

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Methodology Section

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 Business Meeting took place on August 10, 2025.

E Leahey presided.

The meeting included:

1. **The Duncan Lecture**, which was given by recipient Stephen Raudenbush, and which was followed by a lively Q&A discussion.
2. **Section Updates**, presented by E Leahey, and featuring brief updates regarding the section's budget, membership, and events.
3. **Awards**, presented by E Leahey.

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.

Council met on October 1, 2025, via Zoom.

In attendance were: L Quillian, C Abramson, W An, D Karell, E Leahey, X Xu, and A Yu

The meeting included discussion of:

1. **Award Committees for 2026**
 - a. A council member will be responsible for chairing each committee or finding an alternative section member to chair the committee.

- b. Committee chairs will be responsible for recruiting committee members, with the section chair providing support as needed.
 - c. Award nominations are due by March 1st and must be decided by June 1st to allow for inclusion in the printed awards program.
2. **Annual Meeting Sessions for 2026**
- a. The section will have six section sessions
 - b. One session will be used for the Business Meeting and Duncan Lecture
 - c. One session will be, according to ASA rules, an “Open Topics” session
 - d. Topics and organizers were discussed, and some were adopted based on the discussion. The section chair asked council members to propose topics and organizers for the remaining sessions, and to send suggestions by October 15th
 - e. The council supported a joint session with mathematical sociology on Advances in Computational Methods. The section chair will contact the mathematical sociology session to ask the joint session.
3. **Elections**
- a. The Nominations Committee will be chaired by Ian Lundberg, who will also serve as election coordinator
 - b. For the 2026 election, the section will need two candidates for Secretary/Treasurer, four candidates for council seats, and two candidates for student representative. Candidates should not hold other ASA elected section or association-wide offices or be candidates on the ballots for any of these positions
 - c. The chair encouraged council members to submit names to the Nominations Committee for consideration before the December 1st deadlines

Awards

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

PAUL F. LAZARSFELD AWARD, recognizing a career of outstanding contributions to sociological methodology.

Kazuo Yamaguchi - Ralph Lewis Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago

INNOVATION AWARD, recognizing a discovery, innovation, or advancement representing a significant contribution to sociological methodology.

Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS)

LEO GOODMAN AWARD, recognizing contributions to sociological methodology or innovative uses of sociological methodology made by a scholar who is no more than 15 years past the date of the Ph.D.

David Melamed, Professor of Sociology at The Ohio State University

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION AWARD (book year, co-winners)

Regression Inside Out, by Eric W. Schoon, David Melamed, and Ronald Breiger (Cambridge University Press)

Text as Data, by Justin Grimmer, Margaret E. Roberts, and Brandon M. Stewart (Princeton University Press)

CLIFFORD C. CLOGG AWARD, recognizing an outstanding graduate student paper in sociological methodology.

Clem Aeppli, Harvard University

2025 Finances

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

Primary expenses for 2025 included: 1) the section reception, which was held at the ASA Annual Meeting in Chicago, and was coordinated jointly with four other sections, and 2) plaques for award winners. Total expenses amounted to \$2,378 and total income amounted to \$ 2,052 .

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.

Over the past year, the Section primarily communicated with members through the section's email newsletter, which provides periodic announcements and updates.

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

At the 2024 Council meeting, Council members discussed strategies for increasing the pool of nominees for section awards and elections, with an eye toward greater diversity in the pool. Council revisited this discussion during the 2025 Council meeting to prepare for the 2026 award and elections

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).

During the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, the section held three sessions:

1. Duncan Lecture (Stephen Raudenbush)
2. Machine Learning and Classical Statistical Approaches: Trade-offs, Integration, and Debate (co-sponsored with the Section on Mathematical Sociology)
3. New Insights from Multiple Methods and Measures

During the Annual Meeting, the section also co-hosted an off-site reception. This reception was sponsored jointly with the Section on Sociology of Emotions, Section on Social Psychology, Section on Mathematical Sociology, and Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity.

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.

The section council met in January 2025 to discuss:

1. Section officer nominations
2. Award nominations

3. Possibilities for the Duncan Lecturer

4. Midyear Meeting plans

The section held a Midyear Meeting in May 2025 at the University of Pennsylvania. The conference featured sessions discussing cutting-edge developments in sociological methods and also fostered dialogue, collaboration, and networking among section members and other conference attendees.