

Talking Points: Benefits to Hosting an ASA Journal for a Department and University

Rory McVeigh, Professor and Former Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Sarah Mustillo, Professor of Sociology and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame
Editors, American Sociological Review

- (1) **Resources:** Your university will partner with ASA to provide resources needed to support the journal. ASA is generally unable to provide certain benefits such as paying for course releases, summer salary, or office space. However, ASA can provide funding for staffing, which can include graduate student line(s), and office equipment needed to get the job done. ASA is willing to work with you and your institution to make sure that you have the resources needed to do the job well.
- (2) **Prestige for Department and University.** Editing an ASA journal is not only a positive reflection on the prestige of the editor but also of the department and the university. Each year, hundreds of the discipline's top scholars will be interacting with the editors and staff at your university. They will become more familiar with the editors' research accomplishments but will also almost certainly take a closer look at the entire department and perhaps gain new appreciation for the overall quality of your program.
- (3) **Leveraging Journal Editorship to Draw Attention to Your Program:** Having an ASA journal housed in your department can be an important building block for establishing your program as a leader in the field in particular research areas. Conferences, speaker series, and other activities can be promoted in a way that showcases your connection to an ASA journal.
- (4) **Faculty Recruiting.** Editing an ASA journal signals to scholars outside your university that your department is at the center of your discipline. It is recognized as a strong program worthy of housing an ASA journal. That makes your department more attractive to job applicants.
- (5) **Identifying Talent.** Editing an ASA journal also gives you an opportunity to identify rising stars in your discipline—scholars who have submitted outstanding work to your journal but whose work has not yet been broadly recognized in the field.
- (6) **Graduate Recruiting.** Housing an ASA journal makes your graduate program more attractive to prospective students. During recruitment, you can describe how housing an ASA journal in the department can give them an insider's perspective on publishing. You can specify various roles that graduate students will play in managing the journal. These include administrative positions as well as serving as ad hoc reviewers. You can also organize workshops for graduate students addressing the ins and outs of publishing in strong journals.
- (7) **Enhancing Editors' Research Agendas.** Journal editing provides the editor with a very broad overview of the field and keeps the editor up to date on latest developments. This enhances the editor's scholarship because this unusual view of the most recent research makes it easier for editors to identify ways that their own research can make an impactful contribution to the field.
- (8) **Media Attention.** Major media outlets frequently feature ASA journal content in their stories. This facilitates connections between the media and the university's office of public affairs and communications. These ties can help promote faculty research across the entire university.
- (9) **Meet the Editor Workshops and Panels.** Editors can hold workshops at their institutions or at conferences, providing young scholars with opportunities to get tips for publishing research in strong journals. These workshops can be very beneficial for students and young faculty members at your own institution, and raise the profile of your department and university when held at a conference outside of the university.
- (10) **Undergraduate Education.** Increasingly, undergraduates are encouraged to engage in research and to submit their research to academic journals. Journal editors can host "meet the editor" events for undergraduate students (perhaps those who are completing senior theses), to help these students to become more familiar with standards and expectations of journals.