This annual report covers the period of section activity from September 2020 to August 2021 and a fiscal year from January 2021 to December 2021.

Section Governance
Provide details of your section’s governance activity during the period between September 2020 and August 2021.

Business Meeting

WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE Business Meeting AGENDA EMAIL THAT Section MEMBERS RECEIVED on 7/23

Dear CHS Members:

I am writing to alert you that CHS leadership will present a motion to the Business Meeting on the naming of our DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD—currently named after Ibn Khaldun. I encourage you to attend the Business Meeting if you wish to contribute to this discussion and to vote on the motion. The Business Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10, 3:55 to 4:45pm EDT (3:55 to 4:45pm EDT), VAM, Room 68. I petitioned the ASA to add additional time to the meeting so that we can have a full discussion.

The Business Meeting is also where we give our Awards. I have notified per Council instruction our current Distinguished Career Award winner—Orlando Patterson—that we will be having this discussion.

This email will provide some (1) background as to why the naming of the Prize is under discussion and the (2) text of the motion.

What follows is a brief summary of the issue that entailed extra CHS Council Meetings, the ASA, and the calling of a committee of former section chairs to draft a motion. In short, our efforts required a considerable time commitment in the interests of balancing probity, fairness and transparency.

Background:

In late spring, Andreas Wimmer Chair of this year’s Khaldun Award Committee and former Section Chair in the course of doing his own research came across some writings of Khaldun on racial difference and hierarchy that in today’s terms would likely be labelled racist. He suggested strongly that in light of this evidence that the section re-think the Award name. I brought the matter to Council where an intense discussion ensued about the meaning of section award names as well as whether we should hold a thinker writing in medieval times to the same cultural and historical frames that we use today. To be clear, no one on Council
approved of the statements at issue. Yet, there was a collective sentiment on Council that we should proceed democratically, with transparency and weigh all the issues. Council advised me to take up the naming issue with ASA and to appoint what we were calling at the time a “naming committee” to consider the institutional and cultural significance of Award naming in general and CHS Award naming in particular. There are few guidelines at the ASA level or at the Section level for addressing our specific dilemma.

CHS Bylaws do permit us to interpret “naming” as a policy issue and to take it up before the Business Meeting. The link to the by-laws is here:


The relevant procedural text is below:

“All action of the Section, including changes of the By-Laws [something we might consider in the future], may be brought to the vote of the Section by the Council, or by a petition of 10 percent or twenty-five of the members, whichever is less. Questions that are interpreted by the Council to be matters of new program development or policy shall be brought before the membership for discussion.”

In my role as Section Chair and acting on Council’s suggestion, I appointed an Ad Hoc Naming Committee chaired by Craig Calhoun, and including Margaret Somers and Richard Lachmann—all former CHS section chairs—to draw up a motion for us to vote on and discuss at the Business Meeting. The text of the motion is below. Please read it carefully as it lays out all of the issues.

If anyone has questions, please feel free to write to me. But the best thing that you can do is to attend the meeting, discuss the issue there and vote on the motions.

Mabel

THE MOTION [Written by: Craig Calhoun; Margaret Somers; Richard Lachmann]

CHS Committee on Award Names

In response to recent questions, the Chair of the ASA Section on Comparative Historical Sociology, Mabel Berezin, appointed a Committee to consider the naming of Section awards. She tasked the Committee with bringing a motion to the next Section business meeting. Members include Margaret Somers, Richard Lachman, and Craig Calhoun (chair).

The Committee has met and considered both the immediate question which concerns the suitability of naming the Section’s Distinguished Career Award after Ibn Khaldun. It also considered the more general question of value and pitfalls of named prizes and awards.

On the general question, the Committee recognized a trade-off. On the one hand generic names offer a straightforward way to focus attention on the individual or work being honored. On the other hand, naming prizes after distinguished scholars is considered by many to add to the distinctiveness of the recognition. In addition, the naming may recognize the importance of major figures in the field. Finally, and not least, naming is a way to signal the diversity of
intellectual traditions and sources the Section embraces. In general, the Committee finds value in naming awards after distinguished comparative historical sociologists.

However, choice of names for awards is subject to controversy and simply to changing tastes. Sometimes a figure is discredited or more often partially forgotten. Names that carried great cachet at one time are replaced by new ones considered more appropriate by current Section members. Judgements of appropriateness reflect not only shifting evaluations of different major figures, and sometimes sadness at their loss. They reflect also the desire of the section to signal other commitments – e.g., to diversity of gender, race, and intellectual tradition and to the importance of non-Western as well as Western scholars.

Current controversy concerns the appropriateness of naming a prize after Ibn Khaldun. In the spring of 2021, council members became aware of ways in which his work may be considered racist. Without denying this, others have argued that judgement of a 14th Century thinker should be tempered by consideration of his context and indeed that Khaldun helped introduce a more differentiated and not simply racist view of Africans.

This Committee takes no position on whether the Section’s award should be named after Khaldun. It does note that this was a choice made by the Section’s membership in a good faith effort both to recognize one of the founders of comparative historical sociology and to celebrate the importance of non-Western sociologists. Therein lies a clue to how we recommend the Section proceed.

There will recurrently be proposals to change the names of Section awards. The Section’s constitution provides for a vote of members on these proposals. It is key that in each case members recognize that that they are not simply voting up or down on an individual, but making a choice among possible names for an award. Other figures could be recognized or the award in question could simply be named award for best paper or book, or for a distinguished career. But to ‘un-name’ a prize is either to choose the generic formulation or to choose a different name.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Section reaffirm that it has a constitutional mechanism for changing award names – a simple majority vote in a properly constituted, business meeting. The Bylaws could be changed to establish another mechanism – e.g., balloting of all members or requiring a supermajority. There is a process for this but we are not making this proposal.

THE MOTIONS TO VOTE ON IN SEQUENCE:

Finally, then, we recommend the membership vote – a simply yes or no - on this proposition:

1. That the Section does not wish to have any awards named after individuals. If this motion passes, the matter is resolved (until any future proposal).

If motion 1 fails, we recommend the membership vote on this second proposition:
2. That the Section wishes to retain individual names for all awards except the award for a career of distinguished scholarship.

If motion 2 fails, we recommend the membership vote on this third proposition:

3. That the Distinguished Career Award remain the Ibn Khaldun Distinguished Career Award until such time as a proposal to name it something else is passed by a majority of Section members.

Business Meeting/Minutes (about 50 members present)
Prepared by Secretary Treasurer Marisela Martinez-Cola

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:55 pm to 4:45 pm EDT VAM, Room 68

Introduction by Berezin where she very briefly summarizes the Ibn Khaldun naming issue and says she will open the discussion with a presentation by Craig Calhoun on the report prepared by the Committee on Award Names and circulated to members.

Muge Gocek asks to speak before Calhoun on a procedural matter. She is followed by other members concerned with the procedures and logic preceding the suggestion to remove names from awards, and Ibn Khaldun in particular. Concerns included: lack of transparency, why award naming, which has always been an issue for scholars of color, have become urgent when it involved a scholar of color, and silencing of experts.

Because of a packed schedule that was supposed to include the Committee on Award Names and the reports from award committees on the recipients of the CHS section awards, the Chair attempted to limit the discussion regarding the Ibn Khaldun award. Unfortunately, this push for limitations left members, especially people of color, feeling (in their words) silenced, disrespected, and attacked.

Dr. Patterson suggested that he would be willing to accept an award without the name of Ibn Khaldun. Other awardees were not able to accept their awards or be recognized for their contributions. Because of the predetermined and created time limit in place by the ASA, the meeting ended abruptly with no resolution.

Council Meeting
CHS had three council meetings this year (April 22, May 24, August 10). This departs from the usual practice of having one Council meeting at the ASA Annual meeting. The reason for the three meetings had to do with an issue that arose concerning the naming of our Career Achievement Award. The Agenda for the Council Meeting for the ASA Annual meeting follows.
Our Secretary Treasurer Marisela Martinez-Cola on August 9 sent the agenda printed below to the members of Council a day before the meeting.

**Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Council Meeting**

**Agenda**

August 10, 2021
10:00 am to 10:45 am EDT
VAM, Room 18

I. **Welcome New Members**
   a. Sara Quinn, University of Washington (Chair-Elect)
   b. A.K.M. Skarpelis, Harvard University (Council Member)
   c. Robert Braun, University of California, Berkeley (Council Member)
   d. Yueran Zhang, University of California, Berkeley (Student Representative)

II. **Thank You to Outgoing Members**

III. **Membership Update (Slez)**

IV. **Comparative Historical Section Journal (Mayrl Report)**

V. **Budget Report (Martinez-Cola)**

VI. **Planning for next year**
   a. Mini-Conference
   b. Reception

VII. **Going Forward**
   a. Trajectories needs an editor and we need to re-think role for content generation
   b. Chat—new SSHA/CHS group needs to understand their role
   c. By-laws Revision and ASA standardization effort

VIII. **Khaldun Issue**
   a. Lessons Learned?

IX. **Closing**
Minutes Council Meeting Prepared by Secretary Treasurer Marisela Martinez-Cola

Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021 10:00 am to 10:45 am EDT VAM, Room 18

Meeting began at 10:01 am.

We began the meeting by welcoming new members:
   Sara Quinn, University of Washington (Chair-Elect)
   A.K.M. Skarpelis, Harvard University (Council Member)
   Robert Braun, University of California, Berkeley (Council Member)
   Yueran Zhang, University of California, Berkeley (Student Representative)

We thanked outgoing members for their service.

The Chair provided a report about the possibilities of creating a Comparative Historical Section Journal. While there is great interest in this opportunity, it is something that the section will have to table to a time when it is financially feasible. The report (identified as the Maryl report) is attached for our section records

Marisela Martinez-Cola provided the budget for 2020-2021. Due to the pandemic and lack of in-person meeting, the budget remains robust. Information regarding the budget and membership are attached for section records.

Because of the larger budget, the budget for the mini conference in Los Angeles will allow for us to find an excellent venue and perhaps pair with another section for our reception.

In regard to new business, Trajectories is in need of a new editor and we must become more creative in generating content. There needs to be stronger connections between the Comparative Historical Analysis and Theory (CHAT) and Comparative Historical Section to understand each organization’s role in comparative historical scholarly community.

Finally, there is an effort by ASA to standardize the by-laws across all the sections.

Before closing the meeting, we began to discuss the lessons learned from issues related to “The Khaldun Issue.” One of the biggest lessons was more transparency and clarity for the members. Discussion on how the issue arose and why Khaldun’s remarks, as one of the few scholars of color recognized in the field, prompted this discussion when a general concern has always existed. Mabel was to report the findings/recommendations of the ad hoc committee on naming at the business meeting. There is an overall sense of confusion regarding whether the vote will or will not take place during the business meeting.
Awards

ASA COMPARATIVE-HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY SECTION
Award Recipients 2021

Career of Distinguished Scholarship

In recognition of a lifetime of outstanding contributions to comparative-historical sociology.

Orlando Patterson, John Cowles Professor of Sociology at Harvard University

Committee:
Andreas Wimmer (Chair), Columbia, andreas.wimmer@columbia.edu
Julian Go, University of Chicago, jgo34@uchicago.edu
Philip Gorski, Yale, philip.gorski@yale.edu
Monica Prasad, Northwestern University, m-prasad@northwestern.edu

BARRINGTON MOORE BOOK AWARD

Winner:


Honorable Mention:


Committee:
Stephanie Lee Mudge (Chair), University of California-Davis, mudge@ucdavis.edu
Robert Braun, University of California-Berkeley, robert.braun@berkeley.edu
Angel Parham, Loyola University-New Orleans aaparham@loyno.edu

CHARLES TILLY ARTICLE AWARD

Co-Winners


And

**Committee:**
Shamus Khan (Chair), Columbia University, sk2905@columbia.edu
Eddy U, University of California, Davis eu@ucdavis.edu
Alexander Kentikelenis, Bocconi University, Milan alexander.kentikelenis@unibocconi.it

**THEDA SKOCPOL DISSERTATION AWARD**


**Committee:**
Lyn Spillman (Chair), University of Notre Dame Lynette.P.Spillman.1@nd.edu
Tad Skotnicki, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, tpskotni@uncg.edu
Lotesta, Johnnie Anne, Harvard University, Ash Center, johnnie_lotesta@hks.harvard.edu

**REINHARD BENDIX STUDENT PAPER AWARD**

**Winner**


**Honorable Mention**

Wen Xie (Chicago), "Generation as Structure: Market Transformation in China’s Socialist Industrial Heartland"

**Committee:**
Jonathan Wyrtzen (Chair), Yale University, jonathan.wyrtzen@yale.edu
Maryam Alemzadeh, Princeton, ma40@princeton.edu
Simeon J. Newman, Michigan, simnew@umich.edu

**2021 Finances**

Provide a narrative on how the 2021 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2021. Please account for any substantive differences.
Aside from our payment to the Graduate Student who won the Bendix Prize and our expenses for Award Plaques, we spent virtually no money this year (See Finances Attached). We anticipate resources available for in person activities in 2022 will be plentiful. We did not give our MFP donation this year and we should do that as soon as possible.

Our Expenses in 2020-21 were $400 award expenses; $500 Bendix award $125 website maintenance (see separate document with Budget).