

# **Section on Latina/o Sociology Bylaws**

*Revised 1993, 2006, 2013, 2015*

## **Article I. Name**

The Section shall be known as the Section on Latina/o Sociology (SLS)

## **Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of the Section on Latina/Latino Sociology (SLS) is to encourage and promote empirical research, theoretical development, and the teaching of issues relating to the Latina and Latino population, particularly in but not only the United States. The terms Latina and Latino are used to designate all individuals or groups of individuals who are identified or self-identity with the racial/ethnic membership attributed to Latin American origin and/or ancestry. Any member of the American Sociological Association who shares these research or teaching interests is encouraged to become a member of this section.

## **Article III. Council and Officers**

The voting officers of the Section Council shall be: a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairperson-Elect will become the Chairperson after one year of service on Council. The term of office of the Chairperson is one year; after this, the out-going Chairperson will serve on the Council for an additional year and as a voting Council member. The Secretary-Treasurer serves for a period of three years.

In addition to the above voting members, six more members from the general membership are elected as voting Council Members. Each Council member will serve for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year.

Two Graduate Student Representatives also are elected to Council as voting members. Each Graduate Student Representative will serve for two years, with one graduate student representative council seat being vacated each year.

Council Members without predetermined roles as chairs will serve in at least one committee per year and will chair one committee during their three-year term.

Officers shall not succeed themselves. No member of the Section shall serve as Chairperson, or Chairperson-Elect while holding the office of the Chair in another section. The Chairperson will preside at Council meetings. In case that the Chairperson is not available, the chair elect or treasurer can chair the meeting.

It is encouraged that all Council members be formally recognized after completion of their service (i.e., plaques and/or certificates).

## **Article IV. Powers of the Officers**

The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations of the Section while acting as representatives of the membership of the section. To that end, it shall meet on the occasion of the ASA Annual Meeting, preferably before the Latina/o section business meeting, and may meet at other times when more than half of the Council can be assembled, whether in person or through electronic means. The Council shall make decisions by majority rule of its assembled members.

## **Article V. Referenda**

Questions to be brought before the Section membership for approval may originate with the Council itself (if requested by at least five Council members); by a petition of 10 percent of the Section membership, or by 25 members of the Section (whichever is less). Any resolution passed at the annual

Business Meeting of the Section and not subsequently accepted by the Council shall automatically be submitted to a vote of the Section membership.

In the event of death, resignation, incapacity or inactivity of the Chair, Chair Elect, or Secretary-Treasurer, the council acting on the initiative of any member thereof, may designate an interim officer to perform the functions of that office for a period of no more than one year. Such action shall require the approval of two-thirds of the council members. The interim officer so designated can be any member of the Section including a member already holding another office or membership on the Council.

In case of death or resignation, or in the case of the continued incapacity or inactivity of an officer for a period longer than the one-year permitted for an interim officer, the Council shall call for the election of a replacement during the regular annual election. The term of office of the elected replacement shall be designated as the remainder of the term of the vacated office.

#### **Article VI. Elections and Voting**

The elections of the Section shall be carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the American Sociological Association and coordinated with the schedule of the American Sociological Association.

#### **Article VII. Nominations for Council**

The Nominations Committee will solicit nominations for officers and council members from the general membership in accordance with the ASA elections timeline. Members may self-nominate for any office, or they may be nominated by a fellow section member. The slate of candidates for each office shall be made known to the membership at least 60 days prior to the election deadline.

#### **Article VIII. Committees**

The Section shall have the following standing committees: Nominations, Publications, Mentoring, Awards and Program. Section Council members shall serve as Chairpersons and/or members for the various committees and solicit committee membership from the general membership.

The Council may change the name of any committee, and may create ad hoc committees when appropriate. The Chairperson of the Section, with the approval of the Council, shall appoint other committees on an ad hoc basis.

##### **Section 1.**

One Council member will serve as the Nominations Committee Chair with committee membership coming from the Council and/or the general membership. The committee shall consist of at least three members. The role of the Nominations committee is to develop a list of candidates for all the offices of the section

##### **Section 2.**

The Publications Committee is appointed by the Council of the Section. Members will serve for three staggered years, with the term of one member expiring each year. The committee shall consist of a

Chairperson from the Council and at least two other members from the council and/or general membership. The purpose of this committee is two-fold. The committee shall recommend to the Council candidates for Section Newsletter Editor, and a Website/Facebook administrator. Committee members also will serve as consultants to the editor and administrator and appraise the needs of the section in the areas of outlets for scholarly publication and dissemination.

##### **Section 3.**

The Mentoring Committee is charged with organizing the Norma Williams Professional Seminar. The

Chairperson will come from the council membership and should have at least two years of service left on the Council. Committee members come from the Council and general membership. The seminar is held during the years that the majority of Latina/o Sociology Section activities occur on the first and third days of the annual conference. The seminar addresses specific needs for the membership including but not limited to: information related to professional advancement; safe-space discussion forums for discussion of specific research or teaching issues; and a Q&A forum for general questions raised by participants. The workshop may be opened to other section members who work on Latino (a) sociology.

#### Section 4.

The Awards Committee serves as selection committee for each of the Section's five awards. The Chair of the committee will come from the Council who coordinates the selection process for the five awards sub-committees. The Section has three annual awards and two bi-annual awards presented on alternate years. With the exception of the student paper award, each award recipient will serve as chair of the respective committee in the following year's award selection process. The Awards Committee Chair appoints the chair of the Cristina Maria Riegos Student Paper Award. Sub-committee chairs solicit assistance in forming a committee from the Council and/or general membership.

#### Annual Awards

##### Distinguished Book Award

The Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association recognizes with this award a colleague who published an outstanding book in the area of Latina/o Studies during the past two years. The book should not be an edited or reprinted volume and it should deal primarily if not only with the Latino population. A member of the Latina/o Studies Section must nominate the book. Self-nominations are encouraged, but books nominated by the publisher alone will not be considered. Nominations should include a brief comment on the book's merits and its contribution to the field of Latina/o Sociology. Arrangements must be made for the publisher to send copies of the book to each member of the committee.

##### Distinguished Research Article Award

The Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association recognizes with this award a colleague who has published an outstanding article in the area of Latina/o Studies in the last 2 years. Self-nominations are encouraged. If you are nominating an article, please send to the chair of the committee a brief comment on the manuscript's merits and its contribution to the field of Latina/o Sociology and a PDF copy of the article.

##### Cristina Maria Riegos Student Paper Award

The Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association recognizes with this award an outstanding paper authored by a current student section member, or co-authored with other current student section members, in the area of Latina/o Sociology. The paper

must have made "public appearance" in the previous two years as a class submission, delivered at a seminar, presented at a professional meeting, submitted for review, or accepted for publication. Self nominations are encouraged. Please send a copy of the paper (Word or PDF) to the chair of the committee with a brief comment on the manuscript's merits and its contribution to the field of Latina/o Sociology.

#### Biannual Awards

##### Julian Samora Distinguished Career Award

The Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association recognizes with this award an outstanding individual who has contributed to the field of Latina/o Sociology with scholarly publications, teaching, and mentoring. In nominating an individual for the award, please include a letter describing this individual's contribution to the research on Latina/o Sociology, to teaching and mentoring. Examples of scholarship should be included either as attachments (if they are articles) or as copies of a recent book published. Self-nominations are encouraged. The award will be distributed on even-numbered years.

#### **Founders Award**

The Latina/o Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association recognizes with this award a current or former member of the Section who over the years has made outstanding contributions to the Section. The selected individual has given time and energy to strengthen the visibility and status of the Section, worked with colleagues on projects related to the Section, and mentored numerous students. The recipient of the award is a recognized leader in the Section and has an impressive record of research that has made an impact in the area of Latina/o Sociology. The award will be distributed on odd-numbered years.

#### **Section 5.**

There shall be a Program Committee, which is chaired by the Chair-Elect. The charge of this committee is to organize sessions for the Section in cooperation with the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association. The Chair-Elect will solicit committee membership from the Council and/or general membership at the business meeting and personal communication.

#### **Article IX. Membership and Dues**

Membership in the Section is open to all members of the American Sociological Association. Elected officers and council members shall be drawn from dues-paying members of the Section who have voting privileges through their paid membership. Members who do not pay their section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls at the end of the year.

Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accordance with the requirements of the American Sociological Association. In addition, members of the Section shall be assessed as necessary to carry out any programs undertaken by the Section.

#### **Article X. Amendment of the By-Laws**

Amendment of the Section By-Laws requires, first, discussion of proposed changes at an annual meeting of the Section; second, approval by a majority of Council (including ex-officio members); third, approval by the Committee on Sections and ASA Council; fourth, approval of a majority of those voting in a vote submitted to all Section members.

#### **Article XI. Meetings**

At each Annual Meeting of the Association (ASA), there shall be at least one Business Meeting of the Section at which the Officers and the Council shall respond to questions from the membership. The Chair shall convene the Council at each Annual Meeting in order to perform the duties specified in the By-Laws, and between Annual Meetings as necessary.