

2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Sociology of Law

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 2025

Section Leaders Present: Monica Bell, Armando Lara-Millan, Jessica Simes, Stefan Vogler, Gabriella Kirk-Warner, Rachel Ellis, Sarah Brayne, others.

Membership in Attendance: Very large conference room was half full. Well-attended.

Agenda

ASA Sociology of Law Section

Council Meeting, 2025

1. Call to order, welcome
2. Welcome to newly elected section officers and Council members
 - a. Chair elect: Sarah Brayne (Stanford, Chair-Elect) – Armando Lara-Millan will be Chair after ASA
 - b. Secretary-treasurer: Stefan Vogler, 1st year of term
 - c. Council members newly elected: Sadé Lindsay, Cornell University, Rachel Ellis, University of Maryland-College Park, Zoë Chaetana Miller-Vedam, University of California, Irvine (Student Representative).

d. Thank you to all who have served the Council this year: Armando Lara-Millán, University of California, Berkeley, Michael Gibson-Light, University of Denver, Gabriela Kirk-Werner, Syracuse University, Jessica T. Simes, Boston University

3. Thanks

a. Thanks to Secretary-Treasurer, Stefan Vogler, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

b. Thanks to Committee Chairs and Members:

i. Program Committee:

Armando Lara-Millan (chair), Nate Ela, Megan Kang, and Jessica Simes

ii. Nominations Committee: Tony Cheng (chair), Michael Gibson-Light, Gabriela Kirk-Werner, Mary Ellen Stitt, Irene Vega

iii. Communications: Faith Deckard (chair), Tania DoCarmo, Aubrey Jackson Soller, Hajar Yazdiha, and Jesse Yeh

iv. Mentoring Committee: Brittany Friedman (chair), Joshua Page, Irene Hyangseon Ahn, Anna DalCortivo, Kemi Johnson Pratt, Esha Sraboni, and Yi Rong

v. Distinguished Book award committee: Ari Ezra Waldman (chair), Heba Alex, Oscar R. Cornejo Casares, and Amy Jones Haug

vi. Distinguished Article award committee: Celene Reynolds (chair), Beatriz Aldana Marquez, Katie Durante, and Daanika Gordon

vii. Graduate Student paper award committee: Rahim Kurwa (chair), Walker Nelson Kahn, Jasmine Simington, and Gillian Slee

viii. Undergraduate student paper award committee: Jessie K. Finch (chair), Jonathan Bleiweiss, and Julio Montanez

4. Changes this year

a. Discuss eliminating breakfast business meeting

b. New ASA programming system

6. Budget (Ronit Dinovitzer)

7. Presentation of Awards [see below]

8. Pass the gavel – Monica Bell to Armando Lara-Millan (incoming Chair of Section)

9. Armando Lara-Millan remarks

10. Reminder of panels and joint reception today

Meeting Minutes

The following minutes summarize the Sociology of Law Council Meeting

Election and Council Member Updates

- Monica Bell (Chair) thanks everyone who served on council, noting incoming and outgoing members by name, and the success of initiatives such as the mentorship committee.
- Monica Bell transitions to the business section, starting with the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Overview

- Monica Bell provided a general overview of the budget.
- The Section grew its net assets carry-forward this year of \$5,136.
- Other expenses include award plaques and funding for graduate and undergraduate students prize winners' travel.
- Emphasis on the importance of carrying forward funds to ensure financial stability; the key to which is keeping the reception cost contained, which can be difficult.

Report on Initiatives over the Past Year

- Monica Bell discussed the year's focus, including managing expenses, engagement with other sections, and plans for communications.
- Monica Bell discussed the mentorship committee and the joint reception in the conference building with other sections are highlighted as key initiatives, including for meeting colleagues.
- Monica Bell discussed that the council's membership has hovered around 400 members, a number that is crucial for budget thresholds and Annual Meeting sessions.

Committee Reports and Programming

- Monica Bell introduces committee reports
- Armando Lara-Millan (Chair, Program Committee) discussed the Program Committee, that engaged with the membership and organized a series of panels and roundtables for the day.
- Monica Bell highlighted the work of the Mentorship committee.

Awards Given (2025)

The Section on the Sociology of Law's Distinguished Article Award

2025: Sandra R. Levitsky, Jesse Yeh, and Elizabeth A. Armstrong, University of Michigan, "Litigation Politics: Social Movement Activity in Campus Sexual Assault Litigation." *Law & Society Review*, 58: 505-534. 2024.

2025 Honorable Mention: Scott W. Duxbury, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Collaborating on the Carceral State: Political Elite Polarization and the Expansion of Federal Crime Legislation Networks, 1979 to 2005." *American Sociological Review*, 89: 650-683. 2024.

The Section on the Sociology of Law's Distinguished Book Award

2025: Asad L. Asad, Stanford University, *Engage and Evade: How Latino Immigrant Families Manage Surveillance in Everyday Life*. Princeton University Press, 2023.

2025 Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Chiarello, Washington University in St. Louis, *Policing Patients: Treatment and Surveillance on the Frontlines of the Opioid Crisis*. Princeton University Press, 2024.

The Section on the Sociology of Law's Graduate Student Paper Prize

2025: Allison Goldberg, University of Washington, "Race, Reform, and Recalls: The Movement Against "Progressive" Prosecutors."

2025 Honorable Mention: Sino Esthappan, Northwestern University, "Assessing the Risks of Risk Assessments: Institutional Tensions and Data Driven Judicial Decision-Making in U.S. Pretrial Hearings."

2025 Honorable Mention: Yan Fang, University of California, Berkeley, "Between Public and Private Safety: How Internet Technology Companies Navigate the Logics of Enforcement."

The Section on the Sociology of Law's Undergraduate Student Paper Award

2025: Leah Pothel, Northwestern University, "Predicting Discrimination: How COMPAS Penalizes Black Women in Risk Assessment."

2025 Honorable Mention: Sandali Vithanage, University of Toronto Mississauga, "Networks of Fear: TikTok's Misinformation on Sex Trafficking."

2025 Finances

Below is the budget that we submitted in our annual report, updated to reflect some of our actual expenses. As always, our main expenses are the reception, council breakfast, award plaques and student travel awards. This year the reception was more expensive due to the location in Chicago, though costs were kept in line by holding a joint reception. We were under budget on student travel to the conference with only one travel award. We are awaiting final numbers on the cost of the council breakfast. Finally, the cost of plaques was as usual, just under \$250.

Our final income figures will only be determined in September 2025. When we submitted our budget for approval last year, the expected income was \$2469. Currently, according to ASA's most recent income statement for the section (as of June 30 2025), our income is \$2169. Relying on this income figure, we will continue to have a carry over of about 4000\$. We should expect some fluctuation in this final income figure, which will be updated by ASA in September 2025.

Date the Section Council approved this budget (column for budgeted amount): **October 24, 2024**

Expected Expenditures

Expense Category	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount (as of August 9 2025)	Details (use the cells in this column to provide information on each expense)
Annual Meeting			
Reception	\$ 1500	\$2000	Joint reception (final exact figure to be confirmed from ASA)
Other Meeting Expenses	\$ 125	125	Council breakfast ESTIMATED
Awards			
Student Awards	\$200	\$100	Travel to annual meeting for undergraduate and graduate student awardees
Award Plaques	\$ 252	240.66	Award plaques and paper certificates
Other	\$ 0	0	Use this space to provide details

Communications			
Website	\$ 0	0	Use this space to provide details
Newsletter	\$ 0	0	Use this space to provide details
Other	\$ 0	0	Use this space to provide details
Miscellaneous			
Membership	\$ 0		Use this space to provide details
Other	\$ 0		Use this space to provide details
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 2077.00	\$2465.66	<i>Sum estimated expenses</i>

Estimated Income from September 2024

Income Category	Estimated Amount	Details
Section Allocation – Base	\$ 1023	<i>ASA Office will provide figure mid-September. See note 1 on how this figure is calculated.</i>

Section Allocation – Per Member	\$ 876	<i>ASA Office will provide figure mid-September. See note 2 on how this figure is calculated.</i>
Premium Dues	\$ 570	<i>ASA Office will provide an estimated figure. See note 3 on how this figure is calculated.</i>
Contributions	\$ 0	Use this space to provide details
Misc	\$ 0	Use this space to provide details
Total Estimated Income	\$ 2469	<i>Sum estimated income (from the 2025 budget estimates in September 2024)</i>

Updated Budget Summary (using income statement from the updated ASA google drive as at June 30 2025)

Estimated Remaining Balance at end of June 30 2025	\$ 4295	<i>As of June 30 2025 from ASA google drive</i>
Total 2025 Estimated Income	+\$ 2169	<i>As of June 30 2025 from ASA google drive</i>
Total 2025 Budgeted Expenditures	- \$ 2465	<i>Fill in from the Budgeted Expenditures table above</i>

Total	= 3999 \$	<i>To calculate net amount, sum Lines 1 and 2, then subtract Line 3.</i>
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Council Meeting

Section Leaders Present: Monica Bell, Armando Lara-Millan, Jessica Simes, Stefan Vogler, Gabriella Kirk-Warner, Rachel Ellis.

Agenda

- Discussion of budget figures
- Discussion of pros and cons with on-site/off-site reception
- Discussion of saving money by canceling the in-person section business meeting at ASA 2026
- Discussion of ASA rule changes for section panels

Minutes

- Budget figures were shown to be in robust shape, due to savings with joint receptions. Some discussion of quality of food and venue trade offs with on-site reception was had.
- It was decided that we would cancel the in-person business/morning breakfast meeting due to cost, difficult early morning scheduling, and the ability to have the meeting online prior to the ASA meeting.
- Council members were informed of the ASA rule changes in programming, which, as far as we can tell, have been modified to be less tethered to the number of section members.

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 was a transitional year for the section with regard to communications. Following a great deal of discussion in past years and at the 2023 Business Meeting, there was agreement on pursuing new approaches to communications. There was some reservation expressed about different social media platforms, and earlier Section Council discussions expressed hesitation about pursuing an interactive email or online discussion group. There was also financial concern expressed over the continued payment for hosting the earlier section website (which was privately hosted). There was a great deal of discussion that was then on hold/shifted as a result of the year of ASA Connect as well as changes in the social media environment.

In 2024-2025, we followed our practice from the previous year of relying on monthly emails from the Chair to the membership, with all relevant information for upcoming opportunities, the ASA Annual Meeting, relevant positions, announcements from ASA for Section Membership, relevant member announcements, and more. These were compiled with headers and introductions so as to be legible as a set, while avoiding email overload, as some members were concerned that the email volume from the section had become too high.

In 2024-25, the section appointed its first Communications Chair, Faith Deckerd, and conversations ensued about the best ways of engaging in robust communications that evolved for changing times. Initially, the committee had planned on more robust use of social media platforms, specifically X and TikTok, to provide platforms for sociologists of law to share their work in small nuggets. Unfortunately, due to the political swirl surrounding both platforms, and public attacks on especially younger sociologists, we were hesitant to pursue this strategy in 2024-25 and decided to refine our ideas and regroup for next year.

Although we decided to briefly shelve our social media outreach plans, we did maintain mentoring opportunities within the section. The Mentoring Committee, headed by Council member Brittany Friedman and administered by its vice-chair, Josh Page, coordinated opportunities for earlier-career members to receive connection with later-career members, similar to the opportunities provided in 2023-24, which Page also helped to organize.

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

The Section has become radically more diverse, along multiple vectors, in its leadership over the last 3-4 years. In terms of racial diversity, it is notable that the previous chair, Monica Bell, was the first Black chair of the section and the current chair, Armando Lara-Millan, is the first Latino chair. Our Section has previously struggled with achieving racially and ethnically diverse leadership in part because of a narrow conception of what constitutes "Sociology of Law." Now, there is a greater range of work that is perceived to fall under the intellectual aegis of the Section, and this range is reflected in our leadership, our awards committees, the award winners, the practices of the Section's nominating committee, and the work we distribute via email.

One specific effort we made in 2024-25 to meet our DEI goals is how we recruited members to serve on committees. In the past, most appointments to committees were based purely on Section leaders' networks. In 2024-25, we staffed all committees 100% from volunteers, and we aimed to give every single person who submitted a volunteer form at least one committee assignment. This approach meant that committees had more new faces, including younger, more diverse faces, and members from non-elite institutions. Looking back over our committee membership lists, we tend to see the same names over and over again. The 2024-25 lists look radically different.

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).

Panels at the 2025 Annual Meeting were organized by the program committee, chaired by Armando Lara-Millan. Suggestions for panels were also solicited from the Sociology of Law membership, so as to encourage member participation and to take into account and reflect intellectual interests. One panel was kept as “open topics” to encourage participation across topics. The paper panels were as follows:

8:00-9:30am

Law and Political Economy

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Gold Coast

Presider/Session Organizer: Armando Lara-Millan, University of California-Berkeley

- Walker N Kahn, University at Buffalo, “Court Fees in Civil Debt Collection & The Making of Mass Foreclosure”
- Jasmine Simington, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, “Fragile Wealth: Involuntary Property Loss, Ownership Disputes, and the Contingencies of Property”
- John Bassney, University of California-Berkeley, “Hired Consciences and Market Stages: Intellectual Property Rights and the Transformation of Global Trade, 1980-1990”
- Anna Reosti, American Bar Foundation; Christian L Hess, Kennesaw State University; Tex Pasley, “How the Rise of Obscured Property Ownership Impacts Legal Enforcement of Rental Habitability Standards in Chicago”
- Alice Kang, Northwestern University, “Privatizing Citizenship Rights in the EB-5 Regional Center Program: From Pragmatic Tool to Tactical Strategy”

Discussant: Diana Reddy, University of California Berkeley

10:00-11:00am

Sociology of Law Roundtables (see program for more details)

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency B

Session Organizer: Megan Kang, Princeton University

11:00-11:30am

Sociology of Law Business Meeting

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency B

2:00-3:30pm

Sociology of Law Open Topics I

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Gold Coast

Presider: Armando Lara-Millan, University of California-Berkeley

Session Organizers: Armando Lara-Millan, University of California-Berkeley; Jessica T. Simes, Boston University

- Nona Maria Gronert, Colgate University, “How Campus Sexual Violence Became A Legalized Problem”

- Asma Rahimyar, Yale University, “Refugee Law and Legal Double Consciousness”
- Jimmy Biblarz, UCLA, “Seemingly Settled: Judicial Rhetoric and the Meaning of Segregation”

Discussant: Anya Degenshein, Marquette University

4:00-5:30pm

Sociology of Law Open Topics II

West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Gold Coast

Presider: Robin Bartram, University of Chicago

Session Organizer: Jessica T. Simes, Boston University

- Jaquelyn Jahn, Drexel University; Claudia Anderson, Florida State University; Jessica T. Simes, Boston University; Leah H. Schinasi, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health; Michael Leung, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Josiah L. Kephart, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health; Bruce Western, Columbia University, “Deaths, Medical Transfers, and Infirmary Visits Among Incarcerated People in Pennsylvania Following Extreme Ambient Temperatures”
- Nate Ela, Temple University, “Law, Society, and Ecology”
- Maria Akchurin, Loyola University-Chicago, “Mobilizing Scientific Uncertainty: Epistemic Contests, Mining Impacts, and Water Resources in Northern Chile”
- Vitor Martins Dias, Butler University; Mario Schapiro, Fundação Getulio Vargas, “Resisting Democratic Backsliding from Within the State: Environmental Politics in Bolsonaro’s Brazil”

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.

N/A