



HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



## 2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Human Rights Section

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### 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.

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### Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2024 and August 2025.

#### **Business Meeting (8/11/2025)**

Agenda for Sociology of Human Rights Business Meeting

- Marie (Chair) welcomes everyone, notes other Sociology of Human Rights events today at ASA
- Chair announces election results, welcomes new officers
- Jeong-Woo gives Secretary/Treasurer report (budget and membership)
- Section Award Presentation with Award committee representatives

Please see separate attachment for 2025 Business Meeting notes.

#### **Council Meeting (Marie)**

#### **Agenda for Sociology of Human Rights Council Meeting (8/5/2025)**

- Chair: Marie Berry
- Greetings and introductions
- Quick review of past year, including elections and upcoming ASA sessions and activities (Chair)
- Membership and budget report from Treasurer/Secretary
- Upcoming issues : communications, section activities
- Open discussion

Please see separate attachment for 2025 Council Meeting minutes.

### Awards

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

Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award:

- Winner: Chana Teeger, *Distancing the Past: Racism as History in South African Schools* (Columbia University Press, 2024)
- Honorable Mention: Yan Long, *Authoritarian Absorption: The Transnational Remaking of Epidemic Politics in China* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

ASA Human Rights Section Best Scholarly Article Award:

- Co-Winner: Amanda Cheong, 2023. "Theorizing Omission: State Strategies for Withholding Official Recognition of Personhood." *Sociological Theory* 41(4): 377-402.
- Co-Winner: Hollie Nyseth Nzitaira, Trey Billing, and Jared F. Edgerton. 2024. "How Radio Affects Violent Conflict: New Evidence from Rwanda." *American Sociological Review* 89(5): 876-906.

ASA Human Rights Section Graduate Student Paper Award:

- Winner: María Ximena Dávila: "Building a Longed-for State: How Local Actors Shape the Meaning and Materiality of War-Aggrieved Institutions"
- Honorable Mention: Chi Pan Wong: "Sowing Hate, Cultivating Loyalists: Mobilizing Repressive Nationalist Diasporas for Transnational Repression by the People's Republic of China Regime"

## 2025 Finances

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

Secretary/Treasurer report (budget and membership):

New allocation of \$896 in 2025, which brings our balance for 2025 to \$3,638 (\$2,742 was carried over from 2024). This year we have committed \$1,000 and \$321 for award plaques. \$2,317 will be the balance after ASA in 2025.

## The Previous Year (Marie)

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 continued monthly or bimonthly emails to members, including with updates and announcements from section members. The section also published one large section newsletter in the spring with interviews and updates from new section council members, award winners, and more. We did not use electronic media.

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

The section is strongly committed to DEI and considered issues related to power, privilege, and positionality in all of its programming, including in the slate of candidates running for offices and the composition of award committees.

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 one paper session during ASA. The panel at ASA was very successful in bringing together sociologists working on issues of human rights, and provided good follow up networking opportunities. In addition, the section co-hosted a large reception at the Annual Meeting with several other 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.

Additional section programming was limited due to the section chair's capacity this year; however, there were robust exchanges via email with many section members, offers to give feedback on emerging scholars in section's work, and other meaningful opportunities to share ongoing commitments to human rights between section members via regular section emails.