

**2025 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for
Sociology of Mental Health**

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.

The section was led by the following team this year. During this reporting period, we strengthened Section governance by establishing a dedicated Section Google Drive to centralize and preserve key documents. This shared repository houses council and leadership rosters, council and business meeting agendas and minutes, leadership position descriptions, annual reports, and other essential materials. Creating this archive helps maintain institutional memory, improves continuity across leadership transitions, and ensures that future officers have easy access to historical resources and guidance. The shared folder also enhances transparency and efficiency by providing council members with a consistent, organized space for accessing and contributing governance documents.

Position	Member	Term Start	Term End	Emails
Elected Council Members				
Section Officers				
Chair	Lijun Song	9/1/2024	8/31/2025	lijun.song@vanderbilt.edu
Chair-Elect	Anna Mueller	9/1/2024	8/32/2025	mueller1@iu.edu
Past Chair	Eric R. Wright	9/1/2023	8/31/2024	ewright28@gsu.edu
Secretary/Treasurer	Lucie Kalousova	9/1/2023	8/31/2026	lucie.kalousova@vanderbilt.edu
Section Council				
Nominating Committee Chair	Molly Copeland	9/1/2024	8/31/2025	mcpela2@nd.edu
Publications Committee Chair	Teresa Scheid	9/1/2023	8/31/2025	tscheid@uncc.edu
Awards Committee Chair	Marisa Young	9/1/2024	8/31/2026	myoung@mcmaster.ca
Membership Chair	Lacee Satcher	9/1/2023	8/31/2025	lacie.satcher@bc.edu
Student Representative	Emily Ekl	9/1/2024	8/31/2026	ekl.1@osu.edu
Council Member	Christy Erving	9/1/2023	8/31/2025	christy.erving@austin.utexas.edu
Appointed Positions				
Section Journal Editor	Fred Markowitz	1/1/2025	12/31/2027	fredm@niu.edu
Section Webmaster	Richard Adams	9/1/2016	Retiring	radams12@kent.edu

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.

Below is the 2025 business meeting agenda and minutes.

SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Monday, August 11, 2025

3:00p to 3:30p

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Broze, Room Michigan 2

- I. Call to Order and Welcome | Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University and Anna S. Mueller, Indiana University-Bloomington
- II. Reports and Discussion Items
 - a. Recognize Outgoing and Welcome Incoming Council Member
 - b. Secretary-Treasurer Reports (Lucie Kalousova)
 - i. Summary of 2024-25 Expenditures
 - ii. Discuss and Vote on Proposed 2025-26 Budget
 - c. Nominating Committee Chair (Molly Copeland)
 - d. Membership Chair (Lacie Satcher)
 - e. Awards Committee Chair (Marisa Young)
 - f. Section Journal Editor (Fred E. Markowitz)
 - g. Mentor of the Month and Mentoring Program (Emily A. Ekl and Eric R. Wright)
 - h. Joint Section Reception with Medical Sociology Section and Body and Embodiment Section (Lijun Song)
 - i. Council Issues to Address in the Business Meeting (Lijun Song, All)
 - i. Discuss: Aligning Section Leadership Start Dates with ASA-wide Position Dates (September 1)
 - ii. Plan and Organize Six Section Sessions for the 2026 Annual Meeting
- III. Transition of the Section Chair to Anna S. Mueller, Indiana University-Bloomington
- IV. Adjourn

Sociology of Mental Health Section Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025

Time: 3:00–3:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Broze, Room Michigan 2

Attendees: 27 members present

Chair: Lijun Song (Vanderbilt University)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. by Chair Lijun Song.

New and departing section leaders were recognized. Lijun welcomed the incoming council members and thanked the departing leaders, including those who organized the section and regular sessions on mental health, those who were not council members but served on the awards committee, those who volunteered to mentor other section members through our mentoring program, and student newsletter assistant, Zhe Zhang.

Agenda was approved as circulated.

2. Reports and Discussion Items

a. Secretary-Treasurer Report (Lucie Kalousova)

- 2024–25 Budget Performance: Stayed within budgeted allocation and underspent by several hundred dollars.
- Despite underspending, expenses continue to exceed income. Current annual income from ASA is approximately \$1,700–\$1,800, while the reception alone nearly consumes the entire budget.

Recommendation: Section should consider long-term strategies for increasing revenue.

2025–26 Draft Budget:

Total expected expenditures: \$3,200 (including \$2,500 for the reception).

Total estimated income: \$1,797.

Projected remaining balance (end of 2026): \$8,157.

Motion to approve budget: moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

b. Reception Planning

- Joint reception tradition with Medical Sociology and Body and Embodiment sections will continue.
- Report noted that in Chicago, securing a venue required contacting 15–16 sites, many of which were unaffordable.
- Costs remain high, with a total reception expense of about \$8,000 this year.

c. Nominating Committee Report (Molly Copeland)

- Four positions open in the coming year: Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Awards Committee Chair, and Student Representative. The Nominating Committee Chair position will also turn over.

- Members encouraged to submit nominations (including self-nominations) and to nominate junior faculty who may benefit from service for tenure review.
- Forms were circulated, and nominations may also be submitted by email.

d. Membership Report (Lacee Satcher)

- Membership remains strong. Goal is to exceed 300 members by the end of August.
- Faculty are encouraged to purchase gift memberships for students.

e. Awards Committee Report (Marisa Young)

- Awards were successfully conferred this year.
- The committee will continue refining conflict-of-interest policies, especially for small subcommittees.
- Input welcomed from members with relevant experience in other ASA sections.

f. Mentoring Programs (Emily A. Ekl and Eric R. Wright)

- Mentor of the Month series co-organized with Medical Sociology continues successfully, with topics such as publishing and the job market.
- Mentoring program was revived after a hiatus, with nearly 20 faculty volunteers matched to students. Plans are in place to continue next year.

g. Council Issues

i. Alignment of Leadership Start Dates 3

- Proposal discussed to align section leadership terms with ASA-wide dates (September 1), rather than immediately after the business meeting.
- Benefits: Consistency across sections, smoother administration, clearer communication.
- Next steps: Proposal will move to Council for approval, followed by a membership vote during spring elections.

ii. Planning Section Sessions for ASA 2026

- Due to ASA's new allocation system, the section will have six sessions (two based on membership size, two from reallocated mental health sessions, one required open-submission, one for Tuesday section day assignment, and one for awards/business).
- Discussion emphasized inclusivity in session planning, with collaborative organization rather than chair-only control.
- Members encouraged to share session ideas and volunteer as organizers.

3. Transition of the Section Chair

- Outgoing Chair Lijun Song was recognized for outstanding leadership, communication, and symbolic initiatives (e.g., section button design).
- Members praised Song's efforts to foster community and belonging within the section.
- Leadership formally transitioned to Incoming Chair Anna S. Mueller (Indiana University–Bloomington), who will guide planning for 2026.

4. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.
- Reminders: Section sessions on Singlehood and Mental Health (later that day) and Regular Session on Mental Health (following day).

Next business meeting: ASA Annual Meeting 2026, New York City.

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.

We had two council meetings. Below are the council meeting agendas and minutes.

ASA SMH Council Meeting Agenda

Date: 2025-02-05, 3pm-4pm (CT)

Zoom: <https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/my/lijunsong>

Student member recruitment/mentoring initiatives

1. Career Development Workshops

- Eric has been collaborating with the Medical Sociology Section on the *Mentor of the Month* sessions this academic year. Two sessions have been successfully organized and well attended. Based on the survey results, future session topics could focus on grant/funding opportunities and job searches.

2. Student Membership Sponsorship [more urgent in terms of timing]

- According to the survey, more than half of the student respondents were recipients of a gifted section membership. We could continue seeking sponsorship from the Pearlman Fund; however, following the approach of other ASA sections, we might also encourage faculty to sponsor student memberships. Now would be an ideal time to solicit faculty-sponsored memberships, as students are preparing to submit papers ahead of the February deadline for the upcoming ASA conference and will likely be renewing their ASA membership. Lacey is currently in communication with Stef at MSU for his advice. Stef recently completed his term serving the ASA Section on Medical Sociology and made significant, persistent efforts to increase membership. One of his successful strategies involved inviting students to sign up for free memberships while encouraging faculty sponsorships.
- Update: I communicated with Dr. Scott Schieman, and he has given permission for the Pearlman fund to sponsor 50 student memberships this year. As a point of reference, last year the Pearlman fund supported 60 student gift memberships. We reached out to previous members and members of a few ASA sections. It took a couple of months (mid June to August) to get 60 students to sign up.

- Sustainability. Scott expressed concerns about the sustainability of our membership growth, as the fund will eventually be depleted. I fully share his concerns, and we will discuss potential sustainable solutions at our upcoming council meeting on February 5.

N=12;

Submission Feb. 26;

Prioritize. Find the OLD/NEW list.

All the members;

Journal editorial board

Q: a third, student members. Normal?

Award nominees: members? Language,

Presenters: members? Language, Bylaws? Necessary?

Session organizers?

Personal email?

Award: conflict of interests? Timing? Bylaws, summer meeting

Fund solicitation?

Pearlin fund management?

3. Mentoring Meetings at the ASA Conference

- There are two potential formats for organizing mentoring meetings at the conference. In the past, our section paired students with faculty mentors for one-on-one meetings during the event, a tradition we could consider reviving. Alternatively, we could organize group lunch mentoring sessions, as some other ASA sections do. Organizers of such meetings have shared challenges, including the tight conference schedule and difficulties in securing a suitable nearby restaurant for the group.

Pair up, one-on-one first; if lack of mentors, two-on-one or small group,

4. Student-Led Panels or Webinars

- Some ASA sections organize mini-conferences, and a student-led mini-conference during the summer before the ASA annual meeting could provide students with opportunities to present their work, receive feedback, and build social networks.
- Concerns: attendants? Time? Conflicts with others?

5. Student volunteers

- Students expressed interests in volunteering to serve our section.
- Postdocs; free first year; forward the email;
- Other trainees;
- Summer: solicitation.

ASA SMH Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 5, 2025

Attendees: Lijun Song, Anna Mueller, Eric R. Wright, Lucie Kalousová, Emily Ekl, Christy Erving, Marisa Young, Lacey Satcher, Molly Copeland

Chair: Lijun Song

1. Student Member Recruitment and Mentoring Initiatives

- Eric provided an update on the Mentor of the Month sessions, which have been successfully organized in collaboration with the Medical Sociology section and have been well attended.
- Future session topics, based on survey responses, could focus on grant/funding opportunities and job searches.
- Postdocs fall outside the current student and faculty categories, requiring explicit outreach for their involvement.
- ASA has introduced a free first-year membership for recent graduates, which should be leveraged to engage postdocs.
- The council agreed that communication should explicitly include "students, postdocs, and other trainees" to be more inclusive.

Action Items:

- Continue Mentor of the Month with new session topics focused on funding and job searches.
- Adjust messaging to explicitly include postdocs and trainees in all outreach.

2. Student Membership Sponsorship

- The Pearlin Fund will sponsor 50 student memberships this year, a reduction from 60 last year.
- Concerns were raised regarding the sustainability of relying solely on the Pearlin Fund.
- Faculty sponsorships for student memberships, similar to strategies used by the Medical Sociology section, were proposed as a viable supplement.
- Outreach should prioritize students whose memberships are set to lapse soon, particularly those with expirations between January 1st and February 26th to align with ASA submission deadlines.
- It was noted that some ASA sections encourage faculty members to sponsor student memberships directly.
- A discussion was held regarding the need for award nominees, session presenters, and organizers to be section members. It was suggested that clarifying the bylaws might be necessary.
- The council discussed soliciting donations and fundraising efforts to sustain the Pearlin Fund long-term.

Action Items:

- Solicit faculty sponsorships for student memberships alongside Pearlin Fund efforts.

- Retrieve and prioritize outreach to lapsed and soon-to-lapse student members.
- Investigate and propose fundraising efforts for the Pearlin Fund's sustainability.
- Consider requiring award nominees, session presenters, and organizers to be section members and explore adding relevant language to the bylaws.

3. Mentoring Meetings at ASA Conference

- Two potential formats were considered: one-on-one student-faculty mentoring meetings or group lunch mentoring sessions.
- One-on-one pairings were the preferred method, as they provide more individualized guidance and have been a successful format in previous years.
- If mentor availability is low, the council will consider small-group mentorship sessions.
- Scheduling challenges, especially due to the tight conference agenda and securing restaurant space, were acknowledged as potential hurdles for group sessions.

Action Items:

- Announce mentoring sign-up for students and faculty mentors well in advance.
- Match students with faculty mentors, prioritizing one-on-one pairings.
- Explore the feasibility of small group mentorship sessions as an alternative if mentor availability is limited.

4. Student-Led Panels or Webinars

- Some ASA sections organize summer mini-conferences, which could serve as a model for a student-led event.
- A summer event before ASA could provide students with a platform to present their research, receive feedback, and network.
- Concerns were raised about attendance and potential scheduling conflicts with other events.
- The logistics and feasibility of implementing this idea for the upcoming year remain uncertain.

Action Items:

- Postpone implementation of a student-led panel or webinar until further logistical planning can be conducted.
- Monitor ASA's pilot mid-year research meetings to assess effectiveness and potential adaptation for future years.

5. Student Volunteers

- Some students expressed an interest in volunteering to support section initiatives.
- It was suggested that volunteer recruitment take place in the summer to allow students adequate time to integrate into section activities for the following year.

Action Items:

- Plan a summer solicitation for student volunteers.
- Identify specific roles and responsibilities where students can contribute effectively to section activities.

6. Section Membership and Awards

- The council discussed whether award nominees and section presenters should be required to be section members.
- Some ASA sections already implement this policy, and it was suggested that reviewing other sections' approaches might provide guidance.
- If membership requirements are to be instituted for awards and session presenters, this may necessitate a bylaw amendment.
- Conflict of interest policies related to awards were briefly discussed, with the possibility of adopting clearer guidelines in future council meetings.

Action Items:

- Review the membership policies of other ASA sections regarding award eligibility.
- Assess the feasibility and process of adding a membership requirement for award nominees and presenters to the bylaws.
- Discuss conflict of interest guidelines for award selection in future meetings.

7. Pearlin Fund Management and Fundraising

- The sustainability of the Pearlin Fund was a key concern, as current usage trends will eventually deplete the fund.
- Strategies to grow the fund through fundraising and donations were discussed, including outreach to faculty and past section members.
- The potential for organizing an annual donation drive or a targeted fundraising event was introduced.

Action Items:

- Develop a fundraising plan to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Pearlin Fund.
- Identify potential donors, including senior faculty and past section members, to support the fund.

Adjournment:

The meeting concluded with a recap of action items and next steps. Follow-up discussions and check-ins will be scheduled as needed

SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 5, 2025
10a-11a

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://vanderbilt.zoom.us/my/lijunsong>

- I. Call to Order and Welcome | Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University and Anna S. Mueller, Indiana University-Bloomington
- II. Reports and Discussion Items
 - a. Welcome New Council Members
 - b. Secretary-Treasurer Reports (Lucie Kalousova)
 - i. Summary of 2024-25 Expenditures
 - ii. Discuss and Vote on Proposed 2025-26 Budget
 - c. Nominating Committee Chair (Molly Copeland)
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 - e. Awards Committee Chair (Marisa Young)
 - f. Publications Committee Chair/Newsletter Editor (Teresa Scheid)
 - g. Section Journal Editor (Fred E. Markowitz)
 - h. Mentor of the Month and Mentoring Program (Eric R. Wright and Emily A. Ekl)
 - i. Joint Section Reception with Medical Sociology Section and Body and Embodiment Section (Lijun Song)
 - j. Eight Issues to Discuss at the Council Meeting (Lijun Song, All; see details below)
 - i. Align Section Leadership State Dates with ASA-wide Position Dates (September 1)
 - ii. Plan and Organize Six Section Sessions for the 2026 Annual Meeting
 - iii. Proposal on Conflict of Interest Protocol from the Awards Committee Chair
 - iv. Section Website: Purpose and Need

v. Call for Nominations

1. Webmaster
2. Newsletter Editor
3. Faculty/Student Co-Organizers—Mentor of the Month/Mentoring Program
4. Social Media Manager—Section Profile on Bluesky

III. Transition of the Section Chair to Anna S. Mueller, Indiana University-Bloomington

IV. Adjourn

Sociology of Mental Health Section – Council Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Lucie Kalousová, Secretary-Treasurer
August 8th, 2025

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Time: 10:00–11:00 a.m. (ET)

Location: Zoom

Presiding: Anna S. Mueller (Chair-Elect)

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. by Chair-Elect Anna Mueller.

Attendees introduced themselves, sharing affiliations and research focus areas.

New council members were welcomed.

Anna reminded participants that only current officers, council members, nominations chair, have voting rights; incoming members have voice but not vote.

2. Secretary-Treasurer Report

Membership & Budget Context:

- Section membership currently below 300 (historical peak ~480).
- Membership size directly impacts ASA allocation; income-based members generate more revenue than students.

Budget Trends (2020–present):

- Expenses (primarily reception costs) consistently exceed income.
- Co-sponsoring receptions with other sections has reduced costs from ~\$3,500 to ~\$1,100.
- Without changes, funds projected to run out by ~2031.

Recommendations:

- Continue co-sponsoring receptions or hold them every other year.
- Consider retention and recruitment campaigns focusing on income-based members.
- Explore donations, fundraising raffles, mid-year campaigns, and sponsorships.
- Option to invite voluntary contributions during dues renewal.

Discussion:

General agreement to maintain shared receptions and consider additional fundraising/retention measures.

2025–26 budget presented for approval and approved.

3. Discussion Items (Covered)

3.1 Align Section Leadership Term Dates with ASA Cycle

ASA encourages sections to begin terms on September 1 for consistency. Current bylaws set start date at close of ASA business meeting.

Consensus: General support for amending bylaws; proposal will go to business meeting and then section-wide vote.

3.2 Planning Six Section Sessions for ASA 2026

New allocation allows six sessions (five paper, one open submission, plus business meeting and awards/lecture).

Bylaws: Chair + Chair-Elect on Program Committee; in practice, Chair has planned alone.

Discussion:

- Support for broader participation in planning to reflect diverse topics and reduce workload.
- Agreement to keep process informal (no bylaw change) and solicit volunteers from council/membership.
- Strong interest in reviving roundtables, especially for student participation.
- Broad session titles recommended to maximize submissions.

Consensus: Chair will invite volunteers; flexibility maintained.

3.3 Awards Committee – Conflict of Interest Protocol (Marisa Young)

Developed guidelines defining conflicts (supervisory relationships, collaborations, close friendships).

If a subcommittee drops below four members due to conflicts, ad hoc members (e.g., council volunteers, past awardees) may be added.

Discussion Points:

- Whether a single conflict should trigger full recusal or only for that case.
- Concerns about current scoring system disadvantaging nominees when recusals occur.
- Possible models from other ASA award committees for partial recusals.

Consensus: Treat as a living document; use this year to test and refine procedures.

3.4 Section Website – Purpose and Future

Richard (Dick) Adams stepping down as webmaster after many years.

Current site hosted at Kent State; transition to a new host could be complex.

ASA provides a section page with limited customization.

Discussion Points:

- ASA site may not accommodate newsletters or timely updates; Google Drive link suggested for newsletters.
- Need to clarify ASA's flexibility before deciding.
- No volunteers yet for webmaster role; decision may depend on available personnel.
- Social media: Discussion about declining utility of Twitter/X, potential of LinkedIn for mental health audience. Bluesky profile exists but has file-size limits for newsletters.

Consensus: Seek ASA capabilities info

4. Items Not Reached / Deferred Due to Time Constraints

The following agenda items were not discussed and will require attention at a future council meeting or business meeting:

Reports from:

- Nominating Committee Chair (Molly Copeland)
- Membership Chair (Lacey Satcher)
- Publications Committee Chair / Newsletter Editor (Teresa Scheid)
- Mentor of the Month & Mentoring Program (Eric Wright & Emily Ekl)
- Joint Section Reception with Medical Sociology & Body and Embodiment Sections – mentioned in budget discussion but not addressed as a standalone item.

Calls for Nominations:

- Newsletter Editor (faculty lead) and Student Assistant
- Faculty/Student Co-Organizers for mentoring programs
- Social Media Manager – Bluesky account (only briefly mentioned)

5. Transition of Section Chair

Formal handover from Lijun Song to Anna S. Mueller to occur on September 1, pending bylaw amendment.

6. Adjournment

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Action Items Summary:

1. Prepare bylaw amendment to align leadership term dates with ASA cycle.
2. Chair to solicit volunteers for ASA 2026 program planning; consider adding roundtables.
3. Implement Awards Committee COI guidelines as living document; explore scoring adjustments and partial-recusal options.
4. Gather information from ASA on website capabilities; solicit member feedback at business meeting.
5. Continue co-sponsoring receptions to reduce expenses; explore fundraising and retention strategies.
6. Follow up on deferred agenda items at next council meeting.

Awards

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

Pearlin Award

Winner: Pamela Braboy Jackson — Department of Sociology, Indiana University Bloomington

Best Book Award

Winners:

Anna Mueller — Sociology, Indiana University Bloomington

Seth Abrutyn — Sociology, University of British Columbia

Life Under Pressure: The Social Roots of Youth Suicide and What to Do About Them (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Honourable Mention:

Alex Barnard — Sociology, New York University

Conservatorship: Inside California's System of Coercion and Care for Mental Illness (Columbia University Press, 2023)

Best Article Award

Winners

Amy Johnson — Sociology & Anthropology, Lehigh University

Christopher Levesque — Sociology, Kenyon College

Neil Lewis Jr. — Communication, Cornell University

Asad L. Asad — Sociology, Stanford University

"Deportation Threat Predicts Latino U.S. Citizens' and Non-Citizens' Psychological Distress, 2011-2018." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2024)

Honourable Mention

Byungkyu Lee — Sociology, New York University

Bernice Pescosolido — Sociology, Indiana University Bloomington

"Misery Needs Company: Contextualizing the geographic and Temporal Link between Unemployment and Suicide." *American Sociological Review* (2024).

Best Dissertation Award

Winner: Katie Billings — Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst

"Surviving Suicide" (2024)

Best Student Article Award — Tie

Co-Winner(s): Emily Ekl & Benjamine Gallati — Sociology, Indiana University Bloomington

"The Moderating Effect of Values on the Relationship Between Subjective Social Status and Depression: Evidence from MIDUS." *Society and Mental Health* (2023)

Co-Winner: Jingwen Liu — Sociology, University of Maryland

"Racial/Ethnic Differences in Living Arrangements, Distant Relations, and Later-Life Mental Health." *Journal of Marriage and Family* (2024)

2025 Finances

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

Overall, the 2024 budget aligned reasonably well with the section’s actual income and expenses, though a few important differences emerged. On the income side, the section received less revenue than anticipated because membership declined slightly during 2024, from 268 to 260 members. This reduced both the base and per-member ASA allocations. In addition, no royalties were received from the Handbook for the Study of Mental Health, despite this having been a periodic income source in prior years. As a result, actual income came in below what was projected.

On the expense side, the largest discrepancy occurred with the annual meeting reception. The section spent \$3,641.20, which was \$141.20 over the budgeted amount, continuing a pattern of rising reception costs. Other expenses, including award plaques and website costs, tracked closely with what had been budgeted.

Despite the shortfall in income and the reception overage, the section ended 2024 with an estimated year-end balance of \$10,000, consistent with the prior year’s projections. This allowed the section to enter the 2025 budget year with a solid financial cushion.

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.

Our section continued to maintain regular and multi-layered communication with members across several channels. We made frequent use of the ASA-supported listserv system—typically 2–4 announcements per month—to disseminate a wide range of information, including ASA announcements, section updates, recent publications and awards, research activities, job and publishing opportunities, survey invitations, and qualitative interview recruitment. Members were actively encouraged to reach out to the Chair and the Council with questions, suggestions, and announcements. We also issued an open call for nominations and self-nominations for section leadership positions and section awards, reinforcing transparency and encouraging broad member participation. Furthermore, our section kept members informed through our websites (one hosted by ASA and one sponsored by Kent State University), which provide up-to-date information about section activities, leadership, and events. In addition, our section made open calls to invite section members to contribute to newsletters and published two issues of our section newsletter featuring section news, member accomplishments, and short articles authored by section members. Additionally, we issued an open call for a membership drive, using the Pearlin Fund to sponsor student memberships and to support recruitment of new members from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Finally, at the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting, the Chair and Chair-Elect attended the ASA Section and Community Open House, where we met with section members, answered questions, and encouraged members to volunteer for service roles and to nominate or self-nominate for leadership positions and section awards. We also held our annual Section Business Meeting,

Awards Ceremony, and Pearlin Award Lecture, where we provided updates on section activities, recognized award recipients, discussed ongoing and upcoming initiatives, and invited member feedback on priorities for the coming year. Members greatly appreciated the Pearlin Award Lecture, which offered timely insights and highlighted the exceptional scholarly contributions of this year's awardee.

In addition, we co-sponsored a joint reception with two other ASA sections (Medical Sociology and Body and Embodiment) to strengthen cross-section communication, networking, and collaboration. This event provided a valuable opportunity for members across sections to meet, exchange ideas, and build interdisciplinary connections. To ensure broad participation, we identified an off-site venue that fully met ASA's accessibility policy, allowing all members—including those with mobility, sensory, or other access needs—to attend comfortably. The reception offered an inclusive and welcoming environment that facilitated new relationships, fostered community-building, and elevated the visibility of our section within the broader ASA community.

To strengthen and expand our communication efforts, we introduced several new initiatives this year. First, we strengthened our professional development efforts by collaborating with the Medical Sociology Section to co-organize the *Mentor of the Month* series—one of our Section's most valued mentoring initiatives. This series provided graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with direct access to senior scholars who share concrete advice on publishing, writing, career development, and navigating the profession. We invited section members to contribute ideas for future topics and to volunteer as session mentors to ensure the series reflects the needs and interests of our community. During the reporting period, we organized three *Mentor of the Month* events: one on developing and maintaining productive writing habits; one featuring editors from *Social Science & Medicine*; and one on how to publish in health journals, featuring a distinguished panel of editors from major journals in health and medical sociology. These events were well-attended and played an important role in fostering skill-building, community support, and cross-career-stage engagement within the Section.

Second, we conducted a comprehensive Student Member Survey to gain a deeper understanding of the professional needs, challenges, and expectations of our student members—especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. This survey represents a major effort to ensure that student voices directly shape Section priorities. The findings provided valuable insight into students' mentoring needs, career development concerns, and preferred forms of engagement. These results informed the design of our programming, guided improvements to our mentoring activities, and helped us tailor outreach efforts to better support the next generation of scholars in the sociology of mental health.

Third, based on insights from the Student Member Survey, we revived our one-on-one mentoring program, matching graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with senior scholars in the field to support their professional development. We encouraged mentors and mentees to connect in person at the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting whenever possible, or to meet over Zoom if preferred. Our hope is that these initial connections will grow into long-term mentoring relationships that provide ongoing guidance, support, and professional growth opportunities.

In addition, we recruited a graduate student to assist with newsletter editing and created a new newsletter column featuring an interview with the Pearlin Award winner. The addition of a

graduate student editor helped increase the efficiency, consistency, and timeliness of newsletter production. The new interview column provides members with insights into awardees' scholarly trajectories, research contributions, and career advice, enriching the intellectual content of the newsletter and offering inspiration to students and early-career scholars.

Furthermore, we launched a new section presence on Bluesky to share section activities, announcements, and professional opportunities. This platform allows us to reach members who prefer social media-based communication and helps extend the visibility of our section beyond the ASA listserv. The Bluesky account also offers a more informal and interactive channel for sharing time-sensitive announcements, amplifying member accomplishments, and fostering community engagement.

Finally, we designed a new section logo and distributed logo pins to members at the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting. The logo enhances the Section's branding and provides a clear visual identity that can be used across newsletters, social media, and conference materials. Distributing logo pins helped strengthen a sense of belonging and visibility at the annual meeting, promoting connection among members across institutions and career stages.

Together, these communication efforts embody the Section's commitment to intellectual exchange, mentoring, inclusion, and professional networking. By maintaining open and interactive channels, we aim to strengthen connections among members across institutions, career stages, and countries, while promoting engagement with the broader sociology of mental health community.

Section Webpage

https://www.asanet.org/asa_sections/sociology-of-mental-health/
<https://www.kent.edu/sociology/asa-mental-health-section>

Newsletter Fall Issue

<https://www-s3-live.kent.edu/s3fs-root/s3fs-public/file/asa-smh-newsletter-fall-2024v2.pdf?VersionId=EgyPmy361wc5F4q2s3rh4u.tKUx.lol2>

Newsletter Spring/Summer Issue

https://www-s3-live.kent.edu/s3fs-root/s3fs-public/file/ASA%20SMH%20NEWSLETTER%20Spring%20Summer%202025_Rs.pdf?VersionId=Lfl ehIKWBkedn8XhQZGFwu2urt11TYUf

Section Social Media

Bluesky Profile

<https://bsky.app/profile/asasmh.bsky.social>

New Section Logo



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

Our Section continues to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as core principles guiding all aspects of our activities. Building on the foundation laid in previous years, we sought to promote transparency, broaden participation, support scholars across career stages, and create inclusive and accessible community spaces.

First, we continued the practice initiated last year of discontinuing the separate award dinner—an arrangement that had inadvertently limited participation due to cost and scheduling barriers. Instead, we co-sponsored an inclusive, jointly organized reception with the Medical Sociology and Body and Embodiment Sections. We selected an off-site venue that fully met ASA's accessibility requirements to ensure that all members—including those with mobility, sensory, or other access needs—could attend comfortably. The reception fostered interdisciplinary engagement and created a welcoming environment for members from diverse institutions, backgrounds, and career stages.

Second, many of our communication and governance activities were intentionally structured to promote equitable and transparent participation. We issued open calls for nominations and self-nominations for section leadership positions and section awards, reinforcing fairness in leadership pathways. In finalizing the election ballot, the Nominations Committee placed special emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion—considering demographic, institutional, and career-stage diversity to ensure that the ballot reflected the breadth of our membership and promoted equitable access to leadership roles. We also encouraged members to volunteer for the Mentor of the Month series, contribute to newsletters, and submit ideas for programming, thereby amplifying diverse voices within our Section.

Third, we conducted a comprehensive Student Member Survey to better understand the needs and expectations of students, particularly those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Insights from this survey helped shape our programming, identify unmet needs, and guide outreach efforts designed to support and retain emerging scholars in the sociology of mental health.

Fourth, based on the survey findings, we revived our one-on-one mentoring program, matching graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with senior scholars in the field. We encouraged mentoring pairs to meet at the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting or over Zoom, allowing participants to choose the most accessible format. These mentoring relationships help address inequities in access to professional networks and support that are essential for early-career advancement.

Fifth, we expanded our mentoring and professional development opportunities by co-organizing the Mentor of the Month series with the Medical Sociology Section. This series provides graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with direct access to senior scholars who offer guidance on writing, publishing, career development, and navigating the profession. By issuing open calls for ideas and volunteers, we ensured that session topics reflected member input and that the series remained accessible, relevant, and inclusive. These events played an important role in fostering cross-career-stage interaction and reducing inequities in access to informal mentoring and professional knowledge.

Sixth, we strengthened our newsletter infrastructure by recruiting a graduate student to assist with editing, thereby providing professional development opportunities for trainees. We also introduced a new newsletter column featuring interviews with Pearlin Award winners, offering members insights into diverse scholarly trajectories, research contributions, and career advice—particularly valuable for students and early-career scholars who may lack such access at their home institutions.

Seventh, we introduced a new section logo and distributed logo pins to members at the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting. The logo provides a unified and recognizable visual identity that enhances section visibility across newsletters, social media, and conference materials. Distributing logo pins helped foster a sense of belonging and inclusiveness, especially for student members, first-time attendees, and scholars from underrepresented backgrounds, creating a welcoming and recognizable presence within the broader ASA community.

Eighth, we used the Pearlin Fund to sponsor student memberships as part of an open membership drive. This initiative reduced financial barriers to ASA participation and supported efforts to attract and retain student members from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

Finally, we expanded and diversified our communication platforms—launching a Bluesky account, strengthening our newsletters, and encouraging member input into section programming—to ensure that our communication strategy remained accessible and responsive to members with varied needs and preferences.

Together, these efforts demonstrate our Section’s sustained commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. By broadening pathways to leadership, mentoring, communication, and community-building, we aim to cultivate a welcoming and supportive environment for scholars across institutions, backgrounds, and career stages, while advancing equity within the sociology of mental health community.

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).

At the 2025 ASA Annual Meeting, our Section organized a range of programs and events designed to promote intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, and inclusion.

First, following a successful summer membership drive, our membership surpassed 300. We were able to sponsor two sessions at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Aligned with the meeting's theme, “Reimagining the Future of Work,” our first session is titled “Work and Mental Health.” To address the global rise of singlehood and ongoing discussions on its mental health impact, we focused on this understudied and marginalized population and held a second session titled “Singlehood and Mental Health.” Each session featured two co-organizers who are experts on these topics but at different career stages, enhancing the quality and diversity of the sessions, offering valuable professional development opportunities for the more junior organizers, and providing senior organizers with fresh perspectives and mentorship opportunities. These four co-organizers selected high-quality research for presentation.

Session Title: Work and Mental Health

Session Organizers: Rachel Donnelly, and Scott Schieman

Abstract

This session invites papers that address questions about how work, broadly defined, influences mental health. Topics related to work may include labor force participation, precarious work, specific characteristics of work quality, and work and occupational inequities. In keeping with the theme of ASA 2025, papers that engage with the future of work are encouraged.

Session Title: Singlehood and Mental Health

Session Organizers: Deborah Carr, and Lijun Song

Abstract

The global single population is increasing, raising important questions about its implications for mental health, both in scholarly debates and in public and political discourse. This session invites papers that examine the relationship between singlehood and mental health. Singlehood is broadly defined to include individuals who have never been legally married, as well as those who are separated, divorced, or widowed. We welcome papers that compare single individuals with their partnered counterparts, as well as those that focus on the heterogeneity within the single population.

Second, we held our annual Section Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Pearlin Award Lecture. During the business meeting, we provided updates on section activities, recognized award recipients, discussed ongoing and upcoming initiatives, and invited member feedback on priorities for the coming year. Members greatly appreciated the Pearlin Award Lecture, which offered timely insights and highlighted the outstanding scholarly contributions of this year's awardee, reinforcing our commitment to intellectual exchange and the advancement of research in the sociology of mental health.

Third, the Chair and Chair-Elect attended the ASA Section and Community Open House, where we met with section members, answered questions, and encouraged members to volunteer for service roles and to nominate or self-nominate for leadership positions and section awards. This event provided a welcoming space for new and returning members to learn about the Section's activities and to engage directly with its leadership, strengthening transparency and community connection.

Fourth, as part of our expanded mentoring efforts, we also encouraged mentors and mentees participating in our revitalized one-on-one mentoring program to meet at the annual meeting whenever possible. These in-person meetings helped strengthen cross-career-stage relationships and reduced barriers to accessing mentoring resources, especially for students and early-career scholars.

In addition, we co-sponsored a joint reception with two other ASA sections (Medical Sociology and Body and Embodiment) to strengthen cross-section communication, networking, and collaboration. This reception provided a valuable opportunity for members across sections to meet, exchange ideas, and build interdisciplinary connections. To ensure broad participation, we selected an off-site venue that fully met ASA's accessibility policy, allowing all members—including those with mobility, sensory, or other access needs—to attend comfortably. The reception offered an inclusive and welcoming environment that fostered new relationships, community-building, and shared visibility across overlapping scholarly communities.

Together, these events reflected and reinforced the Section's core goals and values by promoting intellectual engagement, creating accessible mentoring opportunities, encouraging

inclusive participation, and providing multiple avenues for members to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the sociology of mental health.

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.

Outside of the ASA Annual Meeting, our Section offered a robust slate of programmatic activities designed to promote intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, and inclusion throughout the year.

First, we collaborated with the Medical Sociology Section to co-organize the Mentor of the Month series—a cornerstone of our year-round programming. These virtual events provided graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with direct access to senior scholars who shared guidance on writing, publishing, navigating editorial processes, and building sustainable academic careers. By issuing open calls for ideas and volunteer mentors, we ensured that the series reflected member needs and remained accessible and inclusive. This programming directly supports the Section's goals of broadening mentoring access and fostering cross-career-stage engagement.

Second, we revived and expanded our one-on-one mentoring program. This initiative matched graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career scholars with senior scholars for individualized professional development. While we encouraged pairs to meet at the Annual Meeting, we also supported virtual meetings for those unable to travel or who preferred an online format. This flexibility reduced structural barriers to mentoring and advanced our Section's values of equity, inclusion, and sustained professional support.

Third, we conducted a comprehensive Student Member Survey to better understand the needs, concerns, and expectations of our student members—especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Insights from this survey guided the development of mentoring initiatives, professional development programming, and strategies for supporting early-career scholars. Incorporating student voices into program planning reflects the Section's commitment to inclusion, responsiveness, and equitable access to resources.

Fourth, in addition to our frequent use of the ASA-supported listserv system—typically 2–4 announcements per month—and our websites (one hosted by ASA and one sponsored by Kent State University) to disseminate a wide range of information, we strengthened our resources for dissemination and professional development. We introduced a new newsletter column featuring interviews with Pearlin Award winners, offering insight into awardees' scholarly trajectories and career advice. We also recruited a graduate student to assist with newsletter editing, providing valuable training and development for emerging scholars. Additionally, we launched a new Section presence on Bluesky to share professional opportunities, highlight member accomplishments, and promote intellectual exchange throughout the year.

Fifth, we introduced a new Section logo and distributed logo pins to strengthen Section identity and visibility. The new logo provides a cohesive visual identity that can be used across newsletters, social media, and Section materials, enhancing recognition and connection throughout the year. Distributing logo pins—many of which were worn during the Annual Meeting and beyond—helped cultivate a sense of belonging across career stages and

institutions. This initiative supports the Section's values of inclusion and community-building by helping members identify one another and feel more connected to the Section.

Sixth, we used the Pearlin Fund to sponsor student memberships as part of an open membership drive. This initiative reduced financial barriers to ASA participation and enabled more students, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, to engage with Section programming and benefit from mentoring and professional development opportunities.

Seventh, over the past years, our section has benefitted from the royalties earned by the *Handbook for the Study of Mental Health*. The fourth edition (now titled simply "Sociology of Mental Health: Theories, Contexts, and Systems" has come out this year. ASA office will not accept royalties to be directly deposited from the publisher, which is how most publishing houses now operate. However, the volume showcases the diverse work of our section members, and should any royalties be generated, the two co-editors, Teresa Scheid and Eric Wright, plan to contribute to the Section.

Finally, our section journal, *Society and Mental Health*, welcomed its new editor, Fred Markowitz, and a newly appointed editorial board in August. As the flagship journal of our Section, *Society and Mental Health* plays a central role in disseminating cutting-edge research, fostering intellectual exchange, and advancing the scholarly mission of our community. The transition to a new editorial team represents an important programmatic development that supports our Section's values by ensuring high-quality publication opportunities, promoting diverse substantive and methodological perspectives, and strengthening the infrastructure for knowledge dissemination in the sociology of mental health.

Together, these programmatic activities promoted intellectual exchange, expanded access to mentoring, strengthened professional development resources, and supported inclusion across career stages and institutions. By offering sustained and accessible programming throughout the year, the Section advanced its core values and nurtured a vibrant, supportive community in the sociology of mental health.

Below is the report from the Editor of our section journal, Fred Markowitz.

1. Journal Leadership

In August of 2024, I assumed the role of Editor of the journal. Alex Bierman and Scott Schieman, former Editors, graciously shared their expertise, helping to ensure a smooth transition process. Our current Deputy Editors—Robyn Lewis Brown, Kei Nomaguchi, and Jong Hyun Jung provide excellent service to the journal. The journal currently has 50 Editorial Board members. The journal is fortunate to have Gale Cassidy continuing as the Managing Editor, a position she has held for most of the journal's existence. SMH also depends on many ad hoc reviewers who provide valuable input to publish the highest possible quality articles on a wide range of scholarship within the sociology of mental health and illness.

2. Journal Scope and Impact

Society and Mental Health has entered its 15th year of publication. Since its inception, SMH has published papers covering a range of topics in the study of mental health and illness from a

sociological perspective. In the last year, the journal published 14 articles on topics such as the mental health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, childhood adversities, work and well-being, social status and depression, and intimate partner violence.

Currently, SMH is ranked 22 out of 219 sociology journals, with a two-year impact factor of 3.0. This accomplishment could not have been achieved without the support of our highly qualified editorial board and reviewers, as well as the talented authors who submit their work to the journal.

3. Manuscript Submissions

In 2024, SMH received 253 new manuscripts. Of these, 201 (79%) were rejected without further review. The primary reason manuscripts are rejected without review is because they do not have sufficient sociological grounding or focus. These are often papers more appropriate for public health or psychology journals and appear to be submitted based on the name of the journal, without clearer knowledge of SMH's sociological orientation. In rejecting papers without review, I am quite clear as to the reasons for rejection. In the rejection letter, I describe the journal's sponsorship by the Section on the Sociology of Mental Health, as well as the journal's focus on scholarly work intended to contribute to the sociology of mental health and illness. Of the 52 papers sent out for peer review, 17 (33%) received an invitation to revise and resubmit. The average time to a decision for peer-reviewed papers was just under 6 weeks. In terms of production time, papers accepted in 2024 were generally published in the journal within one year of acceptance.

4. Future Plans

Going forward, the journal will be working with ASA and Sage to promote a special targeted call for paper submissions to Society and Mental Health. The journal would like to encourage papers that apply sociological perspectives to the most pressing issues in public mental health, including the mental health crisis among youth, social problems associated with serious mental illnesses (e.g., homelessness, criminalization), substance use disorders, suicide, and access to mental health treatment. Where appropriate, we are especially interested in papers that apply rigorous causal methodologies to address these issues.

5. Financial Statement

In 2024 the journal operated with a budget of \$8,075.00.

ASA SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2024

The Chair's Message

As a sociologist specializing in social networks and mental health, I am honored to serve as Chair of the Section on Sociology of Mental Health. This section holds deep importance to me. Since joining the academic community as an international graduate student from China, this section has provided invaluable support as I developed professionally and worked toward my career goals: smiles, hugs, conversations, encouragement, inspiration, advice, mentorship, friendship, collaboration, and opportunities.

Our section fosters enduring relationships and dialogues among scholars with shared interests in mental health, approaching these topics from diverse perspectives, methods, and backgrounds. This richness is what makes our community so vibrant and essential.

As Chair, my goals are to 1) enhance the section's diversity and inclusivity, 2) strengthen support for the professional development of all members (especially emerging scholars), and 3) build valuable connections and solidarity to further unite us within this vibrant academic and intellectual community.

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Prepared by

Teresa L. Scheid
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Zhe Zhang
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In this role, I organize sessions for the annual meeting, coordinate announcements over our section mailing list, and work closely with council members, committees, the journal team, our webmaster, and other dedicated volunteers to support our section's goals. I also serve as a connecting bridge between council members, section members, and the broader ASA community.

Our members' unique contributions and perspectives are what make this community truly special, and I am committed to ensuring each of you feels supported and valued. I am truly excited to work alongside all of you to continue advancing this

dynamic and compassionate community. The importance of mental health in our work and society is paramount, and I am always ready to hear your thoughts and questions. Togetherness is the way forward.

As we gather our thoughts during this holiday season, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of connection, resilience, and hope—qualities that are especially vital during times of change and challenge. The recent election has brought varying emotions and experiences to light, reminding us of the diversity of perspectives that shape our communities. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let us focus on what unites us: a shared commitment to compassion, understanding, and the well-being of all.

This holiday is an opportunity to pause, express gratitude, and extend support to those around us. Whether through kind words, listening ears, or small gestures, we can strengthen the bonds that sustain us. Let us also be mindful of those who may be struggling—mentally, emotionally, or socially—and make an extra effort to show care.

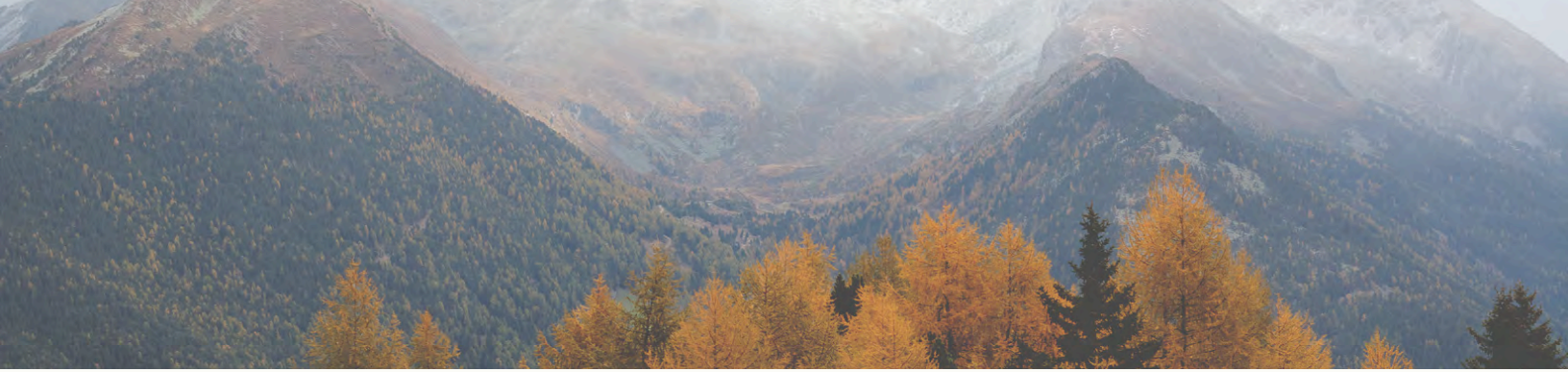
Even amidst uncertainty, hope remains a powerful force. Together, we can nurture it by fostering environments of mutual respect, collaboration, and encouragement. Let us remind each other that challenges can lead to growth and that we are never alone in facing them.

As Chair of the Sociology of Mental Health, I am deeply thankful for our collective efforts to create a more inclusive and supportive society. Our section continues to be a welcoming community dedicated to discussing and researching the societal impacts on mental health. May this season bring you peace, renewal, and the joy of community.

Best,
Lijun Song

Meet the Team Behind the Section

Chair Lijun Song lijun.song@vanderbilt.edu	(9/1/2024-8/31/2025)
Chair-Elect Anna Mueller mueller1@iu.edu	(9/1/2024-8/32/2025)
Past Chair Eric R. Wright ewright28@gsu.edu	(9/1/2023-8/31/2024)
Secretary/Treasurer Lucie Kalousova lucie.kalousova@vanderbilt.edu	(9/1/2023-8/31/2026)
Nominating Committee Chair Molly Copeland mcopeland@nd.edu	(9/1/2024-8/31/2025)
Publications Committee Chair Teresa Scheid tlscheid@uncc.edu	(9/1/2023-8/31/2025)
Membership Chair Lacey Satcher lacee.satcher@bc.edu	(9/1/2023-8/31/2025)
Award Committee Chair Marisa Young myoung@mcmaster.ca	(9/1/2024-8/31/2026)
Council Member Christy Erving christy.erving@austin.utexas.edu	(9/1/2023-8/31/2025)
Student Representative Emily Ekl eekl@iu.edu	(9/1/2024-8/31/2026)
Section Webmaster Richard Adams radams12@kent.edu	(9/1/2016-8/31/2025)
Editor, <i>Society and Mental Health</i> Fred Markowitz fredm@niu.edu	



Hello! I am **Anna Mueller**, chair-elect for the Section on Mental Health. I'm an associate professor at IU Bloomington. My research focuses on understanding the social roots of youth suicide, how social contexts facilitate the formation of youth suicide clusters, and how we can improve suicide prevention and postvention in schools. When I'm not working, I love being outside and spend a lot of my spare time hiking, gardening, or serving as a heated bed for my cats Sofia and Chasca. I'm also always making my way through a good novel. This year, my duties primarily focus on serving on the Awards Committees for the section, though I am also taking the year to learn how to follow effectively in the footsteps of Lijun and Eric so that we can keep this section thriving. I also plan to help with the membership drive.



Eric R. Wright is Distinguished University Professor of Sociology and Public Health and Chair of the Sociology Department at Georgia State University. He holds a BA in sociology from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and an MA and PhD in sociology and human sexuality from Indiana University Bloomington. As a medical sociologist, his research interests center on social and public policy responses to mental health and illness, substance use and addictions, and sexual health and sexual behavior. Currently, Dr. Wright is actively involved in conducting research to understand and ameliorate social and health problems and disparities in minority and other vulnerable communities, including homeless youth as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ).

He has extensive experience in working with community organizations as well as local and state governments to better understand community needs and improve the effectiveness of social-, health-, and healthcare-related programs and policies.



Lucie Kalousová is an assistant professor of Medicine, Health & Society and Sociology at Vanderbilt University, with a research focus on the formation of health disparities over the life course and the role of population health policies in bridging these gaps. In her role, Lucie monitors section spending, prepares the annual budget, and records minutes from council and membership meetings. She looks forward to fostering a connected and transparent section community, with a commitment to expanding engagement and opportunities for students.

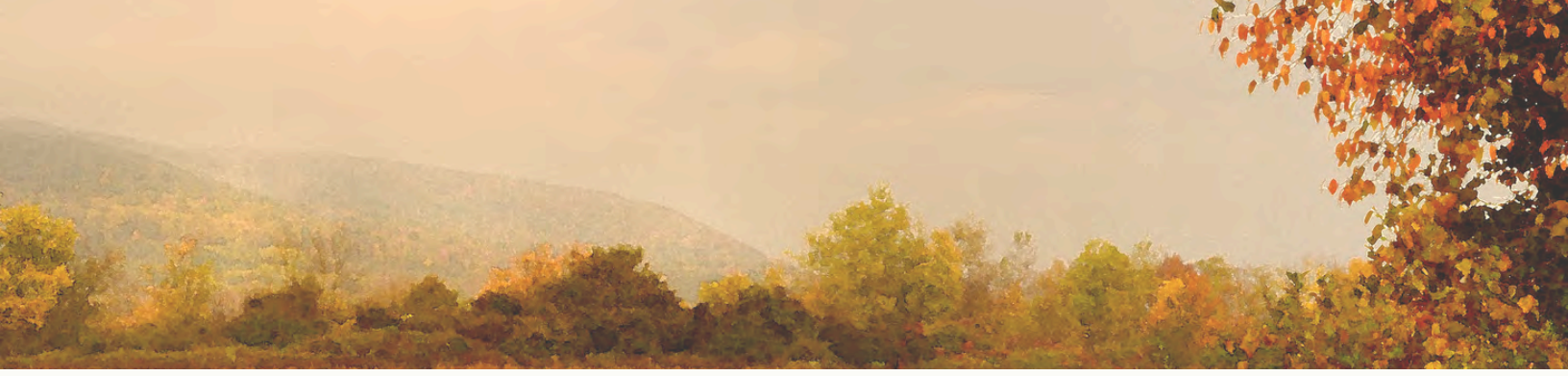
Molly Copeland: I'm an Assistant Professor at Notre Dame studying social networks and mental health across the life course. As Nominations Committee Chair, I've worked with our Student Rep, Chair, and Chair-Elect to organize nominations for upcoming elected positions in our section. The previous Nominations Chairs sharing materials and the many members who are willing to give back to the section by accepting nominations make this Committee's work straightforward. The teamwork from past, current, and future-potential Council members also makes the tasks of this position fairly simple:



mostly sending emails and tracking responses on a spreadsheet. I hope to continue this tradition of support for future Nominations Chairs so that we streamline our process while still casting a wide net for nominations every year. I think the support and clear tasks of this position make it an excellent one for early career folks who might be new to ASA Section leadership or for established advanced career scholars with many connections in our sub-field.



Dr. Lacey Satcher is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies at Boston College. Her primary research interests include race/ethnicity, health & place, social psychology of health, and urban environmental inequality. Lacey has been a member of the Sociology of Mental Health section since 2018, and is currently serving the section as Membership Chair. As Membership Chair, Lacey helps to recruit and retain section members, particularly student members. Her role also consists of working with the section Chair and Council to develop strategies to keep section members engaged and informed throughout the year.



Marisa Young: I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University, where I hold a Canadian Research Chair in Mental Health and Work-Life Transitions. Currently, I serve as the Director of the Centre for Advanced Research on Mental Health and Society (ARMS), Associate Director for the McMaster Institute of Health Equity (MIHE), and the Graduate Chair for the Department of Sociology. My research focuses on how work, family, and residential contexts intersect to influence social inequalities in mental health,

particularly for parents and children. My work has appeared in well-known journals like *Social Forces*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Society & Mental Health*, *Health & Place*, *Social Science Research*, and *Work & Stress*. I've been honored with several nominations for the Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research, which recognizes my contributions to work-family scholarship.

In my newly elected role as the Awards Committee Chair for the ASA's Sociology of Mental Health Section, I oversee the nomination and selection process for key awards, including the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions, Best Publication and Best Book awards, Best Dissertation award, and the Graduate Student Paper award.

Dr. Christy L. Erving is a sociologist and interdisciplinary health equity scholar. She is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology and affiliated with the Population Research Center (PRC) at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Erving's program of research draws from theories, concepts, and perspectives across various disciplines to clarify and explain distinctions in mental and physical health by race, gender, ethnic, nativity, and socioeconomic status. Her most recent projects investigate the psychosocial determinants of Black women's health across the life course, spanning early adulthood through later life. Her work integrates sociological theoretical perspectives with insights from other disciplines to ascertain how Black women's gendered and racialized life experiences both negatively and positively influence psychological and physiological health. Dr. Erving has enjoyed participating in the ASA Mental Health section in various capacities including serving as the graduate student representative, session organizer, session presider, membership committee chair, and, currently, council member.





Emily Ekl is the student representative for the Sociology of Mental Health section. She is a PhD candidate at Indiana University with research and teaching interests in healthcare professions, mental illness stigma, and social networks. As the student representative, she is primarily responsible for sitting on the Nominating Committee and providing a graduate student perspective on matters related to the section. Additionally, she helps to coordinate the Mentor of the Month series, a joint venture with the Medical Sociology section.

Richard E. Adams: I am a Professor in the Department of Sociology at Kent State University. I am currently the Section’s Webmaster, taking care of website updates and have had this position since 2013. I was the Newsletter Editor from 2013–2019. I will join the Editorial Board of Society and Mental Health starting January 2025. I have been a member of the Section since its inception.



Fred Markowitz is the incoming Editor of *Society and Mental Health*. Fred is Professor of Sociology at Northern Illinois University. Formerly, he was a National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. His research is in the areas of crime, mental illness, homelessness, and stigma. His work has been published in journals such as the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Criminology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, *Society and Mental Health*, *Advances in Criminological Theory*, *Military Psychology*, *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, and *Community Mental Health Journal*. Prior to assuming the role of Editor, Fred served on the

editorial boards of *Society and Mental Health*, *Health Sociology Review*, *Stigma and Health*, and *the Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Professor Markowitz will be a 2025 Visiting Professor at the Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities. Previously, he was a Fellow of the American Scandinavian Foundation and a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Helsinki’s Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy.



Congratulations to the 2024 Award Recipients

Jason Schnittker wins the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health



Rachel Kahn Best and Alina Arseniev-Koehler win the Best Publication Award

“The Stigma of Diseases: Unequal Burden, Uneven Decline.” *American Sociological Review* 88(5): 938-69. 2023.



Tania M. Jenkins wins Honorable Mention for the Best Publication Award

“Physicians as shock absorbers: The system of structural factors driving burnout and dissatisfaction in medicine.” *Social Science and Medicine* 337: 116311. 2023



Philip J. Pettis wins the Dissertation Award

“Contextualizing Heterosexism: An Intersectional Approach to Sexual Minority Health Inequalities.” Completed at Vanderbilt University. 2023.



An Interview with the 2024 Pearlin Awardee, Jason Schnittker



Jason Schnittker (JS), Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania



Interviewer: **Zhe Zhang (ZZ)**
Ph.D. student
Vanderbilt University

ZZ: Apart from all your accomplishments, what are the primary questions driving your current research?

JS: I recently completed a book manuscript analyzing the origins of pharmaceutical side effects from social, cultural, and medical viewpoints. This work builds on some of my previous articles to look at how drugs are metabolized and the pharmacokinetics involved. But it particularly focuses on the sociology of side effects: patient expectations, fears, and the broader societal context influencing our reactions to medications, discussing the “nocebo effect,” for instance, where individuals anticipate side effects that are not caused by the drugs themselves. The evidence suggests a prevalent influence of nocebo effects, which I find profoundly interesting and relevant to mental health concerns.

Additionally, I’ve started a new project on trauma, using historical World War II data to compare past and current understandings of trauma, especially the things we’ve consistently misunderstood and the reasons why. Alongside, I’m examining the concept of the “deaths of despair,” and one argument I’m trying to make is that the premium on good mental health has been increasing. There’s a strong demand for better mental health, part of which is due to the persistent and strong stigma associated with emotional suffering. These issues

particularly affect the people most implicated in the “deaths of despair,”, such as non-college-educated, middle-aged adults. We’ve created an environment where poor mental health is more penalized than it was in the past. I aim to highlight these issues more prominently in discussions on the deaths of despair.



ZZ: How has your research focus shifted over the years, and what influenced these changes?

JS: My current research continues themes from my earlier academic career. I was an undergraduate psychology major. In graduate school, when I was a pre-doctoral fellow in a National Institute of Mental Health funded program, I focused on mental health, and I maintain that focus today.

As a graduate student, I focused on the stigma associated with mental health, a topic that still interests me. I've since expanded into some unexpected areas like pharmaceutical side effects and genetics. My research agenda is eclectic, I would say, but my research interests stem from my long-standing curiosity about mental health's various aspects. It's a rich topic.

ZZ: Which publication are you most proud of?

JS: I always strive to improve, believing that my next paper or book will be better than the last. Although this mindset might sometimes feel unsatisfying, it keeps me motivated. I'm particularly proud of my work when I make unique contributions or significantly enhance what we know with new or better data.

ZZ: We often hear that the world is rapidly changing. What changes in recent years have significantly impacted population health, especially mental health, and what emerging trends do you see as critical for future research?

JS: A significant shift has occurred in how we interact with others. New technologies and social media have altered our interactions, but these mark deeper changes. Our relationships now seem more strained and less stable than before, with a growing focus on how we present ourselves to others. There's also a noticeable crisis in loneliness. I view these issues as stemming from similar roots—our social networks, including family ties, appear to be weakening.

Younger individuals are forming relationships under new conditions. Despite technological and social shifts that might imply a stable number of friendships, the nature and quality of these connections may have fundamentally changed. Significant changes in family dynamics have also emerged, creating a widening gap between “successful” and “unsuccessful” family structures, all of which have profound implications for our well-being.



It also is vital to enhance our understanding of the mental health treatment infrastructure in the United States. Although extensively researched, a significant gap persists between the need for and the actual use of mental health services, a disparity that continues despite numerous improvements in the field.

Additionally, the U.S. exhibits high rates of depression and anxiety compared to other countries, a phenomenon that existing explanations—such as changes in family stability, religious affiliation, or social support networks—do not fully address. This "American exceptionalism" in mental health is puzzling and warrants further investigation.

ZZ: What strategies have you found effective for identifying and establishing collaborative relationships?

JS: I have always been aware of my limitations and the boundaries of my expertise, which guides my search for collaborators. They possess knowledge different from and complementary to my own. This approach—recognizing what I do not know and identifying individuals whose expertise adds to mine—has been crucial in ensuring some rigor in my research. It's good to know what you don't know.

ZZ: What common challenges should new researchers expect to face in the field? What suggestions would you offer to young scholars?

JS: One common challenge for academic researchers is the fear of running out of ideas. As a graduate student, I feared that after my dissertation, I would have nothing left to explore. However, 25 years later, I can affirm that such fears were unfounded. Each question answered leads to new ones, sustaining intellectual curiosity indefinitely. It's not me, so much as studying complex topics.

A real challenge is maintaining the process. It requires persistence and confidence in your abilities. Often, researchers assume that once a paper or book is completed, its contribution is secure, but usually, submissions are met with requests for revisions and your ideas are always evolving, so nothing is ever really finished. Addressing these effectively demands resilience.



To handle these challenges, I recommend maintaining a broad research agenda. For example, while researching pharmaceutical side effects, I also studied trauma. This diversification not only keeps you engaged but also sharpens your analytical skills by allowing you to shift focus when needed. It's also crucial to keep an open mind about where ideas can come from, which involves reading broadly across various disciplines, not just within sociology.

A strategic approach I've found effective is to maintain a small notebook to jot down thoughts and ideas, which might seem unnecessary at first but can reveal valuable insights upon review. This habit is invaluable for capturing fleeting thoughts and is especially useful at conferences and talks, where new perspectives might spark innovative approaches. There are some diamonds in the rough of that notebook.

For graduate students, maintaining such a practice is beneficial. While it's important to focus on your immediate academic requirements and milestones, it's also important to prepare for future projects by continuously generating and revisiting ideas. This ensures a reservoir of topics to draw from, facilitating a smooth transition between current and future research endeavors.

ZZ: What role do mentorship and professional networks play in the development of a young scholar's career, and how can one effectively build these relationships?

JS: Mentorship is crucial for academic growth, starting with the environment in graduate school. It's important to connect with your faculty and peers. I also benefited from a large dissertation committee, which, despite the challenge of meeting diverse expectations, provided valuable networking opportunities and a variety of perspectives. Having mentors from different fields not only advances your career but also expands your thinking, exposing you to different ideas and approaches.

For graduate students, reaching out to established academics can be intimidating, but my experience has shown that our academic community, especially in the Mental Health Section, is notably welcoming and easy to talk to. Attending conferences and department events, and even reaching out via email with your work or questions, are great ways to engage and integrate into the academic community. These interactions are vital for learning and becoming an active part of the academic sphere.

2025 ASA Conference Section Sessions

Title: Work and Mental Health

Organizers: Rachel Donnelly and Scott Schieman

Abstract: This session invites papers that address questions about how work, broadly defined, influences mental health. Topics related to work may include labor force participation, precarious work, specific characteristics of work quality, and work and occupational inequities. In keeping with the theme of ASA 2025, papers that engage with the future of work are encouraged.

Title: Singlehood and Mental Health

Organizers: Deborah Carr and Lijun Song

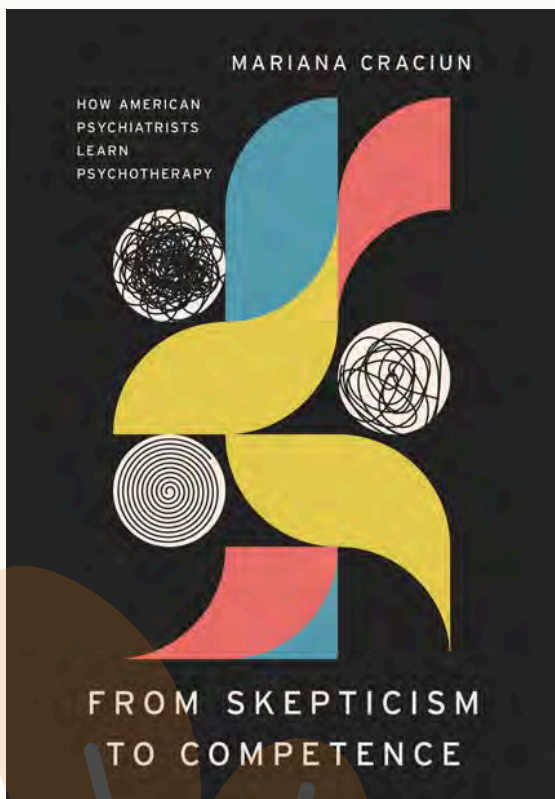
Abstract: The global single population is increasing, raising important questions about its implications for mental health, both in scholarly debates and public and political discourse. This session invites papers that examine the relationship between singlehood and mental health. Singlehood is broadly defined to include individuals who have never been legally married, as well as those who are separated, divorced, or widowed. We welcome papers that compare single individuals with their partnered counterparts, as well as those that focus on the heterogeneity within the single population.

Dates to Remember

- **November 4** Submissions open
- **February 26** Deadline for submissions
- **March 10** First Round Decision deadline
- **March 17** Second Round Decision deadline
- **March 24** Close queue and finalize sessions
- **April 7** Notify paper submitters of their acceptance or rejection
- **April 14** Session organizer module closes

News from the Members

New Books



[The link is here](#)

Craciun, Mariana. 2024. *From Skepticism to Competence: How American Psychiatrists Learn Psychotherapy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

A brief description:

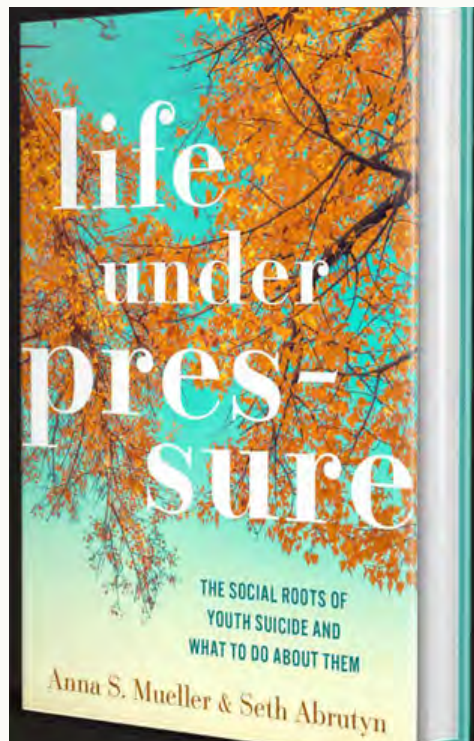
While many medical professionals can physically examine the body to identify and understand its troubles—a cardiologist can take a scan of the heart, an endocrinologist can measure hormone levels, an oncologist can locate a tumor—psychiatrists have a much harder time unlocking the inner workings of the brain or its metaphysical counterpart, the mind.

In *From Skepticism to Competence*, sociologist Mariana Craciun delves into the radical uncertainty of psychiatric work by following medical residents in the field as they learn about psychotherapeutic methods. Most are skeptical at the

start. While they are well equipped to treat brain diseases through prescription drugs, they must set their expectations aside and learn how to navigate their patients' minds. Their instructors, experienced psychotherapists, help the budding psychiatrists navigate this new professional terrain by revealing the inner workings of talk and behavioral interventions and stressing their utility in a world dominated by pharmaceutical treatments. In the process, the residents examine their own doctoring assumptions and develop new competencies in psychotherapy. Exploring the world of contemporary psychiatric training, Craciun illuminates novice physicians' struggles to understand the nature and meaning of mental illness and, with it, their own growing medical expertise.



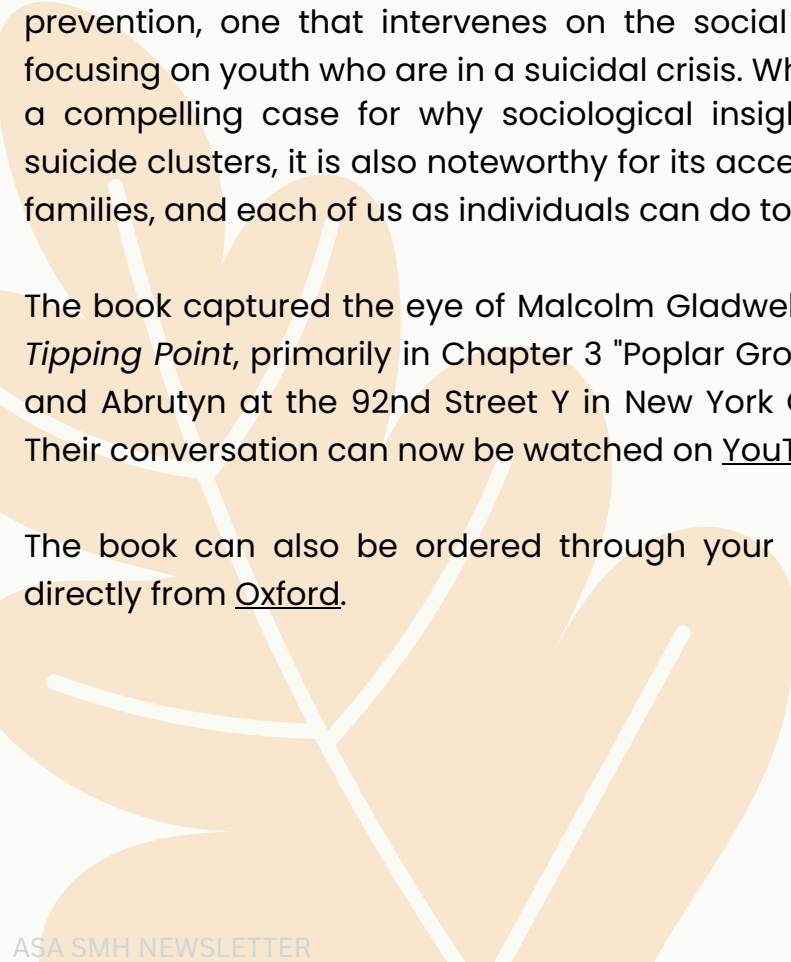
Mueller, Anna S., and Seth Abrutyn. 2024. *Life under Pressure: The Social Roots of Youth Suicide and What to Do About Them*. New York: Oxford University Press.

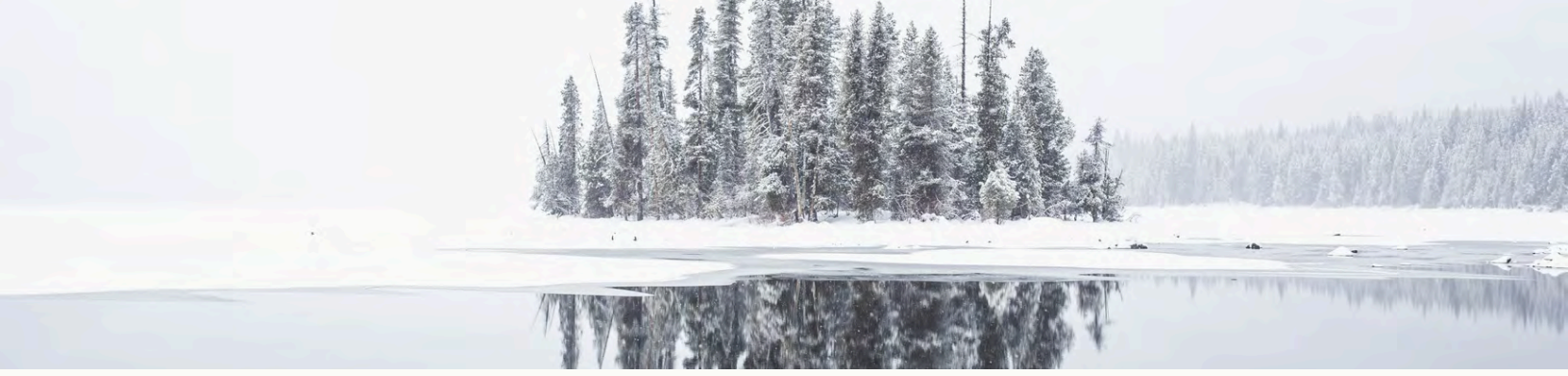


In *Life under Pressure: The Social Roots of Youth Suicide and What to Do About Them* (2024), Anna S. Mueller and Seth Abrutyn examine why the seeming idyllic community of Poplar Grove is home to recurring youth suicides and suicide clusters. In essence, they find that the local social environment plays several important roles in intensifying youth’s psychological pain, thwarting their ability to ask for and receive potentially life-saving care, and silencing needed conversations about mental health and suicide. In so doing, Mueller and Abrutyn chart a new course for suicide prevention, one that intervenes on the social world rather than focusing on youth who are in a suicidal crisis. While the book offers a compelling case for why sociological insights are necessary to understanding suicide and suicide clusters, it is also noteworthy for its accessible prose and practical advice on what schools, families, and each of us as individuals can do to help prevent suicide.

The book captured the eye of Malcolm Gladwell and is featured in his latest book *Revenge of the Tipping Point*, primarily in Chapter 3 "Poplar Grove." Gladwell also hosted a discussion with Mueller and Abrutyn at the 92nd Street Y in New York City last May to celebrate the launch of the book. Their conversation can now be watched on [YouTube](#), for those who want to learn more.

The book can also be ordered through your favorite independent bookstore, [Bookshop.org](#), or directly from [Oxford](#).





Vina, Sean M. 2023. "**Health and Inequality in Standup Comedy: Stories that Challenge Stigma.**" Lexington Press.



"Comedy has always aimed at the very heart of society's most powerful but often brushed-aside inequities... For anyone who thinks that stigma has dissipated, listening and feeling the discomfort of difference is essential." — **Bernice A. Pescosolido**, Indiana University.

It's qualitative sociology at its finest and an outstanding contribution to how we understand the art of stand up and the way it changes the performers and audience."— **Fabio Rojas**, Indiana University

In *Health and Inequality in Standup Comedy: Stories That Challenge Stigma*, Sean M. Viña explores the power of open conversations in reducing stigma. Using standup comedy as a lens, the book delves into the experiences of ninety-nine diverse comedians, revealing how they disclose their stigmas in public and what prevents some from having open conversations. The author argues that the scope of stigma resistance is defined by the prejudice of those who stigmatize, making it an unequal endeavor that requires structural change to truly make a difference. Through the voices of these comedians, *Health and Inequality in Standup Comedy* challenges us to reconceptualize our approach to fighting stigma and discrimination and highlights the importance of implementing policies that decrease segregation. A compelling and eye-opening read for anyone interested in understanding the power of social contact through the unequal, standup comedy world.

The book can be ordered from [here](#) (Discount Code: LXFANDF30).

Here is a podcast featuring this book: [It only laughs when I hurt: How stand-up comedy helps explore topics of health and inequality](#).

New Articles

From **Jarrett Robert Rose**, PhD, Assistant Professor
Community & Behavioral Health Program/Dept. of Sociology
SUNY Polytechnic Institute, NCAA Faculty Athletic Mentor.

Rose, Jarrett Robert. 2024. "**Memory, Trauma, and Self: Remembering and Recovering from Sexual Abuse in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy.**" *Journal of Psychedelic Studies* 8(3):336–48. doi: [10.1556/2054.2024.00363](https://doi.org/10.1556/2054.2024.00363).

The paper considers psychedelic-assisted therapy for trauma and the use of autobiographical narrative in self-transformation and healing. I am working at the nexus of the health and social sciences via psychedelic-assisted therapy and psychedelic cultures, and I am quite interested in building a collaborative sociology of psychedelics.

From **Deni Mazrekaj**, Assistant Professor at Utrecht University Department of Sociology, Padualaan 14, 3584 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands. <https://denimazrekaj.com>.

I have recently published several papers which may be useful to section members in the next newsletter:

- Jin, Yuxuan, and Deni Mazrekaj. 2024. "The Association between Parenthood and Health: A Comparison of People in Same-Sex and Different-Sex Relationships." *SSM - Population Health* 26:101685. doi: [10.1016/j.ssmph.2024.101685](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2024.101685).
- Mazrekaj, Deni, and Kristof De Witte. 2024. "The Impact of School Closures on Learning and Mental Health of Children: Lessons From the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Perspectives on Psychological Science* 19(4):686–93. doi: [10.1177/17456916231181108](https://doi.org/10.1177/17456916231181108).
- Mazrekaj, Deni, and Yuxuan Jin. 2023. "Mental Health of Children with Gender and Sexual Minority Parents: A Review and Future Directions." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 10(1):1–6. doi: [10.1057/s41599-023-02019-9](https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-02019-9).

From **Christy L. Erving**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Population Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin


I recently had a policy brief published by the Center on Aging and Population Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin: Erving, C.L., McKinnon, I.I., Thomas Tobin, C.S., Van Dyke, M.E, Murden, R., Moore, R.H., Booker, B., Vaccarino, V., & Lewis, T.T. (2024). High financial strain in combination with internalized expectations to "be strong" are linked to worse mental health among Black women in early mid-life. *CAPS Research Brief* 3(4). <https://doi.org/10.26153/tsw/55667>.

from **Sean Viña**, Ph.D. Department of Sociology, The University of the Incarnate Word.

I recently wrote an op-ed for the HILL: [Psychedelics can kill: The FDA was right to reject MDMA-assisted therapy](https://www.hillcountry.com/news/psychedelics-can-kill-the-fda-was-right-to-reject-mdma-assisted-therapy).



Other News



From **Lijun Song**: The research team led by Lijun Song (Vanderbilt University) has been awarded an NIH R56 grant (high priority and short term) for the project titled 'National Study of Older Never-Married Adults.' Co-investigators include Deborah Carr (Boston University), Qinghua Chen (Vanderbilt University Medical Center), Tara McKay (Vanderbilt University), Brea Louise Perry (Indiana University–Bloomington), and Siyun Peng (Indiana University–Bloomington). This project will design the first nationally representative survey of older never-married adults, focusing on their single lives, social networks, and health.

From **Fred Markowitz**, Professor, Department of Sociology
Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL 60115.
Editor, *Society and Mental Health*

In addition to taking over the editorship of our journal, I have been named as a University of Helsinki Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities Visiting Professor in 2025.

Final Thoughts from the Newsletter Editor

I was very sorry to miss seeing everyone in Montreal and hearing the Pearlman talk. I was so glad Lijun's graduate student interviewed him and it seems a very good tradition for the Newsletter. I also know the past month has been difficult for many of us, as we see the gains made over the last four years will be eroded, especially those promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. More fundamentally, the uncertainty over the future, including climate change, political polarization, geo-political conflict, and "othering" of marginalized people and those seeking a path to a new life leads to a great deal of anxiety. Many of us have seen these kinds of political trauma in the past.



I found some comfort in essays in the November 17 New York Times. Damien Cave wrote of resilience following the My Lai Massacre, where the residents of Son My had erected a museum. Cave noted that he "was often struck by efforts to treat hatred like a virus, to suppress its power, to avoid passing it on or letting it grow worse." In an op-ed, Adam Grant, an organizational psychologist and author of "Think Again" wrote that "pain and sorrow are never permanent. They evolve over time, and ideally, they help us make sense, finding meaning and fueling change."

Our research and teaching can contribute to understanding the sociological roots of anxiety (thank you Jason and Allan Horwitz), and those of resilience (where I think we need to do more work), and certainly the understanding of the role structural inequality and stigma play in exacerbating the virus of Othering. I know we will be working hard as mental health scholars to enable our students to "find meaning and fuel change."

I do hope you find some respite over the winter break, and return in January ready to face the next four years with resolve.

Best,
Teresa.

ASA

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH

Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2025



New logo, same mission

Promoting scholarship, connection, and care in the sociology of mental health

Inside the Issue

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Section Websites

https://www.asanet.org/asa_sections/sociology-of-mental-health

<https://www.kent.edu/sociology/asa-mental-health-section>

Section Bluesky Profile

<https://bsky.app/profile/asasmh.bsky.social>

Prepared by

Teresa L. Scheid & Zhe Zhang

Please send new announcements or questions to
tlscheid@uncc.edu.

A Thank-You Letter from the Section Chair

As we head toward the ASA Annual Meeting, which marks the end of my term as Chair of the Section on Sociology of Mental Health, I want to take this opportunity to say one heartfelt word: **thank you**.

It has been a true honor to serve this vibrant, compassionate, and intellectually rich community. Over the past year, I have been continually inspired by your dedication, generosity, and resilience. Whether through your scholarship, service, mentorship, or presence, each of you has helped make this section not only productive but truly meaningful.

I am deeply grateful to all our council members, committee chairs, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Your collective efforts have shaped a remarkable year for our section. I am honored to work alongside such a thoughtful, engaged, and generous community.

Thank you to Drs. Eric Wright (Past Chair), Anna Mueller (Chair-Elect), Lucie Kalousová (Secretary/Treasurer), Molly Copeland (Chair of the Nominating Committee), Teresa Scheid (Chair of the Publications Committee), Lacey Satcher (Membership Chair), Marisa Young (Chair of the Awards Committee), Christy Erving (Council Member), Emily Ekl (Student Representative), Richard Adams (Section Webmaster), and Fred E. Markowitz (Editor of *Society and Mental Health*).

Special thanks to the three section members who served on the Awards Committee: Drs. Rachel Kahn Best, Philip J. Pettis, and Elaine Wethington. Thank you to our ASA 2025 section session organizers: Drs. Deborah Carr, Rachel Donnelly, and Scott Schieman. Thank you to student volunteer Zhe Zhang for co-editing our section newsletters. Thank you to Leticia Gonzalez of the Irsay Institute at Indiana University for her assistance in refining the final pin design.

And thank you to the following mentors who are generously volunteering their time in the Mentoring Program: Drs. Seth Abrutyn, Mia Brantley, Robyn Brown, Jason Houle, Ning Hsieh, Amy Johnson, Amy Kroska, Diego Leal, Bruce Link, Alisa Lincoln, Anna Mueller, Bernice Pescosolido, David Russell, Lijun Song, Alexandra Vinson, Amy Wong, and Owen Whooley. We look forward to sharing mentoring photos in the next issue of our newsletter.

Over the past year, we've accomplished a great deal together:

- We created our new official section logo, a symbol of our shared identity and vision.
- We will distribute section pins featuring the logo at the ASA Annual Meeting—please stop by the business meeting or the joint reception to pick one up!
- We launched a new section profile on Bluesky to expand our visibility and engagement.

- We conducted and analyzed a student member survey to better understand and support emerging scholars.
- With generous support from the Pearlin Fund, we continued to sponsor student memberships and support the next generation of scholars.
- We revived the Mentoring Program, strengthening connections across career stages.
- In partnership with the Section on Medical Sociology, we co-organized the Mentor of the Month series, which drew over 100 attendees per session.
- We will organize two exciting section sessions for ASA 2025 on Work and Mental Health and Singlehood and Mental Health.
- We will co-sponsor the joint section reception at the ASA Annual Meeting with the Sections on Medical Sociology and the Sociology of Body and Embodiment.
- And through our newsletters, seasonal messages, and regular announcements, we have worked to foster a sense of community, reflection, and care.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant and thoughtful community. In this challenging and uncertain climate, many of us are navigating heavy workloads, institutional changes, and personal challenges—some visible, others unseen. Academic life often asks us to press forward despite uncertainty, grief, burnout, or personal stress. The ongoing demands of teaching, publishing, caregiving, and confronting structural barriers—especially for those in marginalized or precarious positions—can quietly weigh on us over time.

These experiences can be isolating, especially when they go unspoken. My hope is that our section continues to be a space where mutual support, care, and connection flourish alongside our scholarly commitments. Whether through mentorship, shared reflection, or simply knowing we are not alone, I believe that our community can help soften the edges of those burdens. We may not always have easy answers, but we can hold space for one another. That, too, is part of the work.

As we prepare the upcoming spring/summer newsletter, I hope it offers a small space of connection—to spotlight our work, celebrate each other's efforts, and remind ourselves of the shared purpose that brings us together.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been a joy and a privilege to help nurture this space with you. I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the ASA Annual Meeting and to cheering on the continued growth of our section in the years ahead.

With appreciation and care,
Lijun Song
Vanderbilt University

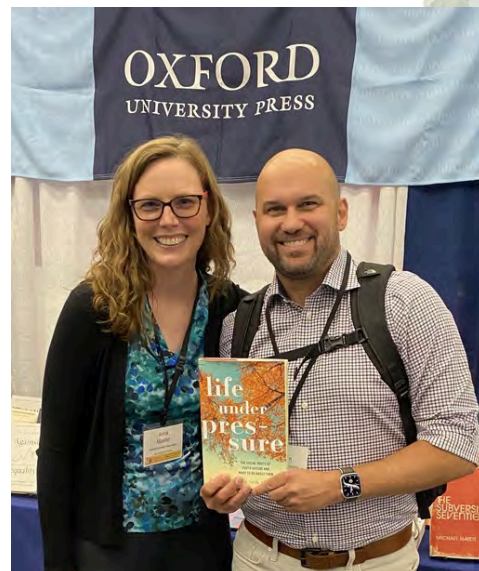
Congratulations to the 2025 Award Recipients

Pamela Braboy Jackson: the Leonard I. Pearlin Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociological Study of Mental Health



Anna Mueller & Seth Abrutyn: the Best Book Award

Life Under Pressure: The Social Roots of Youth Suicide and What to Do About Them (Oxford University Press, 2024).



Katie Billings: the Best Dissertation Award

“Surviving Suicide.” Completed at University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2024.

Alex Barnard: Honorable Mention for the Best Book Award

Conservatorship: Inside California’s System of Coercion and Care for Mental Illness (Columbia University Press, 2023).



Amy Johnson, Christopher Levesque, Neil Lewis Jr., & Asad L. Asad: the Best Article Award

“Deportation Threat Predicts Latino U.S. Citizens’ and Non-Citizens’ Psychological Distress, 2011-2018.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2024).



Byungkyu Lee & Bernice Pescosolido: Honorable Mention for the Best Article Award

“Misery Needs Company: Contextualizing the geographic and Temporal Link between Unemployment and Suicide.” *American Sociological Review* (2024).



Best Student Article Award – Tie

Co-Winner(s): Emily Ekl & Benjamine Gallati

“The Moderating Effect of Values on the Relationship Between Subjective Social Status and Depression: Evidence from MIDUS.” *Society and Mental Health* (2023).



Co-Winner: Jingwen Liu

“Racial/Ethnic Differences in Living Arrangements, Distant Relations, and Later-Life Mental Health.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* (2024).



Introducing the 2025 Pearlin Awardee

I am delighted to write this statement for Dr. **Pamela Braboy Jackson**—the 2025 American Sociological Association (ASA) Mental Health Section’s Leonard I. Pearlin Awardee for Distinguished Contributions. Dr. Jackson is currently a Provost Professor of Sociology and the Associate Vice President for Faculty & Belonging at Indiana University (IU).

Dr. Jackson’s research focusing on the nexus of mental health, social psychology, family, and social stratification makes her one of the top experts in the country, specifically on issues of minority mental health and family. She has produced pioneering scholarship at the intersection of social role engagement, social status, and mental health. Her first publication on this topic, “Role Occupancy and Minority Mental Health” (*JHSB*, 1997), is a key reading for scholars interested in how race/ethnicity influences the associations among work, family, parental roles, and their relationship to mental health. Dr. Jackson’s follow-up study (*JHSB*, 2004) examined the extent to which role sequence order was related to mental health, and another study (2005) assessed race and gender variation in social role sequencing.

Most recently, Dr. Jackson and Dr. Christy Erving (former student, Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin) published a study that investigated racial distinctions in the psychological effects of social roles (e.g., parent, employee, spouse) in *JHSB*. Their study was the first to use three nationally representative data sources to examine how social roles affect the mental health of nine U.S. ethnic groups representing 92% of the U.S. population. They show that although social roles are generally associated with lower levels of psychological distress, because of racism in society, social roles often do not have the same psychological remunerations for racial and ethnic minorities when compared to their White peers.

Dr. Jackson’s scholarship focusing on the intersections between race, socioeconomic position, and mental health set the stage for contemporary scholarship on the diminishing health returns of higher education among Black Americans. For instance, her earlier work demonstrated the stress-related occupational challenges of Black elites (i.e., high income, high occupational prestige) that in turn, have negative implications for their socioemotional well-being. At the time her first article was published on this topic (1995 in *Social Forces*), very little scholarship focused on upper-income Black Americans. Dr. Jackson’s work demonstrated that access to resources (e.g., higher educational attainment, occupational prestige) did not have the expected health-protective effects among Black Americans, necessitating a new research agenda to better understand how stress impacts the Black middle class. Her work with former student Dr. Jason Cummings (Endowed Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago) examines how race, socioeconomic status, and gender intersect to produce disparities (2008, *Research on Aging*).

As Principal Investigator over the coveted Sociological Research Practicum (SRP) in the Department of Sociology at IU, Dr. Jackson organized and supervised the Family, Work, and Health Study. The methodological creativity of studying Black, White, and Mexican American families across the United States while collecting quantitative and qualitative data is extremely unique. Dr. Jackson was also open to including graduate students' questions and interests in the study. This is a rare occurrence but an important one for developing and empowering scholars, particularly scholars of color. Data from the SRP culminated in the form of a book which Dr. Jackson co-authored with me, entitled: *How Families Matter: Simply Complicated Intersections of Race, Gender, and Work* (Rowman & Littlefield). This book breaks new theoretical ground in scholarship on race, gender, work, and family by examining how a racially/ethnically diverse group of forty-six families grapple with queries such as: "who do we consider to be a part of our family and can anyone achieve family-life balance?" Dr. Jackson extended her expertise on family by co-editing a book volume with Muna Adem (Assistant Professor, University of Maryland) that examines contemporary issues among communities of color in the U.S.

In the classroom, Dr. Jackson can be seen teaching *Sociology of Mental Health* and *Theories of Social Psychology* in the Sheldon Stryker Room in what we call "The SISR" (Karl Schuessler Institute for Social Research) at IU. Besides her intellect, wit, and welcoming demeanor, Dr. Jackson has helped many minority and/or first-generation students navigate Bloomington and the "Ivory Tower." Her current title is fitting. In many regards, Dr. Jackson helped many of us process racialized experiences, develop healthy coping strategies, establish belonging, and stay focused on our goal of obtaining our PhDs.

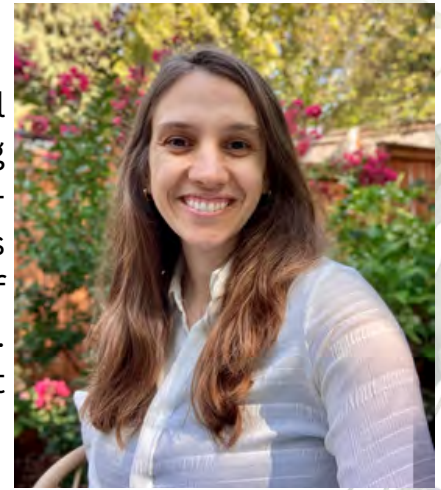
Additionally, Dr. Jackson has demonstrated sustained commitment to providing professional service to the discipline of sociology more broadly. She was recently Chair of the ASA Mental Health Section, previous Chair of the SSSP Mental Health Section, and held council positions in the ASA Social Psychology and Medical Sociology sections. In addition, she served on the editorial board of multiple premier sociology journals including *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *American Sociological Review*. Dr. Jackson also has taken on multiple high intensity service roles at Indiana University. For instance, she became Founding Director of the Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society (CRESS) during a critical period in the department and university. She has also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, and a Faculty Advisor to the IU Sociology Club.

As I close, it is important to note that these written words do not simply represent my own. Rather, they represent nine former students and mentees of Dr. Jackson who nominated her for this prestigious award. Dr. Jackson helped all of us matriculate through the Department of Sociology at IU and obtain faculty and research positions. So, thank you, Pam, for how you have invested in us. You have significantly advanced the field through innovative research, mentoring, and service to the sociology of mental health community and our great discipline more broadly.

Rashawn Ray
University of Maryland

Success of Student Members

Kate LaForge, University of California, San Francisco



Dr. Kate LaForge, who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “Emergent Adults and Suicidal Ideation: Help-seeking as Relational Practice” in May 2025, studies suicide-related help-seeking. Her dissertation project, informed by her volunteer work as a crisis text counselor, was motivated by persistently high rates of suicidal ideation and attempts among American young adults. Given this, our understanding of how young adults seek support and navigate resources is crucial. Dr. LaForge’s study draws from a

web-based survey and interviews with young adults aged 18–25 to examine suicide-related help-seeking. Taken together, findings support the consideration of suicide-related help-seeking as a profoundly relational and processual practice. Engaging with the sociology of help-seeking, life course theory, and assemblage theory, the findings highlight help-seeking as a practice that unfolds broadly, subjectively, and contextually within the social lives of young adults. In her dissertation, Dr. LaForge draws attention to the material, affective, technological, and ideological entities and relations that form and shape these practices. In this work, she focuses heavily on flux and emergence, exploring how young adults evolve, their shifting relational and spatial ties, and a growing sense of self-responsibility, which, in turn, all re-tune their relations to care. Ultimately, findings suggest that to understand how young adults seek, receive, and reject help for suicidal ideation, we must broaden our scope – conceptualizing suicide-related help-seeking not as a crisis-oriented isolated event but rather as an ongoing process unfolding dynamically over time within the fabric of young adults’ daily lives. Dr. LaForge’s work has been disseminated at the American Association of Suicidology, the Oregon Public Health Association, the Suicide Research Symposium, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Problems and will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the American Sociological Association.

Victoria Lee, PhD Candidate in Public Policy, UNC-Charlotte successfully defended her dissertation proposal in April, 2025.

My dissertation research aims to examine the political landscape changes at the national, state, and local levels related to women’s reproductive health. In addition, I will examine the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision to return the question of abortion access to the states including how it reshaped political discourse. This mixed methods study will also provide an empirical examination of state ballot initiatives related to reproductive rights and the impact of state level ballot initiatives on voter behavior in the 2024 presidential elections

2025 ASA Conference Section Sessions

Summary of Section Events

- **Sat, August 9, 6:30 to 8:30pm** Joint Reception and section pin pick up
- **Mon, August 11, 8:00 to 9:30am** Session 40203 - Work and Mental Health
- **Mon, August 11, 2:00 to 3:00pm** Awards Ceremony and 2025 Pearlin Award Lecture
- **Mon, August 11, 3:00 to 3:30pm** SMH Business Meeting and section pin pick up
- **Mon, August 11, 4:00 to 5:30pm** Session 41009 - Singlehood and Mental Health

Joint Reception

Section on Medical Sociology; Section on Sociology of Body and Embodiment; Section on Sociology of Mental Health (Sponsored by the Sociology of Health and Illness Foundation)

Sat, August 9, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Offsite, Hawksmoor

Offsite Location: [Hawksmoor, 500 North LaSalle Drive](#)

Please join us! This location is .8 miles from the Hyatt Regency. Anyone who would like to arrange to share a ride or walk over together should meet up in the Hyatt lobby at 6pm, departing 6:15 at the latest.

Session 40203 - Work and Mental Health

Presider: Rose Xueqing Zhang, University of British Columbia

Organizers: Rachel Donnelly, Vanderbilt University; Scott Schieman, University of Toronto

Mon, August 11, 8:00 to 9:30am, [East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 1A](#)

- **Dropping Out: A Gendered Life Course Assessment of Labor Force Nonparticipation and Mental Health** - Jessie Himmelstern, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; Phyllis Moen, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- **Queering 'Job Quality': LGBTQ+ Workplace Experiences and Well-being in Precarious Times** - Layne Amerikaner, University of Maryland-College Park
- **Taking on an Unpaid Second Shift: The Impact of Employment Type on Caregiver Well-being** - Fabio Robibaro, University of Toronto

- **The Work-Wellbeing Paradox: Exploring the Emotional and Bodily Dimensions of Intersectional Capitalism among Latinx Immigrants** - Bianca Ruiz-Negrón, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Alejandra Guadalupe Lemus, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Susana Echeverri Herrera, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque; Alejandro Tovar; Aurora Arreola, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center; Julia Meredith Hess, University of New Mexico; Jessica Rose Goodkind, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Awards Ceremony and 2025 Pearlin Award Lecture

Mon, August 11, 2:00 to 3:00pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

40906 - SMH Business Meeting

Mon, August 11, 3:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

Session 41009 - Singlehood and Mental Health

Presider: Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University

Discussant: Deborah Carr, Boston University

Organizers: Organizers: Deborah Carr; Lijun Song

Mon, August 11, 4:00 to 5:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Randolph 1A

- **Health Disparities Among Young Single-Person Households in South Korea** - Bomi Kim, University of California-Santa Barbara
- **The sexual and dating lives of single heterosexual and LGBTQ+ young adults** - Hannah Tessler, University of Michigan
- **“The Shop is Not Closed”: Sex and Sexuality Among Older Adult Daters** - Lauren Harris, University of New Hampshire; Celia Melanson, University of New Hampshire
- **Cohort Differences in Older Adults’ Marital Status, Transitions, and Social and Mental Health** - Ruoqi Zheng, Norc at the University of Chicago; Ellen (Nell) Compennolle, NORC at the University of Chicago
- **Does Being Single and Living Alone Hurt? Mental and Cognitive Health Inequalities Among Older Adults** - Lijun Song, Vanderbilt University; Zhe Zhang, Vanderbilt University

News from Section Members

New Publications

From **Tania M. Jenkins**, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Jenkins, Tania M. and Alyssa R. Browne. 2025. "The Limits of Feminization: Gender Composition and Mental Wellbeing in the Medical Profession." *Social Forces*. doi: [10.1093/sf/soaf039](https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soaf039).

Tania is also author of a very important book, ***Doctors' Orders***, published by Columbia University Press in 2020.

From **Amy Johnson**, Lehigh University

Johnson, Amy L. 2025. "Mental Illness and the Resilience of Deviance." *Sociological Perspectives* 07311214251325512. doi: [10.1177/07311214251325512](https://doi.org/10.1177/07311214251325512).

Amy Johnson's 2024 paper, "[Deportation Threat Predicts Latino US Citizens and Noncitizens' Psychological Distress, 2011 to 2018](#)", won an IPUMS Research Award, co-authored with Christopher Levesque, Neil A. Lewis Jr., and Asad L. Asad.

<https://www.ipums.org/impact/ipums-research-award#healthsurveys>

From **Julio Montanez**, University of Central Florida

Montanez, Julio. 2024. "Discursive constructions of mental illness in statutes across the 50 United States". *Stigma and Health*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000595>

From **Kiwoong Park**, University of New Mexico

Park, Kiwoong, and Jinho Kim. 2025. "The Timing of Police Encounters in Adolescence and Adult Cognitive Function: Heterogeneity by Race/Ethnicity." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. doi:[10.1007/s40615-025-02470-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-025-02470-1).

Handbook Announcement

FINALLY! THE 4TH EDITION OF THE HANDBOOK, NOW RETITLED AS THE SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL HEALTH: THEORIES, CONTEXTS AND SYSTEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER. The Paperback is relatively cheap at \$ 80.00. <https://www.cambridge.org/highereducation/books/sociology-of-mental-health>

Description: Sociology of Mental Health, 4th Edition offers a comprehensive introduction to the impact of social forces on mental health. Fully updated throughout, it features eleven new chapters on such topics as immigration, the work-family interface, and LGBTQ+ mental health. Part I addresses the central theoretical developments in the sociology of mental health. Part II examines the social context of mental health, including the social structures, statuses, and positions that affect mental health. Part III moves to the system level, focusing on the structural forces that shape mental health care. Each chapter is written by leading scholars who have defined our understanding of the relationship between mental health and society. This book is designed for mental health students, educators, researchers, and providers, serving as an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand mental health and mental health delivery systems.

Report from the Editor of *Society and Mental Health*

Fred E. Markowitz, Northern Illinois University

I am honored to assume the editor responsibilities for our journal. There has been a lot to learn! I want to thank the previous editors, Scott Schieman and Alex Bierman for sharing their wisdom and helping make a smooth transition. I am also grateful to our editorial assistant, Gale Cassidy and deputy editors, Kei Nomaguchi, Robyn Brown, Jong Hyun Jung, and the editorial board. It is truly a group effort.

The journal receives over 250 new manuscripts each year, covering a wide range of topics worldwide. My intent is to continue to build on the tradition of publishing the highest quality, sociologically informed research on mental health and illness. In order to do so, we rely on the expertise of external reviewers. Timely, thoughtful reviews are essential to the process, and we appreciate reviewers' participation, especially when we all have many demands on our time.

We are confronted with a number of mental health related social challenges, including youth depression, anxiety from political and economic instability, untreated mental illness, and homelessness. I hope to see submissions that examine these types of issues, highlighting the value of sociological research for understanding important social problems.

Report from the Student Representative

Emily Ekl, Indiana University - Bloomington

The Sociology of Mental Health Section has a long history of mentorship, and, after a short hiatus, we have re-booted our mentoring program! In this program, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and early career faculty have the opportunity to be paired with more advanced faculty mentors who can offer guidance on research, teaching, and professionalization topics. Mentors have historically provided guidance on seeking out funding opportunities, networking and navigating the hidden curriculum of graduate school, and working in consulting or activism roles. This year, 20 section members sought mentorship through this program and 18 members volunteered to serve as mentors. Stay tuned in future newsletters for highlights of mentorship pairs and opportunities to become involved in this program in the future.

Call For Papers

Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association! The conference dates are October 15-18, 2025, to be held in North Augusta, SC. We'll be hosting the meeting in-person, with a virtual option for a limited number of sessions. Deadline for submission: September 1, 2025.

2025 Theme: Disasters: Understanding the Textures of Loss, Love, and Recovery Amidst Forced Social Change

Globally, in a world of interlocking networks, the likelihood that most residents will experience a major disaster in their lifetimes is increasing significantly. Whether caused by natural, technological, synergistic, social, cyber, or new means, disasters are becoming more complex, frequent, stronger, longer-lasting, and more devastating in their impacts. As each disaster receives only limited national attention, the extended, slow recovery process forces change and transition at all levels of society, reshaping the pathways forward. Disasters force endings and offer new beginnings. Their destruction spotlights human losses, community ties, deep social change, power dynamics, gender inequalities, wealth and poverty disparities, as well as themes of security, insecurity, and civil rights across varied geographies and cyberspaces. For this conference, we encourage you to submit papers around the theme of disaster with a focus on the humanistic impacts, to understand the texture of loss, the emergence of care and love amidst such devastation, and the process of recovery in a myriad of social and cultural contexts. We are also interested in ways disaster concepts and theorization can apply to new social contexts, expanding our understanding of the theories and bridge the gap between disciplines and perspectives. Not a disaster scholar? That's great, too—your valuable sociological work in any area of expertise is absolutely welcome. Whether you submit a panel, paper, roundtable, or workshop, ALL TOPICS ARE WELCOME!

Presidential Sessions include:

- Internal Disaster Displacement
- Lived Experiences of Displaced Scholars
- Indigenous Frameworks of Disaster Knowledge
- Universities Facing Disaster

The submission portal is now open! We look forward to your submissions! The deadline is September 1, 2025. <https://mssa.meetingsavvy.net/login>. Do indicate whether you plan to present in-person or virtually, and your presenting authors. For help with submissions, please refer to the step-by-step submission guide.

Have inquiries about the conference? Do send your questions to Jess Pardee, president-elect, at mssaprogramchair@midsouthsoc.org or check out our website at <https://www.midsouthsoc.org>.

2025 Section Election Candidates

We're looking forward to voting for several section positions this year. The ASA Section and Community elections are now open through 5 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Thank you to all of the nominees who are graciously willing to give their time to the section:

Chair-Elect:

Ning Hsieh, Michigan State University

Courtney S. Thomas Tobin, UCLA

Chair of the Publications Committee:

Kyler Sherman-Wilkens, Missouri State University

Membership Chair:

Max Coleman, University of Utah

Christina Kamis, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Standing Council Member:

Marta Elliott, University of Nevada, Reno

Jong Hyun Jung, Sungkyunkwan University

Final Thoughts from the Newsletter Editor

As Sociologists we share a critical lens, and we also know the power of social supports and solidarity. Thank you to Lijun for fostering an inclusive and caring place, and for your efforts to further mentorship of our students and colleagues. Our section has always been a safe house, and we can help build safe houses for our junior colleagues and students who are facing tremendous uncertainty. I have been a member of the ASA Section on Mental Health since its founding, and I have served a Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Awards, and most recent Publications Chair, with responsibility for the newsletter. Sorry this one is late 😊 Enjoy Chicago, I will miss you all.

Best,
Teresa.

Messages from other Organizations

Dear section members,

Here are two messages for our section: one from the American Public Health Association News, reprinted with permission from Dr. Ron Manderscheid, and one from the American Psychological Association Advocacy Network.

Before you read the message, please know that, per ASA regulations, “Only the ASA Council can make public statements on behalf of the Association. Sections are not permitted to take public positions independent of the Association.” Therefore, the Sociology of Mental Health Section does not take position on the following issues that you are about to read.

As you can see in the message, it contains action steps in case you wish to advocate on an individual level. Please note again that this is entirely your personal decision and it by no means represents the position of the Sociology of Mental Health Section on these issues. Please reach out to the organizers directly if you have any questions on these issues.

Mental Health and Public Policy

Ron Manderscheid, PhD
Johns Hopkins University
& University of Southern California

Sent through the American Public Health Association News, reprinted with permission from Dr. Manderscheid. The Administration's Office of Management and Budget has proposed reducing the funding of SAMHSA programs from the \$10.8 billion level in FY24 to \$5.6 billion in FY26, a decrease of \$5.2 billion. To achieve this reduction, SAMHSA Programs proposed for elimination in the FY26 budget proposal are:

Mental Health Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Project LAUNCH
- Healthy Transitions
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Children and Family Programs
- Interagency Task Force on Trauma Informed Care
- MH System Transformation and Health Reform
- Crisis Response Grants
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Programs

- Primary and Behavioral Health Integration
- Tribal Behavioral Health Grants
- Minority Fellowship Program
- Homeless Prevention Programs
- Consumer and Family Network Grants
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Assertive Community Treatment for Individuals with SMI
- Seclusion and Restraint

Substance Abuse Prevention Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Minority Fellowship Program
- Tribal Behavioral Health
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Strategic Prevention Framework
- STOP Act

Substance Use Treatment Programs of Regional and National Significance:

- Pregnant and Post-partum Women
- Improving Access to Overdose Treatment
- Criminal Justice Activities
- Overdose Prevention (naloxone)
- First Responder Training (naloxone)
- Peer Support Assistance Center
- Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids
- Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment
- Minority Fellowship Program
- Children and Families
- Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support
- Building Communities of Recovery
- Recovery Community Services Program
- Treatment Systems for Homelessness
- Minority AIDS Initiative
- Targeted Capacity Expansion
- Youth Prevention and Recovery Initiative

Other Eliminations:

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs)

From The American Psychology Association Advocacy Network

The president's budget request is the start of the FY 2026 appropriation process. It serves as a roadmap of White House spending priorities and political goals, to which Congress can react by determining how these critical programs and agencies are funded. **The FY 2026 budget proposal includes, but is not limited to:**

- A nearly \$18 billion (nearly 40%) cut to the **National Institutes of Health** and an almost \$5 billion cut to the National Science Foundation.
- A \$1 billion cut to the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** and a nearly \$2 billion cut to the **Health Resources and Services Administration**, including the likely elimination of the Graduate Psychology Education and Minority Fellowship Programs.
- A \$3.5 billion cut to the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** and a \$675 million cut to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, including the elimination of programs fighting HIV and climate change.
- A \$12 billion cut to the **Department of Education**, including the elimination of programs that help low-income college students finance their education, the elimination of key teacher preparation programs, and the reduction of school-based mental health grants.

Thank You to Our Section Council



Chair
Lijun Song
Vanderbilt University



Chair-Elect
Anna Mueller
Indiana University - Bloomington



Past Chair
Eric R. Wright
Georgia State University



Secretary/Treasurer
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Editor, Society and Mental Health
Fred Markowitz
Northern Illinois University



Student newsletter editor
Zhe Zhang
Vanderbilt University

Thanks to the 2025 Awards Committee

Marisa Young, McMaster University

Eric R. Wright, Georgia State University

Christy Erving, University of Texas at Austin



Philip J. Pettis, Michigan State University



Rachel Kahn Best, University of Michigan



Elaine Wethington, Cornell University