

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Peace, War, and Social Conflict

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

Business Meeting (August 12, 2025)

The following is an overview of business conducted at the Business Meeting. Approximately 30 people in attendance.

1. Welcome to all and gratitude to previous members of PWSC leadership:

Previous Chair: Selina Gallo-Cruz

Communications and public face of PWSC: Anjuli Fahlburg & Sehzrat Mart

2. Thanks to incoming and continuing members of PWSC leadership:

Section Secretary/Treasurer: Jeffery Patterson, Texas Tech University

Council or some other duty: Stephanie Bonnes, University of New Haven; Lea David, University College Dublin; Andrew Davis, North Carolina State University; Anjuli Fahlberg, Tufts University; Nicole Fox, California State University, Sacramento; Jon Gordon, Appalachian State University; Anneliese Schenk-Day, Ohio State University (Student Representative)

Incoming people: Chandra Russo, Colgate University (Chair-Elect); Sharon M. Quinsaas, Grinnell College (Council Member); Rodney Coates, Miami University of Ohio (Council Member); Karrie Gaspard-Hogewood, Tulane University ((Council Member, Student Representative)

Communications Team Director: Andrea Román Alfaro, Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of New Mexico.

Virtual Coffee Hour Organizer: Defne Over, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M University

Newsletter Editor: Virginia Parker, PhD student at Texas Tech

3. Conference events celebration. Our section organized the following:

An open session panel (5 papers)

Four roundtables (13 participants)

Invited panel celebrating Michael Burawoy

Additionally:

Open House, Sunday 14:00

Reception with other sections, Monday 18:00

4. Request for volunteers

5. Budget report
6. Awards
7. Announcement of date & time of first Council meeting
8. Brief discussion of Miniconference in NYC 2026

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.

09/06/2024: Council Meeting

Attendance: Selina Gallo-Cruz, Stephanie Bonnes, Lea David, Anjuli Fahlberg, Jon Gordon, Jeff Hass, Anneliese Schenk, Jeff Patterson

AGENDA:

Introductions/Check-ins

Due dates, year at a glance

Committees: Names from sign-ups/email volunteers; Volunteers; Suggestions; Feedback from former student liaison/clarification of grad student liaison role

Membership

Virtual Coffee Talks: Suggested topics + partnerships

2025 Panel

2025 Reception/partnership

Diversity Committee

09/27/2024: Approval of committees list

12/09/2024

Attendance: Selina Gallo-Cruz, Lea David, Andrew Davis, Jon Gordon, Jeff Hass, Sehzrat Mart, Anneliese Schenk, Jeff Patterson

AGENDA:

Communications: requests for information on events, Virtual Coffee Hour participants, survey over crisis concerns

Annual report: discussion of past report and process for future reports

Committees updates

Discussion of bylaws changes

Diversity ad hoc committee applications

Discussion of ASA annual meeting PWSC panels/roundtables 2025

Awards

Robin M. Williams Jr. Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching and Service:

David Meyer

David has provided years of invaluable mentorship to younger scholars, as attested in letters of support—he has a history of nurturing intellectual curiosity and inspired inspiring younger scholars towards discipline and excellence. David has shown tireless dedication to supporting newer scholars and colleagues and has courageously served as an advocate for social justice within academia.

His peers celebrate his decades-long contributions to the field, from early work on the nuclear freeze movement, through a commitment to making movements scholarship applicable for social change. His theoretical work has reshaped and deeply informed the ways we now think about and study organizing, and they count the many, many insights you have offered in your writing and in your endless participation in scholarly development and dialogue.

Finally, his service to the discipline has been described as truly exceptional. He stands out among our longstanding section members, many of whom noted how he carried the section through several decades, served in numerous meaningful positions, and was a constant in many other intellectual spaces where we come together to think about and understand how social movements, conflict, peace and war evolve.

Outstanding Book Award (Sinisa Malesevic, Leslie MacColman, and Jon Gordon): Ana Villareal Montemayor. *The Two Faces of Fear: Violence and Inequality in the Mexican Metropolis*. Oxford University Press.

The Award Committee agreed that your book provides a model of theoretically innovative, methodologically sound, empirically rich, and well written scholarship that makes important contributions to the study of peace, war, and social conflict. The analysis expertly highlights the logistics of fear as a powerful lens for illuminating the processes by which people recreate aspects of social life that crime researchers typically characterize as having been destroyed by the threat of violence. Yet, in showing how these processes both reveal and further entrench pre-existing social inequalities, your book demonstrates that crime researchers stand to gain analytic leverage when they enlarge fear as an object of inquiry beyond fear of violent victimization. This is merely one example of what the Award Committee considers to be the strongest contribution of your book: it firmly situates the substantive concerns of the ASA Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict within the center of the discipline.

Honorable Mention: Lea David. *A Victim's Shoe, a Broken Watch, and Marbles: Desire Objects and Human Rights*. Columbia University Press.

The Award Committee agreed that your book makes a significant contribution to the study of peace, war, and social conflict by offering an artful and innovative analysis of "desire objects" and the processes of re-signification they undergo through patterned trajectories across space, time, and social settings. Your book advances a compelling narrative about the ideological struggles embodied in these seemingly mundane objects, underscoring the malleability of remembrance and the tensions between nationalist and human rights framing--issues of theoretical importance and practical relevance for contemporary scholarship. It is worth noting that all of the finalists were very strong, but the members of the Award Committee were particularly impressed with how novel your book is, in terms of the questions you pose, the methods you employ, and the breadth of sociological insights you knit together to develop your central argument.

Elise Boulding Best Graduate Student Paper Award (Andrew Davis, Abdul "Adeel" Basit, Anneliese Schenk-Day, Gilad Wenig): Natalia Duarte-Mayorga, University of Pittsburgh, "A Revolution Reversed? Continuity and Change in Gender Orders After War."

This groundbreaking study follows former FARC combatants in Colombia from war into peacetime, bridging household and organizational spheres to reveal how gender orders shift — and persist — in ways our field has rarely captured. It advances PWSC’s mission by offering a rare, mechanism-based account of postwar gender transformation grounded in rich ethnographic and interview data.

Honorable Mention: Matthew Blanton, University of Texas, Austin, "A Legacy of Displacement: Latent Historical Pathways of Guatemalan Migration."

This innovative study challenges the dominant view that Guatemala’s migration is driven by contemporary violence, showing instead how mass displacement during the country’s civil war created self-reinforcing migration patterns that persist generations later. By bridging historical sociology, criminology, and migration studies, it advances PWSC’s commitment to understanding the long reach of violence through rigorous, multi-method research.

Outstanding Published Article Award (Lea David, Jeff Hass, Gordon Chang): Hyangseon Ahn and Kwai Hang Ng, “Performing the Meanings of Money in the Trials of War Orphans Against Japan” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.

Published in the *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, this highly innovative paper explores institutional solutions and the complex dilemmas involved in postwar reparations, addressing a topic that has been largely overlooked in existing scholarship. The authors offer a compelling analysis of the symbolic and cultural dimensions of justice and compensation, making a significant contribution to the field.

Honorable Mention: Nicole Fox and Hollie Nyseth Nzitatira, “Political Invisibility: Rescue Acts by Mothers during the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda” Published in *Social Problems*, this powerful study brings crucial attention to the roles of gender and motherhood during the Rwandan genocide. By foregrounding acts of rescue by women—often rendered politically invisible—it provides an important and moving contribution to both genocide studies and feminist scholarship.

2025 Finances

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

Overall, PWSC’s actual expenses were under budget. For 2025, we had budgeted \$1,500 for reception expenses, but due to splitting costs with other sections, only spent \$922 as our share of costs. Additionally, we had budgeted \$300 for award plaques but only spent \$192.42 on plaques and shipping. With a 2024 income of \$1,495 (as of December 2024), this provides us with a net increase in our balance of \$380.58.

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.

Anjuli Fahlberg and Sehzat Mart of the Communications Committee ran regular communications exercises with members. The two major forms of communications were

announcements via the PWSC listserv and a newsletter four times per year. The listserv provided up-to-date information on topics and events important to our members: upcoming Virtual Coffee Hour talks; recent publications by Section members; job openings; opportunities to submit work (e.g. special editions of journals); grant opportunities; and other public events (e.g. public lectures). The newsletter also provided information on members' accomplishments, upcoming PWSC events and activities, and similar news we believe is of interest to member and important for their careers. A website and blog used in the past was suspended this year, with plans for a replacement web site in 2025-2026.

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

Our Section constantly strives to maintain and expand an intellectual community for scholars and students from a wide range of scholarly, social, and personal backgrounds, who can share interests in various themes and facets related to peace, war, and conflict. Our diversity ranges across a host of backgrounds: nationality, country of origin or work, and other dimensions of identity; theories, cases, and methods for scholarship; and topics for teaching. Diversity can sometimes spark intense debates, but these are always in the spirit of community and learning. We used our ASA panels and Virtual Coffee Hours to encourage minority scholars or those who study under-represented regions and topics to bring their work to public attention.

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).

Contributor to Joint Reception (August 11, 2025)

This provided a chance for graduate students and professors to interact, create working networks, and engage in mentoring.

PWSC ran two panels and a roundtable:

Open Session on Issues in Peace, War and Social Conflict (August 12, 2025)

"A Pending Revolution: Continuity and Change in Gender Orders After War in Colombia" (Natalia Duarte-Mayorga, University of Pittsburgh)

"Servicewomen's Response to the Essentialist Gendered Practices of the U.S. Military" (Stephanie Bonnes, University of New Haven)

"Somatic Pathways to Violence: Community, Family, and the State as Violent Socialization Institutions" (Ana Velitchkova, University of Mississippi)

"Talk of Guilt: German Perceptions of Collective Guilt and Responsibility Following WWII" (Ori Gilboa, University of Toronto; Ron Levi, University of Toronto)

"Violence as a Catalyst for Voice: When and Why War Breeds Mobilization" (Evgenia Jane Kitaevich, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor)

Section on Peace, War, and Social Conflict Roundtables (August 12, 2025)

"A Unique Sociology of Knowledge: Sorokin and the New Physics in the Contemporary Age" (James Michael Botts, Central State University)

"Pondering Violence and Galtung's Triangle" (Lester R. Kurtz, George Mason University)

“The Neglect of Spatiality in Studying Critical Events: Territorial Related Attributes of Contention Following Bloody Sunday” (Eitan Y. Alimi, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

“War and Peace: Theoretical Perspectives on the Arab-Israeli Conflict in Historical Palestine” (Madalla Alibeli, United Arab Emirates University)

“Can the Female Rape Survivor of the Sri Lankan Civil War Speak?” (Chamanka Gamage, SUNY-Albany)

“Combatting a Culture of Violence: Serbian Feminist Memory Activism” (Nikoleta Sremac, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities)

“Framing Narratives about the Middle East in the Presidential Speeches of Obama, Trump and Biden” (Aaron Moore Clarke, Kennesaw State University; Darina Elena Lepadat, Kennesaw State University)

“Media and Militaries: The Role of Social Media in Legitimizing and Expanding the U.S. Military Regime” (Brittney Augustina Rose, University of California-Santa Barbara)

“Reckoning with Injustice: How State-Level Truth Commissions Address Racial and Indigenous Harm in the US” (Michelle I. Gawerc, Loyola University Maryland)

“Sanctions, Embargoes, and Trade Exclusion: Tools of Economic Coercion by Hegemonic States Amid Democratic Decline” (Vali Shakouri Mansouri, George Mason University; Anderson McKinley Bean, North Carolina A&T State University)

“Statism, Anarchism, and Pro-Palestinian Activism” (Desmond Goss, George Washington University)

“Cattle Ranching and Deforestation in Colombia, the Impact of Conflict and Uneven Development” (Alvaro Torres, University of Tennessee-Knoxville)

“Post-Soviet Migration to Latin America amidst Political Repression and War: Between Adaptation and Strategic Migration” (Beatriz Padilla, University of South Florida; Viktoriya Sliaptsova, University of South Florida)

“Strategic Non-Engagement: New Russian Political Migrants and the Spillover Effects of Extraterritorial Authoritarianism” (Liudmila Listrovaya, University of Michigan)

“Xinjiang in OBOR: the Characteristics of Genocide” (Michimi Muranushi, Gakushuin University)

Public Sociology in a Time of War and Genocide (August 12, 2025)

Presider: Sharon Quinsaat (Grinnell College)

Panelists: Eman Abdelhadi (University of Chicago); Heba Gowayed (CUNY-Hunter College); Veda Hyunjin Kim (Ohio Wesleyan University); Theresa Rocha Beardall (University of Washington)

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.

One of our most important activities outside the annual meeting was our regular Virtual Coffee Hour. In this activity, a volunteer provides a 20-minute overview of some work in progress, followed by 40 minutes of robust discussion. Topics for 2024-2025 included:

10/11/2024: “Understanding the Conflict in Sudan and Darfur” (Dr. Musa Adam Abdul-Jalil, Dr. Mawa Mohamed, Mad Gabriel)

12/13/2025: “Recolonizing Africa” (Mariam Mniga Kurtz)

03/27/2025: "A Victim's Shoe, A Broken Watch, and Marbles: Desire Objects and Human Rights"
(Lea David)

04/10/2025: "Participating in a digital history project mobilizes people for symbolic justice and better intergroup relations today" (Dr. Berenike Firestone)

Other activities included encouraging mentoring relations, including an initial discussion of setting up a formal mentoring program for faculty and students of PWSC.