

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Social Psychology

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 2025 Social Psychology Section business meeting began with the annual Cooley-Mead Award presentation. Following the Cooley-Mead Award, the meeting was called to order by Section Chair, Jennifer Barber. The Graduate Student Investigator Award, Outstanding Recent Contribution to Social Psychology Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award were presented.

The Endowment Development Committee reminded members of an ongoing fundraising effort and announced an anonymous donation of matching funds for all contributions during 2025. During the remaining time, the chair solicited feedback about the section and suggestions for 2026 ASA session topics.

Each committee gave a brief report—nominations, Cooley-Mead award, outstanding recent contribution award, graduate student paper award, graduate student investigator award, the endowment committee, the mentoring committee, SPQ. We then discussed the results of last year's efforts to maintain and increase membership. We discussed the budget, including our overall positive account balance and our growing endowment. Finally, departing council members were thanked and new section officers were introduced. The meeting was closed by the new Section Chair, Jennifer Barber.

We did not use a sign-in sheet this year, because we solicit volunteers for committees via email rather than at the business meeting. The chair counted attendees and there were approximately 60-70 people present.

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.

The Social Psychology Section Council convened for a lunch meeting. Secretary-Treasurer Ashley Harrell was unable to attend the council meeting, but the council was otherwise well represented.

We first heard brief reports from all committees—nominations, Cooley-Mead, outstanding recent contribution, graduate student paper award, membership, professional and external affairs, graduate student investigator, endowment, mentoring, and program. We then discussed the treasurer's report, including the section's (estimated) positive ending balance for the year.

Additional discussion centered on whether to eliminate some section committees that did not seem as useful as others (e.g., Professional/External Affairs). Council members were enthusiastic about this possibility. The sentiment was passed on to the new Chair. The council also discussed the success of the graduate student reception and was in agreement that it was valuable and should continue.

Finally, we discussed a by-laws amendment to specify the start date for elected officers. The previous Chair (Jennifer Barber) had Covid during the month in which by-laws amendments were proposed in 2024, and this did not get on our ballot. Council members were unenthusiastic about this change, with the feeling that our past and current section officers work together during the transition period, anyway, and that an official by-laws amendment would not have much practical significance for our section.

Awards

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

Cooley-Mead award – Richard T Serpe

Outstanding Recent Contribution Award – Maria Ramos and Restrepo Ochoa

Graduate Student Paper Award – Katie Billings

Graduate Student Investigator Award – Jessica Short

2025 Finances

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

Our actual expenses each came in less than or equal to our budgeted expenses. The section reception was as budgeted. Council breakfast and the grad student mixer were each well below budget (\$211 vs. 300; 188 vs. 200). We also did not end up having the mentoring reception, saving \$250. Although we saved money on expenses, we expected higher book royalties than realized so far (\$1,500 expected vs. \$879 actual as of August 31). Accordingly, we are revising expected book royalties down for next year. Other income and expenses are roughly as budgeted. Overall, the section is in good financial shape, with a slight increase in account balance as of August 31 despite budgeting for a slight deficit.

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.

This year, we continued to use the section's listserv, which served as our primary mode of communication with section members. The section chair communicated approximately monthly through the listserv. These announcements included both updates on ASA and section activities, as well as various types of information submitted by section members, such as calls for proposals, job announcements, and conference invitations. In addition, the section produced three newsletters. The newsletter served not only as a repository of information and announcements, but it also featured original articles on topics relevant to the membership, as well as interviews with section award winners. Newsletters are available on our section website: [ASA SECTION ON SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY - Home](#)

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

The Section is committed to maintaining diversity in our membership and providing leadership opportunities to people from under-represented groups of all types, which helps maintain our welcoming environment. We value diversity in ethnoracial group membership, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, age/career stage, type of university. We staff our committees through member volunteering, through the section listserv. Most of our DEI goals are attempted through section leadership opportunities.

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).

The Section had three paper sessions this year. One session was held jointly with the Mathematical Sociology section, which represented the second year of a two-year arrangement. The title of this open-submission session was "Mathematical and Computational Methods in Social Psychology" and featured four papers that bridged across mathematical/computational methods and social psychology. Another session was an "Open Topics" session that included five papers, several of which were authored by graduate students or early career scholars. Our third session was a roundtable, which was co-sponsored by the Sociology of Emotion section. Finally, as is our tradition, we used the first half of the business meeting timeslot for the Cooley-Mead Award Address, which was delivered by this year's recipient, Richard Serpe. We gathered for the section reception, which we hosted jointly with several other ASA sections.

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.

In keeping with our recent bylaws change, the section operates a single mentoring program for graduate students and early career faculty. Twenty-one mentees and 11 mentors participated, resulting in a nearly even 2:1 ratio of mentees to mentors. There was a range of theoretical and methodological interests represented in both the mentees and mentors, which bodes well for the health of the section. Many of the mentors had served as mentors in previous years, which speaks to their level of experience. Members of the mentoring committee want to encourage this year's committee, though to be proactive in reaching out to potential new mentors so as to distribute the mentoring work more evenly and to bring in new perspectives. The committee also noted that they had no mentors who could provide industry/non-academic advice, while there were a few mentees who were seeking this. As a result, they suggest that this year's committee reach out to non-academics in the section and ask them to serve as mentors.