

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Sociology of Culture

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.

Approximately 35 members were present at the business meeting. The agenda was as follows:

- *Report on committee members
- *Report on outgoing and incoming leadership
- *CFO Report
- *Presentation of Book, Article, and Graduate Student Article Awards
- *Presentation of John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant
- *Presentation of Stuart Hall Award
- *Chair Transition

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 Meeting (Cultural Sociology, ASA) 10/11/2024

Council members present:

Clayton Childress (Chair); Shai Dromi; Giovanni Zampeiri; Christina Simo; Natasha Warikoo, Hannah Wohl; Laura Nelson; Manning Zhang; Michaela Desoucey; Ming-Cheng Lo (CC);

1. **Welcome and update:** All committees have been filled; we're the largest section again; demographic reflecting the ASA; no. 2 for graduate student membership;
2. **Budget approval:**
3. **Interim council member to replace Hannah** (who is chair elect and there cannot serve both positions per ASA policy):
4. **Culture reception: Post Covid, we've partnered with Theory.**

5. **Votes:** Council approved budget; interim council member, and plan for reception.

Culture Section Council Meeting July 10, 2025

Present: **Clayton Childress (Chair)**, **Michaela DeSoucey** (Council), **Shai Dromi** (Council), **Monika Krause** (Past Chair), **Ming-Cheng Lo** (COO), **Laura Nelson** (Council), **Christina Simko** (Council), **Ana Villareal** (Council), **Hannah Wohl** (Chair Elect) **Giovanni Zampieri** (Council), **Manning Zhang** (Council), **Marshall Taylor**

ASA Meeting Updates (CC)

CC: ASA update re: business meeting, reception, etc.

COO Update (ML)

ML: Budget for the year – not yet finalized; still waiting for the final bills from the ASA. However, we are slightly over-spending. (We have co-winners for the best student paper, and each winner gets \$300, so having 2 winners puts us over the budget by \$300.)

Not a major concern, but something to keep an eye on, esp. given that receptions are becoming increasingly costly and our funds are not necessarily increased.

Updates from committees

- Awards Committees updates
- Nominations (CS): Need an election coordination by 8/1. Shai Drome volunteered.
- Program Committee (HW): about panels at the ASA. ASA regular sessions will no longer exist; they will be mapped onto section sessions after this year. So sections will get more panels in the future. We might have 7-8 panels next year. Challenge – Program committee will be organizing a lot more panels, and also deal with the process of handling co-sponsored panels. Council voted to authorize that these processes will still run through the program committee.
- D&I (CC/NW): revised climate survey and handed over to survey committee.
- Survey (LN): created gmail account and a survey (google form). Planned to send it out every two years. (The committee during the year when the survey is not being sent will analyze the data to see what people are feeling and wanting.)
- Newsletter (MZ, GZ, SD): Looking for new editors. May use the business meeting as an opportunity to engage graduate students.
- CCL (CC): will move to a registration model in response to zoom bombers. An effective venue for outreach. May try to reach out to international scholars and other sections.
- Mentorship (MT): worked well this year.

Looking forward (Awards; Panels; 2028 Anniversary)

CC explored options for awards. Certificates are still the way to go, given the cost of plaques and the challenge of physically transporting them to the ASA.

Awards

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

Mary Douglas Award for Best Book

Committee: Hajar Yazdiha (co-chair), Anna Schwenk (co-chair), Peter Ore, Shyon Baumann, Ana Villarreal

Winner:

Aaron Reeves and Sam Friedman *Born to Rule: The Making and Remaking of the British Elite*

Honorable Mention:

Kim Pernell *Visions of Financial Order: National Institutions and the Development of Banking Regulation*

Stuart Hall Award in Cultural Sociology

Committee: Clayton Childress (chair), Ben Carrington, Omar Lizardo, Michaela DeSoucey, Tania Aparicio

Winner:

Patricia A. Banks

John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Award

Committee: Nino Bariola (chair), Jyoti Puri, Casandra Salgado

Winner:

Şeyma Özdemir

Honorable Mentions:

Yucheng Liu

Kristen Miller

Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article

Committee: Aliza Luft (chair), AKM Skarpelis, Peter Francis Harvey, Neha Gondal, Kristopher Velasco

Winner:

Jun Fang "The culture of censorship: State intervention and complicit creativity in global film production."

Honourable Mention:

Krippner, Greta R. "Gendered market devices: The persistence of gender discrimination in insurance markets."

Yavaş, Mustafa. "White-collar opt-out: How "good jobs" fail elite workers."

Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper

COMMITTEE: Elisabeth Becker (chair), Ankit Bhardwaj, Taylor Laemmler, Taylor Price, Kangsan Lee,

Co-Winners:

Kristen Miller "'We Outside!' Bike Life and the Collective Experience of Blackness Beyond Capture"

Jack LaViolette "Seeing Aliens: How ecological affordances produce UFO sightings"

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 income and spending mostly matched our expectations for the 2024 year. The only spending unaccounted for in our projections was an additional \$300 due to there being co-winners for the Graduate Student Best Paper Award. Our carryover remains healthy, at around \$5,000. Efforts by council to bring spending into alignment with income has been successful.

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.

Throughout the year, section Chair Clayton Childress communicated with section members through the ASA listserv. The listserv was used to circulate information about section activities, events, and awards, and to circulate announcements shared by section members (calls for papers and conferences, publications, academic events, etc.). We sent frequent announcements (about every other week) and reminders about section events and application deadlines, highlighting and giving credit to all the work being done by section committees.

In addition, the section produced three issues of the Culture Section Newsletter, which were shared with section members through the listserv, and are available on the section's [website](#). The newsletters were produced by an editorial team comprised of three section members, who were graduate students: Manning Zhang, Clara Cirdan, Giovanni Zamperi, and our webmaster Derek Robey. The newsletter editors were supported by a newsletter committee which consisted of Nicholas Dempsey (Chair) and Shai Dromi (Advisor). Below are the links to each of the four newsletters.

Summer 2024 (Vol. 41 Issue 3) [\[PDF\]](#)

Spring 2025 (Vol. 41 Issue 2) [\[PDF\]](#)

Winter 2025 (Vol. 41 Issue 1) [\[PDF\]](#)

Announcements were also regularly posted on the Culture Section website. The section's webmaster, Derek Robey, regularly maintained the section's website. Here is a direct link to the website's [homepage](#). We posted information about the section's "Culture in Contemporary Life" series, as well as links to recordings of the panels on the [website](#), as well as on a [YouTube channel](#).

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

For the past few years, the Culture Section has been engaged in various diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and this year we continued the work on various programs and activities to make the section more welcoming for everyone.

Following the creation of the [John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grants in 2022](#), every year since then we have had a committee to award two grants to fund underrepresented graduate students at a

public institution. This year's award winners are Şeyma Özdemir (winner), Yucheng Liu (honorable mention), and Kristen Miller (honorable mention). The committee consisted of Nino Bariola (chair), Jyoti Puri, Casandra Salgado. Nino Bariola's leadership in creating and maintaining this award, which is wholly funded by donors, and Ming-Cheng Lo's work to secure annual donations for it, has been fundamental to the success of this award.

From a proposal initially made by our Diversity and Inclusion Committee, this year we also presented our second annual Stuart Hall Award, which recognizes "a mid-career sociologist whose work holds great promise for advancing the cultural study of racial or ethnic inequality." The winner is Patricia A. Banks. Last year's winner, Ben Carrington, will give the inaugural Stuart Hall Lecture this year as the kick-off event for our section's *Culture and Contemporary Life* series, and under the leadership and guidance of past Chair Monika Krause, that lecture will be published in *Poetics*, which will be publishing these lectures on an annual basis.

The section continues to maintain another recent initiative, the Mentorship Program, which has been run since its founding by Marshall A. Taylor, this year with support from Anne Taylor, Daniel Cueto-Villalobos, and Shivoni Choudhary. This program was developed to support graduate students and junior faculty, especially from underrepresented groups, by putting them together in mentoring pods with more senior faculty, fostering a sense of inclusion as well as providing professional support and advice.

Newly this year as part of equity goals the section revived the Membership Survey, which had been run one time as a climate survey before then going fallow for several years. The newly constituted survey committee was chaired by Laura Nelson, with Jiwon Yun, and Roberto Ortiz also serving as committee members. The survey committee designed and launched the section survey this year. The Diversity and Inclusion committee, consisting of Alex Frenette (co-chair), Joyce Kim (co-chair), and Natasha Warikoo, revived and updated the old climate survey to be included as a module in the broader Membership Survey. The goal is for the survey to be run every other year, and in the off years the D&I Committee and Survey Committee will use the previous year's data to guide their reports and recommendations to Council and section leadership about new initiatives and potential sites or topics that may need to be targeted for change to better serve the membership and its inclusion goals.

Diversity and Inclusion was considered in the work of all award committees, in the nominations committee, and in the work of the Culture and Contemporary Life series, which in particular has allowed the section to bring more international scholars into the conversations of the section, as well as non-section members into dialogue in section sponsored events.

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 2025 Annual Meeting's Program committee was comprised of Hannah Wohl (chair), Rachel Skaggs, Jean Beaman, and Fiona Greenland. The programming was as follows:

SATURDAY

Culture and Computational Social Science (Co-sponsored by Section on Mathematical Sociology) West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, San Francisco, 8:00-9:30am

Presider: Anna K.M. Skarpelis, CUNY-Queens

College Auditing Multimodal Large Language Models for Contextualized Hate Speech Detection Using Conjoint Experiments - Thomas Davidson, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

From Codebooks to Promptbooks: Extracting Information from Text with Generative Large Language Models - Oscar Stuhler, Northwestern University; Etienne Ollion, Centre national de la recherche scientifique; Cat Dang Ton

Generative AI in Sociological Research: A Survey of Computational Sociologists - AJ Alvero, Cornell University; Dustin S. Stoltz, Lehigh University; Marshall A. Taylor, New Mexico State University; Oscar Stuhler, Northwestern University

Interpretative Variation: How Interpretations Diverge in the U.S. Congress - Miriam Hurtado Bodell, Stanford University; Amir Goldberg, Stanford University

Discussant: Carly Knight, New York University Session
Organizer: Anna K.M. Skarpelis, CUNY-Queens College

Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtables

East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom A, 10:00-11:30am

Session Organizers: Sara Tyberg, University of California-Santa Barbara; Parker Muzzerall, University of British Columbia; Kevin Kiley, North Carolina State University

Professional Development Panel: Writing To The Public
Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich D, 2:00-3:00pm

Presider: Manning Zhang, Brandeis University

Panelists: Allison Pugh, Johns Hopkins University; Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve, Brown University; Elena G. Van Stee, University of Pennsylvania

Session Organizer: Giovanni Zampieri, University of Padova (Italy)

Section on Sociology of Culture Business Meeting

Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich D, 3:00-3:30pm

Feminist and Critical Complicities, Injustices, and Culture (Race, Gender, Class Section Session, Co-sponsored by Section on Sociology of Culture)

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Acapulco, 2:00-3:30pm

Presider: Yushan Wang, University of Pennsylvania

“Eugenics Brought Home”: White Women Physicians and Reproductive Authority - Margaret Ruth Eby, University of Pennsylvania

Statistical Gaslighting, Fetishization of Data & Dual Evidentiary Systems: OMB & Census as Sites of Racial Formation - Nancy López, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Sharan Kaur Mehta, The University of New Mexico; Attiya White, University of New Mexico; Joaquín Argüello de Jesús, University of New Mexico; Michelle Johnson, University of New Mexico; Yasmiyn Irizarry, University of Texas at Austin; Edward D. Vargas, Arizona State University-Tempe

What Can Feminist Activism Teach Us About Cancel Culture? - Golshan Golriz, Queen's University

"What Can We Do at Home?" (De)Constructing the Role of the Home in Parental Engagement Discourse - Alyssa Lyons, CUNY-Lehman College

Session Organizer: Victoria Reyes, University of California- Riverside

Cultural Ideas and Ideals

Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich D, 4:00-5:30pm

Presider: Laura Halcomb, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dignity, Personhood, or Sacred Selves? Complicating Medical Literature and Caregiver Narratives in Dementia Care - Cindy L. Cain, The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Expanding the Axes of Information Diversity: Cultural Toolkits and Political Participation - Hsin-Keng Ling, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Imagined Futures: How American Teens Understand the Nation, the World, and Themselves - Claire Schafer, University of Virginia

The Boundaries of Privacy: A Cinematic Narrative of Home Before and After the 1979 Iranian Revolution - Pouya Morshedi, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

What a Buzzword Does: The Rhetoric of Community in Elder Care and Social Media Marketing - Guillermina Altomonte, New York University; Angèle Christin, Stanford University

Session Organizer: Laura Halcomb, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

SUNDAY

Cultural Mechanisms of Inequality

Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich D, 8:00-9:30am

Presider: Jelani I. Ince, University of Washington

Cultural and Reparative Frames and Diversity Rhetoric in U.S Law - Michaela McMillian Jenkins, Emory University

Escaping the Pink Dungeon: Professional Women Pastry Chefs Navigating Houston's Neoliberal Restaurant Industry - Melissa DeRemer, University of Houston

Everybody Shot: Youth, Violence, & Radical Inclusivity - Calvin John Smiley, CUNY-Hunter College

Racialization at Work: Coercive, Cognitive, and Normative Linkages between Who and How - Pamela A. Popielarz, University of Illinois-Chicago

Reflection upon Bourdieu's Cultural Sociology: a Case Study of the Development History of Peking Opera - Wanting Wang, University of Pennsylvania

Discussant: Desiree Salais, University of Washington

Session Organizer: Jelani I. Ince, University of Washington

Producing, Circulating, and Evaluating Culture

Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich D, 10:00-11:30am

Presider: Katherine Beekman, Vanderbilt University

Becoming Gendered: The Gender-Divided Market of Chinese Online Fiction -
Wanze Ma, Zhejiang University

From Selling-Out to Sold-Out: Structural-Symbolic Interaction in the Gilded Age
of Documentary - Christine Delp, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Relational Authenticity Work in the American Culinary Field - Eli R. Wilson,
University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Ellen T. Meiser, University of Hawaii-Hilo

Conformity to Beauty in the Matrix of Domination - Katie Duarte, Smith College

Valuing Cursed Objects: Mitigating Suspicions Around Engagement Rings Sold on Facebook Marketplace
- Kenadi Silcox, University of Notre Dame; Terence Emmett McDonnell, University of Notre Dame

Discussant: Katherine Beekman, Vanderbilt University

Session Organizer: Laura Garbes, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

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 had three sessions of our ongoing [Culture in Contemporary Life Series](#) (CCL) throughout the academic year. The CCL Committee was chaired by Michael O. Johnson (co-chair), Rachel Rinaldo (co-chair), with Fauzia Husain, Anna Lopez Ricoy, Emma Brandt, and Ana Velitchkova serving as committee members. The CCL series was launched by Terry McDonnell, when he was section chair in 2020-2021, as a means to have culture section members draw on their scholarly expertise on current social issues and apply cultural sociology tools to comment on current social issues. The CCL series is also a means to foster a sense of intellectual community and connection throughout the year, as well as to strengthen the link between scholarly research and public sociology.

Links to videos from all the panels from the past two years can be found on the [culture section website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The following were the 2024-2025 panels:

Panel Title: Gender, Religion, and Nationalism in Global Perspective

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 11, 3 pm US Eastern time

Speakers:

Raewyn Connell (Professor Emerita, University of Sydney)

Nandini Deo (Associate Professor of Political Science, Lehigh University)

Saskia Schaefer (Humboldt-University Berlin, Head of the Freigeist Research Project "Secularity, Islam, and Democracy in Indonesia and Turkey")

Co-Moderators: Rachel Rinaldo (University of Colorado) Fauzia Husain (Queen's University)

PANEL TITLE: Behavior, Space, and Identity

Date/Time: Friday, March 21, 2025

Speakers:

Richard Sennett (Chair, The London Centre for the Humanities)

Ole B. Jensen (Professor and Vice-head of Department of Architecture, Design and Media Studies, Aalborg University)

Jack Thornton (Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, Bryn Mawr)

Moderator: Michael O. Johnston (Assistant Professor of Sociology, William Penn University)

PANEL TITLE: Global Media and Politics

Date/Time: Friday, April 11, 1pm ET/10amPT

Panelists: Jeffrey Swindle (Harvard University); Kenzie Burchell (University of Toronto); Yuan Hsiao (Yale University)

Co-Moderators: Emma Brandt (University of Waterloo) and Ana Velitchkova (University of Mississippi)

Our Mentorship Program is another way for the culture section to foster professional connections and social community through the year. We concluded our fourth successful year with this program, thanks to the membership committee, constituted by Marshall A. Taylor (Chair), this year with support from Anne Taylor, Daniel Cueto-Villalobos, and Shivoni Choudhary.

These pods are meant to meet online throughout the year and encouraged to meet in person at the ASA Annual Meeting, to share feedback, advice, and support.