

**2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for
Decision-Making, Social Networks, 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.

Please see attached slides that were used at the Business Meeting. These slides contain the agenda and provide a record of what was discussed at the meeting.

Members in attendance:

Neha Gondal
Simone Zhang
Jennifer Nelson
Yoshimichi Sato
Ann Jiang
Chen Shuo Hong
Daniel Tadmon
Seo-Yeon Lim
Peng Huang
Masayuki Kanai
Diego Leal
Zhufan Li
Diana Sandoval Siman
Ema Bozega
Malte Gronemann
Megan Kang
Pamela Emanuelson
Laura Fursich
Byungkyu Lee
Fabien Accominotti
Daniel DellaPosta

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.

Section Council Meeting — Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Time: 7:00–8:00 AM (Central)

Location: Chicago (ASA Annual Meeting)

Attending: Daniel DellaPosta, Fabien Accominotti, Masayuki Kanai, BK Lee

Recorder: BK Lee (Treasurer)

1. Update on Section Membership

- **Membership growth:**
Section membership increased from **109 members (last year)** to approximately **230 members** this year, showing a sturdy upward trend following the section name change.
Some lag in awareness remains, likely due to the time it takes for the new name to diffuse.
- **ASA funding model:**
 - For sections with **≤200 members**: ASA provides a **minimum funding allocation**.
 - For sections with **>200 members**: Allocation **scales with membership**; each additional member increases the funding.
 - **Timing:** ASA calculates next year's allocation using membership counts **at the beginning of September**.
- **Section viability:**
ASA uses the annual report process to monitor sections. Based on current numbers and growth, there is **no concern about the section's survival**.

2. Review of Section Activities and Potential Additions

a. Mentorship Program

- Completed its **second year** with **7 mentor–mentee pairings**.
- One mentor is still pending confirmation.
- Additional mentors are welcome.

b. Engagement Opportunities

- Council welcomed ideas for **activities** to foster member involvement.

c. Potential Collaboration with ISA RC45 (Gianluca Manzo)

- RC45 experienced membership growth from **38 to 63** after renaming and introducing online programming.
- Proposal: Co-organize a **recurring online seminar series** (e.g., once per semester).

Possible formats include:

- Research paper presentation + Q&A
- Canonical paper discussion with senior author
- Multi-paper thematic panels (e.g., ASA Culture Section runs similar thematic events around current affairs).
- PhD candidate presentations

Considerations:

- Time zone coordination (Europe/US/Asia)
- Organizing effort
- Risk of low turnout

Some formats we consider:

- Talks by award winners or Job-practice flash talks in the fall
- Topical panels (possibly led by Past-Chair) in the spring

e. Coleman Award Clarification

- **Note:** Award eligibility may **not require section membership** — to be confirmed and stated clearly in the call.

Action Items:

- **Fabien:** Contact Gianluca Manzo to discuss seminar logistics (format, roles, time zones, cadence).
- **Council:** Review and vote by email on the pilot proposal once shared.

3. Review of Section Financials (BK Lee)

Overall, with continued growth in membership, the section is in a strong financial position.

Financial Overview

- **Starting balance (post-2024 ASA):** \$2,845.00
- **Income (base section allocation 2025):** +\$894.00
- **Total available before expenses:** **\$3,739.00**

Expenses in 2025

- **\$1,000.00** — Joint ASA reception (open-bar)
- **\$155.61** — Award plaque

Remaining Funds

- **Projected ending balance:** **\$2,583.39** (rounded to **\$2,583**)

4. Changes to ASA's Section Allocations for Future Annual Meetings

- **Program structure shift:** ASA will **discontinue "regular" sessions** in favor of **section-organized sessions** evaluated via a multi-part review process.
- **Time slots:**
 - Section has been granted **5 time slots** for 2026 (vs. ~2 historically; 3 programmed this year).
- **Implications:**
 - Greater responsibility in **program planning**

Increased need for **committee involvement**, possibly **3 award committees** going forward.

Awards

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

James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award

Co-Winners

Duxbury, Scott W. "Collaborating on the Carceral State: Political Elite Polarization and the Expansion of Federal Crime Legislation Networks, 1979 to 2005." *American Sociological Review* 89.4 (2024): 650-683.

Abstract: Lawmakers are routinely confronted by urgent social issues, yet they hold conflicting policy preferences, incentives, and goals that can undermine collaboration. How do lawmakers collaborate on solutions to urgent issues in the presence of conflicts? I argue that by building mutual trust, networks provide a mechanism to overcome the risks conflict imposes on policy collaboration. But, in doing so, network dependence constrains lawmakers' ability to react to the problems that motivate policy action beyond their immediate connections. I test this argument using machine learning and longitudinal analysis of federal crime legislation co-sponsorship networks between 1979 and 2005, a period of rising political elite polarization. Results show that elite polarization increased the effects of reciprocal action and prior collaboration on crime legislation co-sponsorships while suppressing the effect of violent crime rates. These relationships vary only marginally by political party and are pronounced for ratified criminal laws. The findings provide new insights to the role of collaboration networks in the historical development of the carceral state and elucidate how political actors pursue collective policy action on urgent issues in the presence of conflict.

Zhao, Linda. "From Superdiversity to Consolidation: Implications of Structural Intersectionality for Interethnic Friendships." *American Journal of Sociology* 128.4 (2023): 1114-1157.

Abstract: This study advances a theoretical framework of consolidation as a measure of structural intersectionality and applies it to study interethnic friendships in Western European classrooms. Results show far fewer interethnic friendships in more consolidated classrooms (in which students from different ethnic backgrounds also tend to differ in socioeconomic status). This implies that the salience of ethnic boundaries is contingent on the joint configuration of socioeconomic status and ethnicity within social contexts. As populations and social settings are increasingly characterized by multidimensional configurations of attributes that range from superdiversity to consolidation, scholars should analyze multiple axes of differentiation to understand the conditions under which intergroup boundaries are brighter.

Honorable Mention

Huang, Peng, and Carter T. Butts. "Rooted America: Immobility and Segregation of the Intercounty Migration Network." *American Sociological Review* 88.6 (2023): 1031-1065.

Abstract: Despite the popular narrative that the United States is a "land of mobility," the country may have become a "rooted America" after a decades-long decline in migration rates. This article interrogates the lingering question about the social forces that limit migration, with an empirical focus on internal migration in the United States. We propose a systemic, network model of migration flows, combining demographic, economic, political, and geographic factors and network dependence structures that reflect the internal dynamics of migration systems. Using valued temporal exponential-family random graph models, we model the network of intercounty migration flows from 2011 to 2015. Our analysis reveals a pattern of segmented immobility, where fewer people migrate between counties with dissimilar political contexts, levels of urbanization, and racial compositions. Probing our model using "knockout experiments" suggests one would have observed approximately 4.6 million (27 percent) more intercounty migrants each year were the segmented immobility mechanisms inoperative. This article offers a systemic view of internal migration and reveals the social and political cleavages that underlie geographic immobility in the United States.

Award committee: Robert Braun (chair), Cassie McMillan, and Simone Zhang.

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Kang, Megan. "Becoming a Shooter."

Abstract: While sociological research has extensively examined the social consequences of gun violence, the meaning of guns in the lives of those involved in violence and their social networks remains under-explored. Drawing on 18 months of fieldwork and 37 in-depth interviews with teenagers and young men in Chicago involved in illegal gun use, this study investigates how youth adopt the identity of a shooter and the barriers they face in shedding this label. In poor, urban neighborhoods where guns are widely available and gun violence is pervasive, the shooter identity is not only possible but often socially desirable. The erosion of gang control over firearm access and usage, coupled with the prominence of guns in local culture and social media, creates pathways for young people to arm themselves and cultivate a reputation as a shooter. An individual moves from picking up a gun to becoming a shooter through a series of rituals and public displays, transforming the behavior of gun carrying into a role embedded in social interactions. Once established, this label is hard to shed. Unlike other forms of delinquency, shooting has irreversible consequences, fueling long-term rivalries and cementing one's reputation on the physical and digital streets. Moreover, the dilemma of unilateral disarmament—in which putting down a gun does not guarantee one's adversaries have done the same—makes desistance from illegal gun carrying especially precarious. The guns that once represented status and protection often entrench young men in cycles of crime and marginality.

Award committee: Ashley Harrell (Chair), Peng Huang, and Ben Rosche.

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 originally budgeted \$850 for 2025, with an estimated \$600 for the section reception and \$250 for award plaques. The section's actual expenses for 2025 were \$989. Award plaques cost \$156, less than we had budgeted. However, expenses for the reception totaled \$833. This year, the section partnered with 3 other sections for a co-sponsored reception. To pay our fair share of the expenses, we had to allocate more funds than we had initially budgeted. However, the section will still end 2025 with \$2,750 in net assets because of prudent management in previous years.

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.

Section chair communicated monthly with members through email announcements, reporting on professional opportunities, journals and conferences, and other items relevant to members. We also published two section newsletters which can be viewed on the section web site: <https://sites.google.com/view/decisionmakingsocialnetworks/home>.

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

We have a very international section membership, which we worked to retain and strengthen. We sought to recruit diverse candidates for section elections and to put together award committees that reflected the diversity of the section's membership.

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 organized two paper sessions and one invited panel. All three of these sessions were extremely well-attended, even despite being held on the final day of the conference. The sessions featured scholars at diverse career stages and intellectual exchange across a wide array of topics. See below for descriptions of each session:

Big Problems, Middle-Range Theories (Paper Session)

This session seeks to highlight research that engages creatively with important contemporary social problems—climate change, political polarization, inequality, and racism, to name just a few possibilities. The session thus responds to multiple, prominent, recent calls to ground sociological theorizing in solving real social problems (Watts 2017; Prasad 2018). Consistent with these calls, we are particularly interested in work that (1) helps to resolve theoretical incoherencies by adopting a solution-oriented approach or (2) develops and tests middle-range theories in the context of specific social problems that have seen inadequate engagement by sociologists.

Networks, Inequality, and Social Integration (Paper Session)

We invite papers using social network analyses to explore the relationship between social inequality and group dynamics, broadly defined. These papers could focus, for example, on how social ties exacerbate or mitigate inequality between social or demographic groups, or how inequality shapes the structure or nature of networks within or between groups. We welcome papers that combine methodological sophistication or innovation with a strong focus on testing or extending existing theories, such as those on the relationship between networks, group inequality, and social integration.

Innovative Interventions (Invited Session)

This invited panel brings together scholars working at the cutting-edge of research studying experimental and other interventions and their effects on decision-making and social behavior.

Panelists: Maria Abascal (New York University), Austin van Loon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Lauren Valentino (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

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.

For a second year, the section organized a mentoring program that matched graduate students with senior mentors from the section membership. This program helps the section to serve its student members by providing them with valuable networking opportunities and access to professional guidance. We saw a healthy increase in participation in this year's mentoring program, with 7 mentor-mentee pairings.

DMSNS Business Meeting

ASA Annual Meeting 2025

Agenda

- Membership update
- Financial update
- Award winners
- 2025-2026 section leaders

Section Membership Trends

- Counts:
 - 2022** (last full year as Rationality and Society): 104
 - 2023**: 114
 - 2024**: 187
 - 2025** (as of 8/4/25): 230
- Why this matters:
 - ① Increased funding allocation from ASA (important to now maintain 200+ members)
 - ② More sessions at annual meeting

Graduate Student Paper Award

- **Award Committee:** Ashley Harrell (Chair), Peng Huang, Benjamin Rosche
- **Winner:** Megan Kang (Princeton), “Becoming a Shooter”



James S. Coleman Outstanding Article Award

- **Award Committee:** Robert Braun (Chair), Cassie McMillan, Simone Zhang
- **Honorable Mention:** Peng Huang (Georgia) and Carter T. Butts (UC-Irvine), “Rooted America: Immobility and Segregation of the Intercounty Migration Network.” *American Sociological Review* (2023)



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- **Co-Winner:** Scott W. Duxbury (UNC-Chapel Hill),
“Collaborating on the Carceral State: Political Elite Polarization and the Expansion of Federal Crime Legislation Networks, 1979 to 2005.”
American Sociological Review (2024)



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- **Award Committee:** Robert Braun (Chair), Cassie McMillan, Simone Zhang
- **Co-Winner:** Linda Zhao (UChicago), "From Superdiversity to Consolidation: Implications of Structural Intersectionality for Interethnic Friendships." *American Journal of Sociology* (2023)



2025-2026 Section Leaders

- **Chair:** Fabien Accominotti
- **Chair-Elect:** Carly Knight
- **Past Chair:** Dan DellaPosta
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** BK Lee
- **Council Members:** Ashley Harrell, Diego Leal
- **Student Representative:** Siying Fu