

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for [Sociology of Education]

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.

Key governance actions included introducing a section webpage with information about section bylaws and a webpage with a list of committees and the names of people serving on those committees. The council approved a vote on a bylaw amendment to clarify eligibility for the Anna Julia Cooper Award.

Throughout the year, Council was consulted (by email) about bylaw amendments, ASA session planning, and the reception.

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 agenda for the Business Meeting includes an attached PowerPoint.

Attendance was noticeably higher than in previous years, likely due to a same-day email reminder and an encouragement to attend sent to the section listserv. Most tables in the room were full, and while an exact headcount was not possible, attendance was estimated at approximately 120 participants. A significant number of graduate students were present, reflecting strong interest in engagement from early-career members.

The chair's presentation highlighted trends in section membership and assessed the section's vitality compared to other ASA sections and ASA membership in general, noting that while membership declined across ASA, our section experienced a smaller magnitude of loss than most other sections.

At the Business Meeting, members discussed potential funding streams and strategies for recruiting new members to the section.

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 Council meeting took place at 7 AM on August 9, 2025.

In attendance: Joanne Golann, Emily Rauscher. Brittany Fox Williams. Jeremy Fiel, Elena Van Stee, and Simone Ispa-Landa, Macy Brammer

The agenda for the Council Meeting focused on what worked and what could be improved going forward. Points discussed:

1. List-serv and website

- Council members discussed the introduction of a section website as a way to communicate updates and keep emails short and simple. Council members agreed that the website was a positive innovation.
- The council discussed how to attract more graduate student members. We discussed adding a dedicated “For Graduate Students” page to the website. We discussed using the website (as well as the Section Reception to communicate messages about section benefits for graduate students, why involvement matters, and offer information about ways to get involved.

2. Community Engagement: Business Meeting & Dinner Ambassadors

- We discussed sending an email to the section to explicitly invite graduate students and all members to the Business Meeting, which Simone did.
- We discussed the “dinner ambassador” innovation, in which we created a way for section members to sign up to go to dinner with an “ambassador” (a tenure-track or tenured faculty member) after the reception. Council members agreed that the idea was a good one and that the program could be expanded for next year’s ASA.

3. Reception

- We explored the option of charging for next year’s reception, including the idea of having a tiered payment system where faculty pay more than others. Simone noted that continuing to offer the reception for free and then asking for donations may not be sustainable in the long term.

4. ASA Sessions and Conference

- Coordination: This year, the section chair served as sessions coordinator, organizing three themed sessions and one open session.

- Organizers reported high engagement, with one pair managing 70+ submissions, noting that co-chairing helped make the process more manageable.
- We agreed that in the future, it would be better to have organizers from different universities (this year, we had two from Rice.)
- The council highlighted that sessions including senior and junior faculty tend to attract larger audiences.
- The council discussed the benefits of a stipend-supported graduate student meetup at the next ASA conference to strengthen connections.
- Council agreed that next year, the Dinner Ambassador could be expanded, given that it was met with enthusiasm this year (which we considered a pilot.)

Awards

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

James Coleman Award for Best Article

Emily Handsman, Chair of the Committee

- Co-winners:
 - Peter Francis Harvey for "'Everyone Thinks They're Special': How Schools Teach Children Their Social Station," *ASR*, Vol. 88(3)
 - Tom Wooten for "Effort Traps: Socially Structured Striving and the Reproduction of Disadvantage," *AJS*, Volume 130 Number 2.
- Honorable mention: Julia C. Lerch, David John Frank, and Evan Schofera for "The Social Foundations of Academic Freedom: Heterogeneous Institutions in World Society, 1960 to 2022," *ASR Vol. 89(1)*.

Doris Entwisle Early Career Award

Chana Teeger, Chair of the Committee

- Jordan Conwell, winner
- Catherine Kramarczuk Voulgarides, Honorable Mention

David Lee Stevenson Best Graduate Student Paper Award

Edward Morris, Chair of the Committee

- Winner: Andrew Myers and Crista Urena Hernandez, Indiana University, "The Labeling Power of CRT: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment" (Forthcoming, *Sociology of Education*)
- Honorable Mention: Maura R. Kraemer, University of Notre Dame, "Race, Parents, and Schools: Understanding How Parental Racial Socialization Operates Within Schools as Racialized Organizations" (*Social Science Research*, March 2025)

Bourdieu Best Book Award

Paul Hanselman, Chair

- Award winner: Nora Gross, Barnard College, Columbia University. "Brothers in Grief: The Hidden Toll of Gun Violence on Black Boys and Their Schools"
- Honorable Mentions:
 - Jessi Streib, Duke University. "The Accidental Equalizer: How Luck Determines Pay After College"
 - Chana Teegeer, London School of Economics. "Distancing the Past: Racism as History in South African Schools"

2025 Finances

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

Roster. As of November 5, 2025, the Sociology of Education section has 679 members. Approximately 91% of members are either listed as Regular (419) or Student (201) members. The remaining 9% are other member types (e.g., Affiliate, Retired, etc.)

Finances. According to the October 2025 financial statement (the most recent available as of this writing), we had \$9,342 in expenditures, \$5,246 in estimated income, and a carryover balance of \$12,261 for a balance of \$8,165. A large portion of our expenditure was for the section reception at ASA. The total cost for the reception was \$5,951. However, we raised \$1,749 for the reception, where \$1,200 came from tenure-track faculty tickets and \$549 from donations. Therefore, the net cost for the event was \$4,202. We also spent \$306 for six plaques for section award winners.

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.

The Section focused on improving communication and accessibility for members. A major initiative was the creation of a dedicated Section website, which became the central hub for all information related to announcements, governance, policies, and the annual meeting. This site streamlined access to resources and reduced the need for members to search through lengthy email threads.

To keep members informed, the list-serve was used for concise emails that included direct links to relevant pages on the website.

Our communication strategy aligns with the Section's goals and values by:

- Transparency: Governance documents and policies were easily accessible on the website.
- Lowering barriers to engagement: Members were encouraged to post announcements and updates through clear instructions and forms that were available on the site. In addition, the site was used to allow people to volunteer for committees.
- Reducing information overload: Shorter, link-based emails respected members' time.
- Graduate student initiative: Graduate student members used the website to connect with peers and arrange graduate-student only online meetups.

In addition, we organized all section materials into clearly labeled folders in OneDrive to make it easier for current and future section leaders to locate historical information and maintain institutional memory. This structure is intended to reduce the time spent trying to locate information for future leaders.

Electronic Media Used:

- Section Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/sociology-of-education-section/home>
- All list-Serve Announcements were sent to: ASA-SOC-OF-EDUCATION@LISTSERV

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

We proposed and voted on a bylaw amendment to clarify eligibility for the Anna Julia Cooper Award, which honors outstanding scholarship or service addressing racial equity in education. The amendment specifies what "early career" means when the award is given in that category. This change ensures that the Cooper Award follows the same definition of "early career" used for the Doris Entwisle Award, creating consistency across awards and reducing ambiguity for applicants and committees.

This change affirms that the Cooper Award is not "different" from other early career awards. It simply applies the same eligibility definitions to an award focused on racial equity.

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).

Our mentor matching program was successful. 130 section members participated: 79 mentees and 51 mentors.

The Dinner Ambassador program was an inclusive community-building event designed to lower social and logistical barriers to meeting other section members for newer members and members who might otherwise feel isolated or unsure about how to engage at conferences or section

events. The Dinner Ambassador program was highly successful with six dinner ambassadors and 30 diners. Slots filled up through our online matching program within two days.

The Dinner ambassador invitation read,

Dear {{Ambassador name}},

I'm reaching out on behalf of our section chair Simone (cc'd), to ask if you would be willing to serve as one of our inaugural "dinner ambassadors" at this year's ASA. Below is a bit more info about the role.

We are asking dinner ambassadors to find a moderately-priced dinner option near our section reception location ([Hubbard Inn](#)). (We will make sure that everyone knows to expect to pay for their own meal.) Each ambassador will make a reservation for 6 people at the restaurant of their choice. Our reception ends at 7:30 pm, so depending on the distance from Hubbard Inn, reservations would likely need to be made for 8 pm or so. Once all of the ambassadors have made reservations, we will circulate a sign-up link to section members, so they can opt in to joining a dinner. Before the conference, we will send an email to the dinner ambassador and a group of interested members, and at the end of the reception, Simone will invite people to find each other so that groups can walk over to dinner together.

In addition, the section reception was free for members this year.

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 held two virtual meetups for section members, one on March 20, 2025, and one on May 20, 2025. Forty-six people RSVP'd for the March 20 meeting, and 54 for May 20th. Actual attendance ranged from 12 to 25 participants per session.

Both meetups provided opportunities for networking and informal discussion about research and professional development in an uncertain environment. These meet-ups were also used for encouraging member-driven initiatives, and following the meetups, two graduate students, Karin Yndestadt and Anqi Hu, organized two virtual graduate student coffee hours and an ASA grad student meetup as a result of the virtual coffee hours.

Attendees indicated that these virtual gatherings were valuable for fostering connections.

These events also served as a springboard for graduate students to organize their own virtual meetups and plan an in-person graduate student gathering during the ASA conference, further strengthening the SoE community.



Saturday, August 9th

Simone Ispa-Landa

2025 SoE Business meeting



SoE Communication: List-serv & Website

Website as a centralized resource hub for members

Entry point to understanding section governance, leadership, activities

Entry Points for Member Engagement

- Two virtual coffee hour chats
 - March 20th: 46 people signed up
 - May 20th: 54 people signed up
 - Generate ideas, encourage member-driven initiatives
- Graduate student Initiative (Anqi Hu & Karin Yndestad)
 - Anqi & Karin organized two virtual graduate student coffee hours
 - By request, they also organized a grad student meetup for section members at ASA

Entry points at ASA

MENTOR MATCHING PROGRAM

- **130 section members participated.** 79 mentees. 51 mentors

SECTION RECEPTION

- **150 attendees • \$5,175.18 total cost**
- Free attendance with donation option
- ***\$1,556 collected in donations so far***

DINNER AMBASSADOR PILOT

- **36 people participated in pilot.** 6 ambassadors, 30 diners



Elected Positions

Nominations Committee Chairs: **Rachel Fish** (2024-25) and **Kendra Bischoff** (2025-26)

- New Chair: **Emily Rauscher**
- New Chair-Elect: **Jennifer C. Lee**
- Stepping off Soc of Ed Council after a three-year term are **Rachel Fish**, **Jeremy Fiel**, and **Elena Van Stee** (student representative, 1-year term)
- New Council members: **Chantal A. Hailey**, **Christina Eller**, and **Rachael Dominguez** (student representative)

SoE has avoided ASA's major membership decline

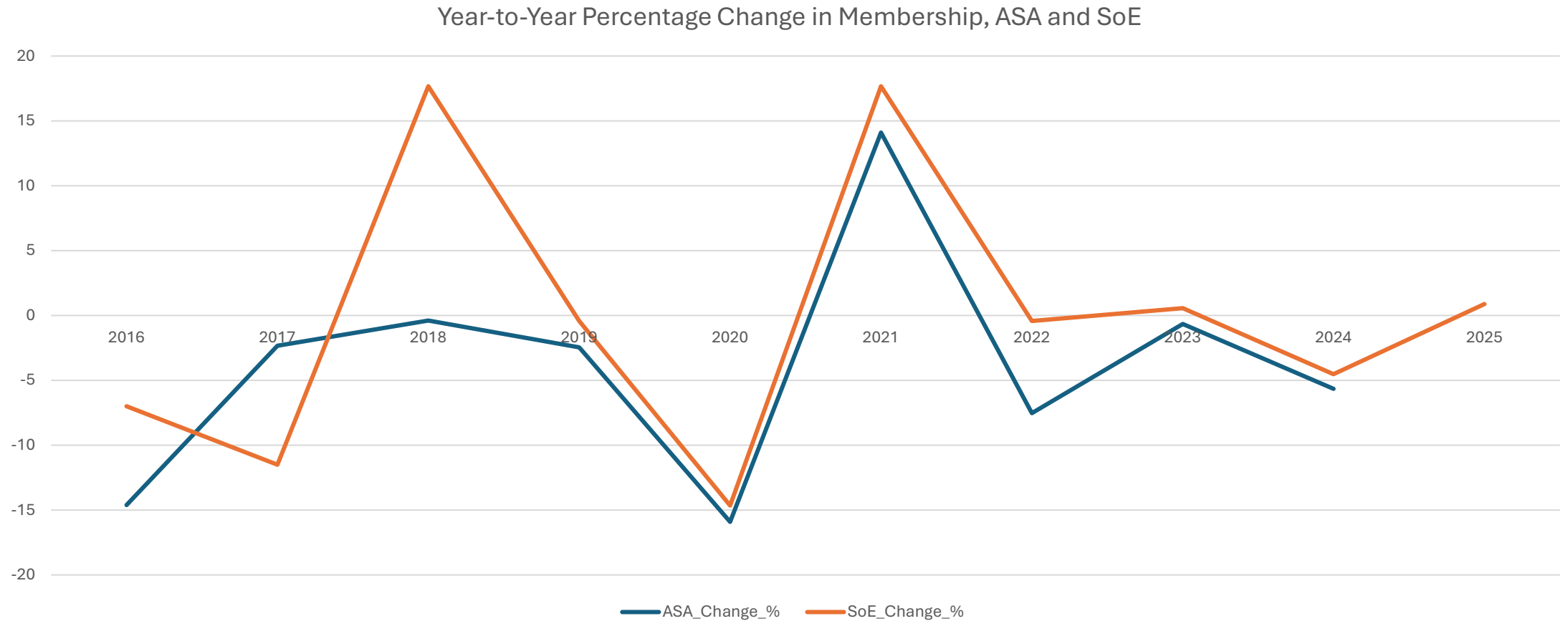
- **ASA Membership**

- **(2015):** 13,850 members
- **(2024):** 9,333 members
- **Absolute change:** -4,517 members
- Total change (2015-2024): **-32.61%**

- **SoE Membership**

- **(2015):** 729 members
- **(2025):** 681 members
- **Absolute change:** -48 members
- Total change (2015-2025): **-6.58%**

year-over-year percentage change in membership for ASA and SoE, 2016-2025



Category	Amount	Status
INCOME		
Member Dues	\$652	Final
Other Income	\$600	Final
ASA Budget Allocation	\$2,404	Final
Subtotal Regular Income	\$3,656	
Reception Donations	\$1,556	Pending
Total Income	\$5,212	
EXPENSES		
Reception (Hubbard Inn)	\$5,925	Pending
Webmaster/newsletter RA	\$3,850	Final
Total Expenses	\$9,775	Pending
FINANCIAL POSITION		
Beginning Balance (June 30)	\$12,261	
Net Loss	\$4,563	Pending
Ending Balance	\$7,698	



Donation link for the reception (also on website)

- For those who are able to contribute, suggested donation levels include:
- \$12 (student supporter)
- \$24 (early career/postdoc scholar supporter)
- \$36 (emerging scholar supporter)
- \$48 (established scholar supporter)
- \$60 (senior scholar supporter)
- \$72 (distinguished scholar supporter)

Awards. Reception at Hubbard Inn. Karin Y.



