

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Drugs 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 portion of the report is shared publicly.

I. Section Governance

Details of section governance activity during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

IA. Business Meeting Agenda

ASA Drugs and Society Annual Business Meeting
8/12/25, 11-1130am, Chicago, IL

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Drugs and Society 2025 Section Awards

Senior Scholar Award:

Richard Miech, Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, ramiech@umich.edu

The Committee had three fantastic and truly deserving nominees for the award this year. Among that talented pool, one especially stood out: Dr. Richard Miech. Richard is a long-time member of our Section and has had a remarkable career. He is current PI for perhaps the most important study of substance use among adolescents and young adults, and one with which we are familiar, the *Monitoring the Future* study. He has published extensively in top tier Sociology journals, in every journal a sociologist studying drugs and society should want to publish in, and in top tier medical and public health journals. The practical and academic impact of his work is broad, indicated among other things by a citation count of over 26,000. Richard is an outstanding scientist, and the type of scholar that young scholars in Sociology and especially our Section should strive to be.

Distinguished Scholarly Paper Award:

Chiarello, Elizabeth. 2023. "Trojan Horse Technologies: Smuggling Criminal-Legal Logics into Healthcare Practice." *American Sociological Review* 88(6):1131-1160.

This theoretically, methodologically and empirically rich paper drew on over 118 interviews spanning 11 years to chronicle the expansion of criminal-legal logics of surveillance and enforcement into the provision of pharmaceutical care. It reminded the committee of Howard Becker's "Art Worlds" in its use of an occupational entry point to understand a broader, multidimensional sociological phenomenon of immediate relevance to the contemporary, intractable and ongoing crisis around substance use in North America. An immensely readable contribution, Chiarello's benchmark article is highly deserving of this year's award.

Graduate Student Paper Award:

Sydney Sauer, 2024. "Public Stigma against Fentanyl Overdose Decedents in the United States: A Conjoint Vignette Experiment." *Social Science and Medicine* 350: 116937.

Sydney Sauer presented this paper on a Drugs and Society panel at the ASA meeting in 2023. She said in her self-nomination letter that the paper “benefited tremendously from attendees' feedback.” Her paper has now been published in *Social Science & Medicine*, which prompted one committee member to note: “it certainly is more than a good graduate level paper.” Sauer’s work provides a methodologically robust exploration of stigmatization towards people who use drugs by employing a conjoint vignette experiment to examine blameworthiness in constructed overdose obituaries. While previous work over the past 20 years has demonstrated race, class, gender, and age as informative of stigmatization, Sauer further contextualizes how blameworthiness is attributed to fentanyl overdose deaths. These findings further highlight how stigma influences support for public health interventions, indicating that those viewed as more blameworthy are also deemed less deserving of support and care. The robust nature of the experimental design, supplemented by qualitative responses, bolsters the contributions this article makes to the field of Drugs and Society.

Honorable Mention for Distinguished Scholarly Paper Award:

Vuolo, Michael, Brian C. Kelly, Maria Orsini, and Joy Kadowaki. 2024. “The Framing of Minority Threat and Moralization to Criminalize Behavior: The Case of Cannabis in the Early 20th Century.” *Social Problems*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spae032>.

Honorable Mention for Graduate Student Paper Award:

Anne K Johnson, "Drunk Hunters: Constituting Logics of Law Enforcement Phlebotomy."

Give the small number of submissions received this year for the Junior Scholar Award, no selection was made. We encourage people to submit next year. In fact, we invite all members to consider submitting their work for consideration for recognition by one or more of our section awards.

Congratulations to the honorees. Thanks to all those who submitted for consideration. Thank you to the section members who served on the award committees: Miriam Boeri, Scott Duxbury, Brian Kelly, Andrew London, Logan Neitzke-Spruill, Megan O-Neill, Wilson Palacios, Bill Pridemore, Lindsey Richardson, Chelsea Starr, Joshua Stout, Gary Wu.

3) Recruit volunteers for 2026 awards committees

Senior Scholar Award

Junior Scholar Award

Distinguished Scholarly Paper Award

Graduate Student Paper Award

4) Treasurer’s Drugs & Society Budget Report, August 2025

I. Summary: The most recent financial statement attached below does not reflect our expenses to date. Upcoming expenses that will be posted include \$233 for Awards and \$1,369. Our allocated budget has historically been \$1,000 for the reception and \$400 for section awards, indicating an overage in 2025. Following section trends, our income from dues will increase slightly by year’s end. Our current budgeting model appears to be unsustainable (see trends below). The section’s current balance is \$4,108 after including our upcoming expenses.

II. Recommendations: Our most significant expense is our reception. The past two years have presented some unique circumstances that have contributed to increased costs. During the 2024 conference in Montreal, our section elected to hold our reception on-site through ASA, doubling our reception cost. For this year’s reception, we had hoped to coordinate with the Drinking and Drugs Division of SSSP,

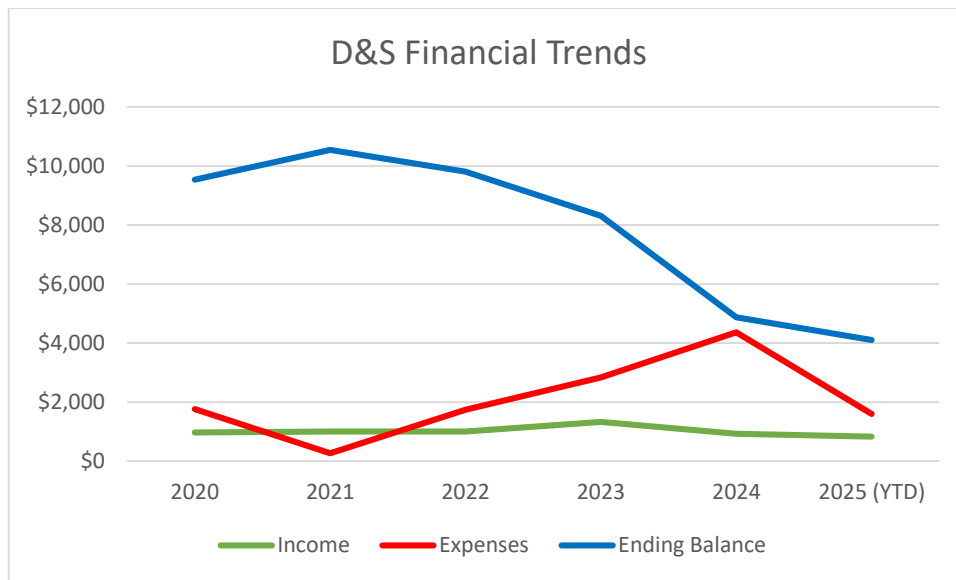
initially receiving interest and support, but no subsequent communication after the venue was secured. Ideally, this would have reduced our expenses to below the budgeted amount. Moving forward, I propose three potential solutions:

- **Reallocation of Budget:** Our average section income over the past 6 years has been \$1,011, while our average expenses have been \$2,094. While we have had the funds in our reserves to cover these expenses, our current spending is unsustainable. At present, we allocate \$1,000 for the reception and \$400 for awards. On average, we spend \$280 on awards and \$1,817 on the reception. For 2026, I propose \$300 allocated for awards and \$700 for the reception.
- **Cosponsored Reception:** While we have historically cosponsored our reception with SSSP, the past two years have indicated that we cannot necessarily rely on contributions from the Drinking and Drugs Division. Additionally, SSSP’s financial trajectory has resulted in significant structural changes to the organization this past year. Rather than seeking to cosponsor with SSSP alone, our section may benefit from seeking to cosponsor with other sections in ASA in addition to SSSP.
- **Alternating Reception Years:** We could potentially alternate which years we hold a reception. If we implement this and forego a reception in 2026 (New York) and have one in 2027 (Chicago), this timing will align with the virtual conference in 2028.

III. YTD June Financial Statement

	Year To Date	Acct #
INCOME & EXPENSE		
Income		
Dues Income	\$79	37200
Section Budget Allocation	755	37250
Total Income	834	
Expenses	_____	
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$834	
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets - Beginning Balance	\$4,876	
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	834	
Net Assets - Ending Balance	\$5,710	

IV. Financial Trends



5) Section leadership

Thank you to our outgoing leaders for their service:

- Andrew London, Past Chair
- Rickey Bluthenthal, Council member
- Elizabeth Sweeney, Student representative

Welcome to our new slate of leaders:

Chair (1-year term begins in 2025). Organizes awards and submits annual report.	Suzan Walters, New York University Langone	suzanmwalters@gmail.com
Chair-Elect (1-year term begins in 2025). Organizes conference sessions.	Robert Peralta, University of Akron	rp32@uakron.edu
Past Chair (1-year term begins in 2025). Organizes elections.	Tanya Nieri, University of CA Riverside	tanyan@ucr.edu
Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term begins in 2025)	Joshua Stout, Illinois State University	jhstout@ilstu.edu
Council Member (2-year term begins in 2025)	Dana Haynie, The Ohio State University	haynie.7@osu.edu
Council Member (2-year term began in 2024)	Guangzhen Wu, University of Utah	guangzhen.wu@soc.utah.edu
Student Representative (1-year term begins in 2025)	Joshua Grove, Syracuse University	jggrove@syr.edu

6) Elections – needed: volunteers for office to serve starting 9/2026

- Chair-Elect
- Council Member
- Student Representative

Note: In an effort to diversify leadership and open up opportunities for more members to take on leadership opportunities in ASA, the ASA Council has approved new policies regarding the eligibility of

elected Section and Community leaders. The following policies take effect September 1, 2025, and those currently serving in concurrent positions will be allowed to complete their elected term so as to not create vacancies in Section leadership.

- ASA Council members may not concurrently serve nor be a candidate for any elected Section or Community position.
- Members may only serve in one Section or Community elected position at a time.
- Members may only appear on the ballot for one position across all ASA-wide, Section, or Community elections.
- Members may not concurrently serve on the ASA Publications Committee and any elected position of a Section with a section journal.

7) Professional development

We had an event planned for this conference – how to navigate the academy as a drug scholar – but the presenter – section member and past Chair Lindsey Richardson -- had to cancel her conference attendance in accordance with recommendations from her government (Canada) due to current US national policy.

We investigated events to support students' professional development and networking, but unfortunately the events did not materialize.

To encourage networking, the section chair included a Meet a Member feature in her biweekly email newsletter. Section members, reflecting diversity in terms of sector (academic/industry), institution, rank, and demographics, shared their professional profiles.

At the request of section members, we worked hard to plan a joint reception with SSSP Drinking and Drugs Section. However, we were unable to secure a commitment from SSSP in time; thus, a joint reception was not feasible for 2025. Given the ongoing interest in a joint reception among members, the section should try again next year to plan a joint reception. Consideration should be given to the fact the ASA recommends (though it does not require) a specific date for the section reception and that date may be after the end of the SSSP conference. Thus, a joint reception may require an earlier date, one that does not overlap with section sessions at ASA. So either way, members of one of the organizations may not be in attendance at their respective conference and in turn, miss the joint reception.

8) Membership report

As of 8/4/25: 118 members

2024: 199

34 of our members were also members of Crime, Law, and Deviance

13 were also a member of Aging and the Life Course

2023: 122

2022: 128

The section chair 1) emailed all people in the 2024 ASA conference program who presented on drug-related topics to invite them to join the section, and 2) regularly emailed the section membership info on how to recruit members and give gift memberships.

9) 2026 Conference

ASA changed its method for allocating sessions to sections. New features:

- Give every section that only had one programming slot, an automatic second slot. This is meant to recognize and support smaller membership sections.
- Reserve an inventory of slots (30) for sections to propose co-sponsored sessions with one or more other sections. This is meant to foster collaboration between sections and not necessitate that one of the sections use one of their allotted slots. Right now, if a section wants to co-sponsor a session, one of the sections must use one of their slots.
- Divided the remaining slots amongst sections based on the frequency of regular session topics that were mapped to that section. Sections will receive between 1 and 5 additional slots based on this mapping.

This new formula will result in the program looking a little different. With additional slots, section programming will now bleed into multiple days. The “Section Day” rotation will continue and the section day will be considered the day upon which the section’s business meeting is scheduled.

The ESTIMATED allotment for the Section on Drugs and Society for 2026 is 5 slots.

- 10) Vote on whether to pursue bylaw amendment to change council service dates to September 1 (start) and August 31 (end) to align with the dates for ASA-wide committees and prevent uneven service terms when dates align with ASA conference.

For ASA

1. Drugs and Society Section
2. Tanya Nieri, Past Chair, tanyan@ucr.edu
3. Our section wishes to amend its bylaws to change council service dates to September 1 (start) and August 31 (end).
4. The current text of the bylaws:
III. ELECTIONS AND VOTING: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected officers and Council members shall assume office on the day following the annual business meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting.
5. The proposed text changes: additions in red and deletions in strikethrough:
III. ELECTIONS AND VOTING: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected officers and Council members shall assume office on September 1, and terms will end on August 31~~the day following the annual business meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting.~~
6. Rationale: We wish to amend our bylaws to change our council service dates to align them with the dates for ASA-wide committees and prevent uneven terms of service.
7. Plans if the amendment is approved by the Section member vote:
 - a. date the amendment will take effect: September 1, 2025
 - b. Notify all section leaders of the new dates of service.

- 11) TRAILS invites ASA Sections to curate resource collections and submit teaching resources related to their section focus. TRAILS, ASA’s peer-reviewed online teaching resource library is a hub for innovative pedagogy and scholarly teaching in sociology. We invite ASA Sections to elevate their impact by recommending curated collections of existing resources and encouraging members to contribute new submissions. By sharing your expertise, you help expand high-quality, citable teaching materials in your area of expertise – supporting educators at all levels and advancing

the discipline. Section leaders interested in submitting a resource collection should email TRAILS Editor Stephanie Medley-Rath at trails@asanet.org.

- Subject Line: Use the title “[Section Name] Resource Collection Submission” (e.g., “Medical Sociology Resource Collection Submission”).
 - Include a title and brief description of the collection and full citations and links to each TRAILS resource you would like to include.
- All submissions will be reviewed in collaboration with the TRAILS editor. To view examples of existing collections, visit <https://trails.asanet.org/issue/archive>.

The section membership should express interest to the Chair.

12) Other items?

IB. Business Meeting Minutes

ASA Drugs and Society
Business Meeting – Aug. 12, 2025
Minutes (taken by J. Stout)

Number of members present: 15

- Honored award recipients & welcome new council members
- Award committees: The following section members volunteered:
 - Jr Scholar Award
 - Logan Neitzke-Spruill
 - Brian Kelly
 - Sr Scholar Award
 - Alice Cepeda
 - DSPA
 - Margaret Kelley
 - Megan O’Neil
 - GSPA
 - Joshua Stout
- Budget
 - Discussed report with members – all present were on board with limiting budget for next reception
- Membership
 - Slight decline
- 2026 Conference
 - Increase in section allocation – TBD, but potentially business mtg + 4
 - Discussed potential sessions
 - Overlap with med/tech folks potentially
 - Potential sections on impacts of Executive Orders on SUD policy and funding
 - Maybe panel on NSDUH work, and the recent cuts/data
 - Experimental methods as potential session to co-org with health
 - Tourism, hospitality, leisure as potential collab?
- Voted bylaws – unanimous

- Tanya Nieri – motion; Megan Kelley – second. Nieri will submit to ASA for next steps.
- TRAILS
 - Discussed who would be interest in contributing to updating materials
- Margaret Kelley – Deviance Today Collection of Readings
 - Solicited chapter contributions focused on Drugs and Society
 - Jan 16th deadline
- Election Nominees
 - Council – Kate Jaffe
 - Student
 - Chair Elect

IC. Council Meeting Agenda

ASA Drugs and Society
Council Meeting – Aug. 12, 2025
Agenda

- 1) proposed bylaw change
- 2) changes in session allocation
- 3) elections
- 4) TRAILS
- 5) budget
- 6) other items?

ID. Council Meeting Minutes

ASA Drugs and Society
Council Meeting – Aug. 12, 2025
Minutes (taken by J. Stout)

Number of members present: 4: T. Nieri, R. Peralta, J. Stout, A. London

- Bylaws
 - Discussed change term end for positions to Sept. 1
 - Agreed to hold vote during business meeting
- Change in session allocation
 - ASA alerted us that we will get an additional slot not tied to membership
 - Estimated allotment is 5 slots
 - Includes business meeting
- Elections - Upcoming
 - 1 Councilmember
 - 1 Student member
 - 1 incoming chair
- TRAILS
 - Discussed possibility doing a new one on D/S – hasn't been updated since 2010
- Proposed having student define role for student members
- Budget
 - Proposed setting budget to \$1,000 (see report)

II. Awards

Senior Scholar Award: Richard Miech, Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, ramiech@umich.edu

Distinguished Scholarly Paper Award: Chiarello, Elizabeth. 2023. "Trojan Horse Technologies: Smuggling Criminal-Legal Logics into Healthcare Practice." *American Sociological Review* 88(6):1131-1160.

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Honorable Mention for Graduate Student Paper Award: Anne K Johnson, "Drunk Hunters: Constituting Logics of Law Enforcement Phlebotomy."

Give the small number of submissions received this year for the Junior Scholar Award, no selection was made.

III. 2025 Finances

See the table below.

American Sociological Assn
Section on Drugs and Society (30)
For the Period Ended Sunday, August 31, 2025

INCOME & EXPENSE	Year To Date	Acct #
Income		
Dues Income	\$107	37200
Section Budget Allocation	755	37250
Total Income	<u>862</u>	
Expenses		
Annual Meeting Reception Expens...	1,368	37300
Award Expenses	233	37360
Total Expenses	<u>1,601</u>	
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	<u><u>(\$739)</u></u>	
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets - Beginning Balance	\$4,876	
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	<u>(739)</u>	
Net Assets - Ending Balance	<u><u>\$4,137</u></u>	

IV. The Previous Year

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

IVA. Section communications with members.

The section chair sent to the section listserv an e-newsletter every two weeks. The e-newsletter contained announcement of events, grants, member publications, job announcements (consisted with the ASA policy), member news (e.g., promotions), ASA news, and other opportunities. In addition, it contained a MEET A MEMBER section containing a profile of a section member. The chair invited members to share their profiles in order to allow members to get to know each other and to highlight the work of section members. When inviting members to contribute a profile, the chair was conscious about the sections diverse membership and made efforts to ensure diversity (in rank, race-ethnicity, job type, gender, etc.) in the profiles. Several members reach out the chair over the year and remarked about how meaningful they found the MEET A MEMBER section of the e-newsletter. Around the times of the ASA election, ASA awards, and ASA conference, the chair included in the e-newsletter information about how

to participate and encouraged participation. In each e-newsletter, the chair encouraged members to share information and raise any issues and also expressed general support for members. The e-newsletter format provided regular contact with members and was open to contributions from all members. As needed, the chair sent also emails to the listserv of members to conduct section business.

IVB. Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The sections e-newsletter included a MEET A MEMBER section that highlighted the diversity of our membership.

Our 2025 election slate was diverse, ensuring that section leadership is diverse.

We actively included our student representative in council discourse. The chair and a former chair met several times with the student representative to support her effort to organize one or more professional development events/activities for students. However, in the end, the effort did not produce an event/activity. It is recommended that the Council explore additional ways to support the student representative and their effort to organize events/activities for student members – e.g., perhaps by convening a committee of students.

At our annual reception during the ASA conference, the chair actively made an effort to meet all attendees, introduce people to each other, and encourage inclusion of each person into the tables/groups/conversations at the event.

IVC. programming at the annual meeting.

Section events at the 2025 ASA CONFERENCE:

- 1) Table at the Section and Community Open House
- 2) Section Reception. We hosted a reception during the ASA conference that was off-site and provided free food to participants. The reception provided a casual and intimate setting in which to facilitate celebration of achievements (section awards, conference presentations, member scholarship) and networking among attendees. Attendees included diverse people across ranks and job types.
- 3) Section on Drugs and Society Council Meeting
- 4) Section on Drugs and Society Business Meeting

At this meeting we recruited people for various committees which allowed for the inclusion of new people into the section's activities.

5) We had three research sessions:

- a) Community Responses to Drug Use: Grassroots Movements, Mutual Aid, and Harm Reduction.
- b) Rethinking Policing and Drug Policy: Power, Surveillance, and Social Justice.
- c) Drugs, Society, and Health: Sociological Perspectives on Substance Use.

These sessions facilitated intellectual exchange and professional networking. The Q & A section of these sections allowed for the inclusion of contributions from attendees.

6) Reception of complementary section of SSSP: Drinking and Drugs division. We encouraged our members to attend this reception, as it featured a celebration of the retirement of A. Valdez, also a Drugs and Society section member.

Overall, these events provided ample opportunity for our members to share their work, learn about other members' work, meet each other, collaborate on section activity, and feel included in the section.

IVD. programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting

As indicated in section IA, we had planned a professional development event that would have occurred during the ASA conference – how to navigate the academy as a drug scholar – but the presenter – section member and past Chair Lindsey Richardson -- had to cancel her conference attendance in accordance with recommendations from her country's government (Canada) due to current US policy.

Also as indicated in section IA, we investigated and tried to support the organization of events to promote students' professional development and networking, but unfortunately, the student organizer was unable to realize the events.