

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) 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 portion of the report will be shared publicly.

Section Governance

We held four **Council Meetings** between September 2024 and August 2025: We met twice during the fall of 2024 to approve our Bylaws, review our Budget, and propose a dues increase for voting by our general membership. Additionally, we met once in the spring of 2025 to discuss changes to funding for research and how to support graduate students, and once during the summer at ASA 2025. The minutes for each of these council meetings are provided in the attached file.

Our section's **Business Meeting**, to which all section members are welcomed, was held at ASA on August 12, 2025. During the meeting we presented the section's annual awards and welcomed new leadership. The minutes for the business meeting are provided in the attached file.

Awards

The Hacker-Nicholas Mullins Graduate Student Award

Xiaogao Zhou. 2025. "Care in Transition: Global Norms, Transnational Adaptation, and FamilyCentered Gender-Affirming Care in China". *Social Science & Medicine* 334: 116658.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2024.116658>

The Robert K. Merton Book Award

Catherine Tan. 2024. *Spaces on the Spectrum, How Autism Movements Resist Experts and Create Knowledge*. Columbia University Press

- Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Chiarello. 2024. *Policing Patients: Treatment and Surveillance on the Frontlines of the Opioid Crisis*. Princeton University Press.

The Star-Nelkin Paper Award

- Co-winner: Daniel Navon. 2024. "Re-Iterated Fact-Making: Explaining Transformation and Continuity in Scientific Facts". *American Sociological Review* 89(5): 849-875.
- Co-winner: Nicole Foti. 2025. "Beyond biomedical institutions: An ethnographic study of community science and the rise of alternative therapeutic imaginaries". *Social Science & Medicine* 367: 117377.

- Honorable Mention: Janet A. Vertesi and danah boyd. 2023. "The Resource Bind: System Failure and Legitimacy Threats in Sociotechnical Organizations." Sociologica 17 (3): 3.

Ida B. Wells-Troy Duster Award

Shannon Malone Gonzalez for the Article: "Investigating Invisible Encounters: Mapping the Margins of Police Violence against black women," co-authored with and Yasmiyn Irizarry.

Emancipatory Practice in Science, Knowledge, and Technology

Jennifer James

2025 Finances

In November 2024, we budgeted the following expenditures for the 2025 fiscal year (January 2025 to December 2025), **totaling \$6012 in estimated expenses:**

Reception	\$4500
Student Award	\$350
Anti-Racism Awards	\$780
Award Plaques	\$300
Award Membership	\$12
Mailing Plaques	\$45
Website	\$25

Our actual spending during the 2025 fiscal year (January 2025 to date) has consisted of the following expenditures, **totaling \$2,944.93 in actual expenses:**

Reception	\$1531
Student Award	\$350
Anti-Racism Awards	\$750
Award Plaques	\$313.93
Website	(not yet paid, expected to be \$25)

Our actual expenses during the 2025 fiscal year were intentionally less than our estimated expenses. This is because during the Spring of 2025, we conducted a detailed analysis of all donations held in our account that had been made to and earmarked for Anti-Racism in SKAT activities since 2021. We limited our spending on regular expenses (reception, etc.) to ensure that all funds earmarked for anti-racism activities were used exclusively to that end.

Our section's balance as of September 1, 2024 (at the beginning of the 2024-2025 year's activities) was **\$18,420**. Our fiscal year beginning balance for 2025, on January 1, 2025, was **\$18,499**. It is important to note that the majority of these funds (**\$16,275 on January 1, 2025**) were earmarked for the Anti-Racism in SKAT activities, as they were donated to the section explicitly for that purpose.

During this fiscal year January 2025 to date (10/15/25), a total of **\$50** has been donated to the section for Anti-racism Action in SKAT. According to ASA YTD Financial Reports distributed to us, the total income from dues to the section for the period January 2025 to date has been \$538 and the section's budget allocation from ASA was \$2,230, together totalling **\$2,768** in regular funds.

Also according to ASA YTD Financial Reports distributed to us, our section's balance as of September 1, 2025 (at the beginning of the 2025-26 year's activities) was **\$19,473**. Of these funds, we calculate that **\$15,470.36** are earmarked donations for Anti-Racism in SKAT activities. Therefore on September 1,

2025 we calculate that the section held **\$4002.64** in regular funds in our account for 2025-26 activities and for activities beyond that date.

The Previous Year

We had an active year in the SKAT section in 2024-25. We undertook the following activities:

Overhaul of our website, development of a logo, and streamlining communications. The new site is visible at www.asaskat.com This included working with council and with section membership to test-drive several different layouts and formats, as well as to vote on different logos. The result is spectacular and we couldn't be more delighted.

We undertook a comprehensive review of the section's finances in the wake of the disruptions caused by Covid19. The section managed to use up saved funds during the years of remote meetings in only two years paying largely for our section reception. Council debated several approaches to this perennial problem, including joint receptions with other sections as well as taking a new approach to section event planning. We undertook a thorough examination of our financial situation, past statements and changes, and the effects of the pandemic and inflation upon our accounts, to consider a dues raise to put to our membership. Our Secretary developed several budgetary projection exercises to envision the possibilities of raising dues. In the end we voted to put to the membership a question of raising Section Dues and developed a plan for moving forward. The new dues were adopted by majority section vote in the summer of 2025.

We developed a shared gmail account for the Chair and a Google workspace for coordinating section activities and maintaining institutional memory. Since the chairship rotates every year, this is vital for ensuring sustained communication and a knowledge infrastructure that works for SKAT. We contacted a roster of past chairs to solicit their data and documents to include in the shared repository. The shared Google space has enabled our Council to work together more effectively, and welcomed asynchronous interactions among committee members as well. For instance, to release the awards call this year, each committee was tasked with editing their respective Google Doc, which included directives discussed at council and enabled award committee members to edit in real time. The Program Committee met once via Zoom to brainstorm ideas, and then divided the work among members to collaborate on a joint Google doc. In all, this new communication medium is working well for our Council and our active committees in terms of coordinating current and planned events, and in terms of preserving some institutional memory as an active knowledge infrastructure. We are developing a contacts database of active section volunteers, have folders designated to each year's awards and other committees, maintain a shared document for job postings for the community, and developed a calendar for Chairs indicating the cadence of activity throughout the year. As such we are streamlining and centralizing coordination and communication efforts among our committees and our council members.

At the same time, the Google repository assists us in ensuring responsibilities for the section are shared beyond simply the responsibility of the Chair. This year we organized the labor of managing the section to ensure that more work could be undertaken by more members of the section, and that tasks are appropriately delegated yet subject to rigorous governance practices and strong communication among our core team. We formed several additional ad-hoc committees this year to assist with issues like Events planning and fundraising, to take pressure off the Chair and the Treasurer while enabling others to provide their efforts, creativity, and legwork to the cause. More on these below.

We founded a Fundraising Committee to examine opportunities for raising money within the ASA guidelines for donations to assist in our DEI and anti-racism efforts to broaden our section's

participation and scholarly recognition. We embarked on a targeted fundraising campaign in November 2024 that raised \$3,283 toward these section awards between November and December 2024 (just 2 months). In total, since 2020 we have raised over \$19,850 (gross) earmarked for the anti-racism efforts. Currently, we have a balance (after deducting payment of the cash awards and purchase of plaques for the annual anti-racism awards since 2021) of \$15,470.36 in our account toward the \$20K baseline necessary for the special interest-bearing account that can underwrite our awards.

We developed an Events committee responsible for the section reception. This was considered necessary as reception planning is an enormous responsibility for one person (the Chair typically) to put on, who usually has no experience in event planning and must do so in a city in which they are unfamiliar with the territory and the prices are high. Our Events committee did a tremendous job finding us a cost-effective solution in Chicago.

Later in the year, in response to changes to academic funding, we spun up two ad hoc committees to determine what was necessary to a) support our most vulnerable section members and b) support our students. These ad hoc committees delivered several ideas to council in the summer and we will be moving forward with an online webinar series in conjunction with other sections on navigating these difficult times for students in particular.

Finally, we planned several terrific sections at the ASA meeting, which were well attended. Our reception was packed. The section is vibrant.

Provide an overview of the Section's plans to recruit and retain members and include explanation of how your strategy meets the goals and values of the section. Describe any efforts, if any, to recruit and retain members from underrepresented backgrounds.

Membership continued apace this year although they were not a main focus of the year's events. However, we are over 600 members this year attesting to the vitality of our section and the joyfulness of our community presence at ASA in our reception.

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.

Our most active site of interaction with our membership is our listserve. The Chair posted weekly to the section listserve with activities from around the section. She maintained an active job listing Google Doc page that would enable students or those on the market to bookmark it and return for new listings (also announced in the newsletters). The newsletters closed with a "This week in science and technology" commentary inviting SKAT members to use our analytical skills to observe the fast-moving changes around us.

Our online presence was a big focus this year. As mentioned, the section overhauled our [website this year](#), opting for a clean look and a logo that gives us a section identity. We stopped posting on Twitter and have been active on alternative social media such as [BlueSky](#), where we have a 'starter pack' of people to follow associated with SKAT.

The Communications Committee published three newsletters: [fall 2024](#), [spring 2025](#), and [summer 2025](#). Our newsletters are chock-full of content, up to 50 pages each in length. They include detailed information about section award winners, interviews with authors of recently published books, profiles of graduate students on the market, reflections on the academic job market, section news about recent publications, as well as information about the 2025 ASA Meeting in Chicago.

Our communication strategy continues to be aimed at keeping members apprised of section activities and creating a shared sense of community for SKAT scholarship and professional development.

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

The section tasked our Anti-Racism committee with a review of its awards and recommendations for changes to these awards to ensure they are meeting the needs of the section. The awards were renamed (the Troy-Duster award and the Emancipatory Practice award) and elements related to outreach for the EP award in particular were discussed. The awards have successfully drawn attention to the excellent work related to issues of inequality in the STEM fields, a perennial topic of interest at SKAT. We are working through fundraising to ensure that these awards are on stable financial footing.

We maintain an active Mentorship committee tasked with producing mentor-mentee partnerships and activities at the ASA meeting.

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 planned four paper sessions, a roundtable session, a business meeting, and a council meeting for the 2025 Annual ASA Meeting in Chicago. Our themed sessions were:

- Sociology of Neuroscience and Neurotechnology
- New Directions and Emerging Studies of Politics in Science and Technology: Changes in Governance, Political Economy, Labor, and Work (Co-sponsored by Section on Political Sociology)
- Challenging epistemic institutions: Unruly knowledge, outlaw technology, and fringe/mainstream relations
- Liberating, decolonizing, and queering science, knowledge, and technology

These sessions focused on current topics related to the changes in the political economy of science and technology, including attendance shifts in public trust and knowledge. Throughout we shift the frame from American technoscience to include participants and case studies from around the world.

Our roundtable topics were

- Table 1: SKAT approaches to AI
- Table 2: Masculinities in Science and Technology
- Table 3: LLMs, a SKAT perspective

- Table 4: Agriculture as a SKAT topic
- Table 5: Femininities
- Table 6: Labor
- Table 7: Organizations
- Table 8: Epistemologies
- Table 9: Colonial Legacies
- Table 10: SKAT and the State
- Table 11: Boundary Work
- Table 12: Trust and Uncertainty
- Table 13: Innovation and the Market
- Table 14: Medical Experiences
- Table 15: Knowledge-Making and Educational Institutions

Our roundtable session gave many scholars the opportunity to present their work and network with others conducting scholarship on similar topics

As part of our programming, we held a reception off-site, which provided an opportunity for professional networking and intellectual exchange. We had between 80-100 attendees at this event.

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 did not conduct programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting this year.

Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology
Activity Year: August 2024-September 2025
Meeting Minutes

SKAT Council Meeting Wednesday, September 25, 2024 via Zoom

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32pm

Chair's Update: Janet Vertesi

- Explained the major activities for this year, namely: putting the section on new financial footing to meet the more expensive financial climate; restructuring and fundraising toward sustainable anti-racism awards; and continuing focus on events, mentorship, and membership to maintain members' participation in and commitment to the section
- Committees are in the process of being staffed and will be notified shortly. We will hear from the committees at each meeting to be sure we're all in the loop.

Several items are due by November 15th, requiring us to meet again before then:

- *Decision about increasing section dues to then put to ballot vote by section.* We will begin the discussion today to ensure we have the information we need to vote.
- *Making changes to awards wording and any bylaws changes.* We will review the discussion at ASA to ensure the awards wording changes go forward.
- Assembling our slate of activities at ASA (Program Committee will do this)
- Annual report
- Nominations Committee will begin seeking candidates for office

Discussion of the section budget and prospective dues:

- Secretary/Treasurer, Emily Vasquez presented slides regarding current financial situation in the section and possibilities for dues restructuring.
- Chair introduced potential Money Saving/Raising Initiatives and encouraged others
 - Reduce cash prizes for Hacker-Mullins Prize (\$350), Wells-Duster (\$500), and Emancipatory Practice (\$250)
 - Share reception for one year with an adjacent section
 - Go down to one drink at reception
 - Give out certificates instead of plaques
 - Increase regular member dues from \$12-\$15 or \$12-14
 - Increase students from \$5-\$6 and regular from \$12 to \$14
- Council member spoke in support of raising dues for faculty from \$12-15, switching from plaque to certificate for awards, and moving to 1 drink at reception or share reception for one year. Motion seconded and open for discussion.
- Chair suggested Treasurer produce a comparison that looks at raising dues to \$14 instead of \$15.
- The motion was suspended (not voted upon) pending research for next time to submit to discussion.
- The following were identified as outstanding action items for research by secretary/treasurer and/or chair:
 - What difference will a \$14 versus \$15 section dues make?

- How will recruiting new members impact the section finances?
- Do we know where else our sections' members subscribe to?
- What are our competitive sections and what they are charging?
- How do we change a cash prize? Chair will look into Hacker Mullins history and see if it was endowed or not.

Discussion of Awards and changes to award calls:

- Prior chair, Jill Fisher reminded Council that at our meeting at ASA, we discussed reducing the number of years of eligibility for the Merton award. This should still be considered.
- Chair offered to indicate to each committee what the council had decided with respect to awards changes, and to give them the opportunity to edit their calls for our review before sending out.

SKAT Council Meeting November 8, 2024, via Zoom

Chair's Update

- All committees are staffed
- Awards committees have reviewed and revised award calls as appropriate. The final versions were submitted by October 26 and are [visible on our website](#). ASA and membership are appraised of our awards listings and program sessions
- Chair, Treasurer, past-Chair and past-Treasurer have met to discuss budget and dues. Based on discussion last meeting in September
- Emailed past chairs to get historical materials and reports: filed under Council
- Listserv emails every Monday
- Currently working on Annual Report
- Anti-racist committee is beginning their review of the award this year
- New dues must be approved by the ASA Council to put on the ballot by November 15:
We will send info to them immediately upon voting.

Committee Updates

- i. Program Committee: The Program committee met on October 4 to plan four sessions (one co-listed with Political Sociology). All sessions have been co-edited and have been released [online](#) and to ASA. Dan Morrison agreed to Chair the committee moving forward as we receive and review submissions. The committee would like to host a roundtable specifically
- ii. Communications: Preparing December Newsletter and new website and logo for SKAT. Surveys were sent out and reviewed including comments.
- iii. Nominations: The nominations committee is making good progress. We have a slate of candidates for council. Waiting on one last student rep to agree and that slate will be done. We have asked 8 people to run for chair and they have all turned me down. I have two requests out now. it's hard to ensure diversity in this position as I run down our list. If people have ideas for senior folks from diverse backgrounds or with diverse interests, it might be good to generate a few additional names just in case (if there is time).

- iv. Fundraising: The committee met on October 21. We will focus in the fall on finalizing web content about the two anti-racism awards and trying to raise funds from the SKAT membership. Internal campaign this November. Depending on the success of an internal campaign, we will begin soliciting donations from external sources in spring 2025. \$8500 short of \$20K.
- v. Anti-Racist in SKAT: The committee met on October 18th, convened by chair Mel Jeske, at which we reviewed and revised the award calls. One key revision was the decision not to include in the awards the subsidy of ASA membership for winners (coverage remains of SKAT membership for the Wells Duster award). At this meeting we discussed the need for systematic promotion of the award calls and recruitment of nominees, as well as potential increased integration of past winners into the committee's work. In preparation for that kick-off committee meeting, Mel Jeske had completed a series of fact-finding calls with multiple prior SKAT chairs and committee members to discuss any needed changes to the award and ideas for expanding anti-racism action.
- vi. Events: Once the budget is decided we will locate a venue for this year's SKAT reception. We are planning informal meetups/happy hours at regional conferences and will solicit volunteers for Pacific Sociological Association and Southern Sociological Society annual meetings. We will also be soliciting ideas for virtual events or book fora of interest to the section.
- vii. Membership: no update
- viii. Mentorship: not met yet

Meeting Materials for Consideration:

Budget for approval included in meeting materials

Dues Motion

MOTION: A motion to raise our membership's Regular Dues from \$12 to \$15.

RATIONALE:

- This is in line with fees for the Medical Sociology and Environmental Sociology Section.
- The SKAT section members especially benefit from the reception. The ritual gathering is an important part of renewing commitment to our section and our intellectual traditions. We have also attracted newcomers to our section. It is an excellent way to introduce students and junior members to other scholars in the field.
- The ASA meetings are exclusively hosted in expensive cities (Chicago, New York, Montreal) and with its stringent accessibility requirements, the cost of putting on a reception today far outstrips the section's means. Our dues have not kept up with this cost of inflation.
- The section has benefitted from an excess of funds during the Covid-19 era with no in-person meetings. However, this additional padding will run out at the end of the year.
- Even as the ASA eventually moves to a 1-in-3 virtual meeting cadence, keeping our dues at \$12 will not adequately pay for a reception.
- The section may explore joint receptions, but the costs of hosting continue to be high, especially with even more participants through a joint-reception.
- Fundraising for the anti-racist awards are earmarked separately and should not be used as regular funds
- It is unclear in historical materials for our section (and at the ASA) when or how the dues were last set. Raising dues now sets us on a better path moving forward into the next several years of economic uncertainty. Raising to only \$14 instead of \$15 now requires redressing this decision in the near future.
- Other sections are also considering opportunities for fundraising, joint receptions, and other cost saving measures.

- Canceling plaques was met with mixed reactions among prior award winners
- Vertesi reviewed historical materials for the Hacker-Mullins award and found it was raised from \$250-\$350 in the 2009-2011 era due to a surplus.
- We would like to resist the “Premier Economy” move: i.e. charging more (say, \$14 or \$15) while restricting activities (i.e. plaques, awards, a good reception).
- Dues will *not* be raised for those in situations of precarity, including students and “discount” dues to ensure all can participate.

Website Changes Update

- The Communications committee conducted a survey of Council members and Section members. Respondents were evenly split between the two designs. The second design, however, requires an upgrade and cost in membership to render it accessible. As such, committee chair recommends we go with “Number 1” as the new layout.
- As for the logo, the first logo was selected but committee chair has made changes in response to feedback.
- You may see the final version of the website and logo here (link)

SKAT Council Meeting April 16, 2025, via Zoom

Agenda:

1. Update on section activities (Janet)
 - Conference planning
 - Awards
 - Elections
2. Financial Update (Emily)
 - What’s remaining for the section this year
 - Section party planning
3. Check in (Janet)
 - What is happening at our academic institutions & what SKAT can do to support right now
4. Section Activities contingency planning (Janet)

Meeting Minutes:

Section Updates (Janet)

- All going well with meeting planning, including awards committees
- ASA elections are delayed due to issue with election platform

Financial Update (Emily)

- Earlier this year, Jill and Janet requested a detailed audit. The goal of the audit was to ensure that we have an accurate understanding of our total **regular funds** (drawn from section dues) versus our **anti-racism funds** (which have been donated specifically to support the Wells-Duster Award and the Emancipatory

Practice award). At present, these funds are held in the same account and are not differentiated on ASA's "financial reports".

- For the audit, ASA provided us with our complete transaction details from January 2020 to December 2024.
- The detailed audit is viewable here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NP_i7kysK25acH3epcwN0NHgkvNYF9Ug/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108985826700661103773&rtpof=true&sd=true
- Total Anti-Racism Donations since 2020: \$19,856 (\$3283 raised in 2024 alone), total anti-racism spending: \$3,581; current anti-racism balance \$16,275
- Regular Funds Balance: \$1920
- 2025 Planned Spending: Website (\$20), Hacker Mullins Cash Prize (\$350), Reception (\$1550)
- Here is a summary of past and projected future reception spending:

Past Reception Expenses

2022 (Los Angeles)	\$1,673.28
2023 (Philadelphia)	\$3,150.11
2024 (Montréal)	\$4,993.84

Projected Reception Expenses

2025 (Chicago)	\$ 1,550
2026 (New York)	[~\$3k + Dues Adjustment* - (Hacker Mullins & Website)]
2027 (Chicago)	[~\$3k + Dues Adjustment* - (Hacker Mullins & Website)]
2028 (Virtual)	No reception

*Provided our proposal to increase dues passes, this will increase our income by approx. \$900-\$1000 a year

Discussion: Reception Planning Based on this Budget

- Events committee has been working to find a venue where a budget of \$1500 might work. Cheapest option would be to throw the event at a park, but we can only serve alcohol if we have a vendor with a state license, which makes this option out-of-budget. Best option at present is the conference hotel, they Hyatt, where it is \$1000 minimum + bartender at \$200 + 36% gratuity, so at minimum \$1632. We would have to give them a very strict number of drink tickets that we could buy. We cannot afford their food. Do we want food or do we want alcohol? They do per/person levels and this is for 100 people or fewer; not sure what venue they would give us; this is from Heather Young's packet
- One member willing to personally help cover some of the expenses for Chicago's reception via a donation, happy to talk about this offline

Check in: Academia under Duress (Janet)

- How can we as a section support people's needs at this time? Grad students and faculty?
- Issues raised by council members: Graduate students loosing DEI-based fellowships; Our department is doing a good job supporting international students; cuts to funding research; Scientists I study are in distress, great deal of uncertainty; One way to have the section respond is to provide a platform with a call for summer positions (in case there is anyone has funding); Hiring freezes, including at post doc level; Maybe opening our newsletter to outside academia or outside the US

Anti-Racist Awards

- Chair concerned that we may need to have a plan in place to protect the anti-racist awards (Emancipatory Practice Award and Wells-Duster Award)
- One thing we need to keep in mind is that this intersects with our fundraising efforts. We are still trying to get to the \$20k mark (and beyond). For fundraising, we'll need some public facing information. We have efforts underway to highlight anti-racist award winners.
- Additional option would be to add a layer where we have the descriptions as drop-downs or collapsable, to protect from bots
- Council considers: Should we change the name of the Anti-Racist committee?
- Additional option: Re-reading Laurel's reports from the time when the awards were founded, she had mentioned the committee's openness to renaming "emancipatory practice" after someone in the future to honor someone in the field; this would be keeping with all the other awards SKAT gives out.

Action Item: Forming 2 Ad Hoc teams to Brainstorm:

- Protect SKAT members, especially grad students
- Steps to protect the anti-racism awards
- Form committees. Come back with proposals.
- Janet will send out a when2meet for about a month out.

Council Meeting at ASA Annual Meeting, August 12, 2026, In Person

7:00am – 7:50am

1. Welcome (Janet)
14 council members present (Jill Fisher, Janet Vertesi, Emily Vasquez, Larry Au, Claire Decoteau, Sharla Alegria, Natalie Aviles, Catherine Tan, Rene Almeling, Catherine Lee, Alex Hanna, Jorge Orchoa, N'shele Jackson, Mary Shi)
(Luciana De Sousa Leao absent)
2. New Council Members and Introductions (Janet)
Catherine Tan, Rene Almeling, Jorge Orchoa, Mary Shi introduced.
3. Exiting Council Members (Janet)
Jill Fisher, Larry Au, N'Shele, Catherine Lee, Natalie Aviles.
4. Resolution Passed: New Dues Structure (Janet)
Raised regular dues from \$12 to \$15
The section will be on firmer financial footing, moving forward, thanks to this.
5. Budget Update (Emily Vasquez)
Emily has updated the council on the budget multiple times through the year as we have discussed the decision of whether or not to raise dues
In the lead up to 2025 annual meeting, our regular funds balance was \$1920. We were able to hold the reception because of generous donations from council members, which totaled \$1575.

·Our reception, held at Emerald Grill in Chicago on August 11, 2025, cost a total of \$3030 (including 20% gratuity). Additional expenses to be deducted from regular funds at the annual meeting included: (1) Hacker-Mullins student award, \$250; (2) Cost of award plaques and certificates, \$213. After the annual meeting, we are left with a balance of regular funds of less than \$100.

·Prior to the annual meeting, our balance in funds donated specifically for the Anti-Racism awards (Emancipatory Practice and Wells-Duster) was \$16,275. At the annual meeting expenses to be deducted from these funds are: (1) \$850 in cash awards accompanying these prizes, (2) approximately \$150 in plaques and certificates. We will continue to work toward our goal of \$20k, which ASA requires to open a separate, interest earning account for these earmarked funds.

6. Supporting SKAT Members in Times of Crisis (Janet)

- Ad-Hoc Committee on Supporting Vulnerable SKAT Members: To support graduate students, showcase our graduate students a lot more, make more visible, meet the grad students column in the newsletter. 9 profiles this year. We also wanted to circulate calls for RAships, funding, postdocs, if people have research monies, SKAT can be a way to connect to graduate students who need work. Also, international job market strategy forum could be a helpful opportunity.
- Council Member notes that with regard to the job market outlook, SKAT is in interesting position, lots of applied opportunities, uplifting the idea that there are a lot of pathways
- Additional ideas:
 - At my institution over the years we've had a colloquium inviting former students who did not go into academia showcasing their work. An online version of this could be successful. They share this is what I did in grad school, this is what I'm doing now, this is how I got the job. Maybe a workshop, they could share resume.
 - Danielle Gifford (?) has offered to talk to people. She would be a great voice for saying "this is what we look for"
 - Internships at tech companies, interesting civil society positions that we could circulate; Berkman Klein Center Job Board at Harvard with long list of fellowships and postdocs in civil society
 - Information sciences, policy schools, thinking about the interdisciplinary spaces where there may be more opportunity. Maybe we need a workshop series.
 - Community sociologists working everywhere, what it means to be a "community," how to market yourself as a SKAT scholar, perhaps doesn't have the same recognition as a race/ethnicity scholar.
 - How to market yourself as a SKAT scholar; I don't feel like I got a lot of training about non-sociology journals that sociologists can publish in that are serious journals for STS folks
 - Legibility can also be in ACM style venues. These conferences welcome sociologists but can be challenging if you are unfamiliar with the format and process.
 - Interdisciplinary jobs in health and medicine; also maybe we need a teaching-focused workshop on how to navigate jobs in conservative states where they cannot teach using the words racism/intersectionality (in the age of anti-woke-ness)
 - We should address what does it mean to be working in those sectors. Also thinking about well being, members who are LGBTQ, of color, vulnerable at

this time. If you feel those people are well-supported outside of SKAT, then let me know.

7. Discussion of required resolutions or actions:

- Forming a committee to develop virtual sessions (teaching, jobs outside of the academy, skat branding within the academy)
- Ad Hoc, Anti-Racism Committee to Consider Protection of Anti-Racism Activities: The goal is not anticipatory compliance, but protection of vulnerable members; Short term plan was that we took down calls for the awards on the website, that was the quick fix.

8. Committee Updates

Fundraising (Jill Fisher)

1. Internal fundraising for Anti-racism
2. There's a limit to what we can individually give as a section
3. Considering public fundraising for next year
4. Part of the plan was to create a website to show off who has won the award, but we have opted to limit public facing anti-racism stuff online. May turn this into a PDF.
5. If anyone has skills toward contacting external donors, please be in touch.

Communications Committee (Larry Au)

1. We updated website in the fall, thank you everyone for your feedback on design of website and logo. It's a work in progress, if you have other suggestions, please send to whoever does website next year
2. We've had 3 newsletters this year; moving forward it would be nice to have a broader call for people who want to contribute items to the newsletter
3. On the blog, we have space for OpEds on intersection of science and politics.
4. Social media, we're just active on Blue Sky. Membership committee was thinking about doing videos (or Vimeo), perhaps Instagram or Tiktoks in the future.

Events & NYC Reception (Natalie Aviles)

1. Lesson learned from this reception: We should have reserved wrist bands for grad students and had faculty buy their own drinks
2. Janet: We just raised section dues so that we could have a good reception, so I wouldn't want to dilute too much by too many collaborations with joint receptions next year in New York
3. Jill: It is important to start planning for the NYC reception early

Mentorship (Claire Decoteau) – Mira Vale, Alyson Spurgas, Gina Lee, & Claire

1. Ended up with something like 60 people, for mentors we had only like a couple of people who were very senior take on a couple of people
2. We suggested that people take on what would work for them. Recommended meeting twice over the year, for year commitment.
3. There was a room available at ASA.
4. It's important to have a senior person on this committee so could ask very senior people to participate. Emphasized that it is only 2 times.

Awards (Janet/Awards Chairs) – Everything went smoothly.

9. Next year: Priorities, Annual Report Requests and Deadlines (Janet)

1. Will be in touch to request inputs for the annual report

10. Other section business

1. Leftover business: Produce a workshop to serve grad students
2. We want to continue fundraising (via a fundraising committee)

11. Incoming Chair statement (Claire Decoteau)

1. Changes to section allocations: There are all these regular sessions in addition to the section sessions. They are getting rid of the regular sessions and re-allocating to sections. Sections have an expansion in the number of sessions that are allocated. Based on a series of different things, our membership, certain sections with low numbers are getting extra so not penalized. For us, this will be concretized in early September, they have promised 6 sessions. They are holding aside 30 sessions if you want to partner with another session. If we wanted to do a SKAT/Global, then we apply to ASA. We should at least try for maybe 2. There will be lots of programming. One has to be open. We have a programming committee. I would love to hear people's ideas.
2. Comment about figuring out what regular sessions are homeless from a session (and have always been so), such as a session on reproduction. They may need to be contemplated in thinking about those extra 30 sessions.
3. If you have a burning desire to lead a session or do one with another section, let Claire know.

SKAT Business Meeting Tuesday, August 12, 2025, In Person

Agenda:

- Council Updates
- Financial Report
- Coming Up Next Year
- New and Departing Council Members
- Awards
- Final announcements, New Chair introduction

Minutes

Council Updates

- New website and logo
- Major budget review conducted
- Dues restructuring has been passed
- Dedicated work ongoing from Programming, Mentorship and Communications committees

Financial Report

- Fundraising Committee: Close to \$16K raised for Troy-Duster and Emancipatory Practice awards (need \$20K for account)
- Events Committee: Start to work on NYC reception early!
- Google system for documents, archives, forms, calendaring, etc.
- Ad Hoc Committees: protecting vulnerable section members and activities in novel political climate
- Section Budget:
 - The new economic reality blew through any pandemic surplus Thank you for passing the dues resolution! New dues structure will better support our section activities.
 - We raised \$3,283 in August and December 2024 alone toward our Anti-Racist Awards!

ASA Changes Coming Next Year

- New structure to ASA programming – at least 6 sessions next year; Great opportunity to shape the the conversation
- Workshops for SKAT members in precarity (especially students): Job markets in alt.ac, overseas, beyond sociology, internships...Got connections to relevant people/sections? Let us know!
- External fundraising for Emancipatory Practice/ Wells-Duster: Got experience/connections? Volunteer!
- New York city reception: Local connections? Volunteer for Events!

Announcement of New Council Members and Appreciation of Departing Council Members

Presentation of Awards

Closing & Welcome of our new Section Chair (starting September 1): Claire Decoteau