborations enhanced intellectual exchange and professional networking.

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.

We continued our partnership with Information, Communication and Society to guest edit a special issue showcasing papers presented at ASA and the Media Sociology Symposium. We provided mentorship opportunities to seven graduate students and early career scholars to edit the special issue. By having a team of students and early career scholars, this sped up review times so that our membership receives timely feedback on their submissions.