

**Bylaws**  
**Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities**  
*Revised August 1992, 1994, 1997, 2013, 2016, 2021*

**Article I. Name**

The Section shall be known as the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities (SREM).

**Article II. Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to promote the study of racial and ethnic minorities. We encourage research, theory and teaching concerning the relation between socially defined racial and ethnic groups as they change through time and across cultures. Therefore, any member of the American Sociological Association who shares these research and teaching interests is encouraged to become a member of this section. The fostering of scholarship which will contribute to the welfare of all rather than the promotion of the social or political interests of any particular group is a paramount goal of the section.

**Article III. Council and Officers**

The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, and a Secretary- Treasurer. The Chairperson-Elect will become Chairperson after one year of office. The term of office of the Chairperson will be one year; after this, the out-going Chairperson will serve on the Council for an additional year and have voting power. The chairperson should receive a plaque after each yearly term for their service to the council and the profession. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years.

There shall be a Council consisting of eleven members. The Chairperson, Chairperson- Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer are members of Council, as well as the Past-Chairperson. Six members will be elected Council Members. Each Council Member will serve for three years, with two council seats being vacated each year. There will be a Graduate Student Representative to Council elected by membership. This individual will serve a term of one year. The Editor(s) of Sociology of Race and Ethnicity will be appointed by Council and serve as a voting ex-officio member(s) to Council.

Officers shall not succeed themselves. No member of the Section shall serve as Chairperson or Chairperson-elect while holding the office of Chair in another section. The Chairperson will preside at Council meetings.

**Article IV. Powers of the Officers**

The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. To that end, it shall meet on the occasion of the ASA Annual Meeting, preferably before the SREM 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. Council members without predetermined roles as chairs will serve on at least one committee per year and will chair one committee during their three-year term.

**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 motion 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.

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

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

## **Article VII. Nominations**

Nominations shall be made by the Nominations Committee and at the initiative of the Section members. Prior to the preparation of its slate, the Nominations Committee shall call for suggested nominations from the Section membership. Two candidates for each elective office shall be proposed by the Nominations Committee. At the same time the Nominations Committee is preparing its slate, any group of at least 25 members of the Section or 10 percent of the section membership (whichever is less) may nominate a candidate by so notifying the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee prior to the announced closing date for receipt of these petitions. Candidates nominated by valid petitions shall be added to the election slate.

Following the close of nominations, the Nominations Committee will submit the slate of candidates along with a short biographical sketch of each candidate for elective office. No person can be a candidate for more than one office in the section. The members of the Nominations Committee are not eligible to be candidates for any office. Candidates shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast for respective offices.

## **Article VIII. Committees**

The Section shall have the following standing committees: Nominations, Publications, Mentoring, and Awards. Other committees may be created from time to time by the Council, and the Council may change the name of any committee.

**Section 1.** There shall be a Nominations Committee appointed each year by the Chair with approval of the Council. The Chairperson on the Nominations Committee will be selected by Council when it convenes at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association each year. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee each year shall be a member (but not Chairperson) in the following year. The membership of the Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee with approval of the Council. The role of the Nominations committee is to develop a list of candidates for all the offices of the section.

**Section 2.** There shall be a Publications Committee comprised of six elected members, who serve staggered, 3-year terms, and two ex officio members. Except when an unexpected vacancy occurs, two will be elected by the section membership every year. Elected members will take over as voting members at the end of the Publications Committee Meeting at the American Sociological Association annual meeting during the year in which they are elected. The elected members may not concurrently serve as members of the section Council, nor be other officers of the Section. Council will appoint one of its own members as an ex officio member to Publications Committee for a 1-year term, which is renewable. The Chair of the Publications Committee is nominated from among the elected members by the Section Chair and approved by the Committee. The Chair will serve for a term of 1 year. Elected Members of the Publications Committee are eligible to be nominated as Committee Chair after serving at least one year on the committee. A quorum of the Publications Committee consists of four members (including the committee chair), only one of whom may be an ex officio member. No member of the Publications Committee may serve concurrently as Editor, Co-Editor or Associate Editor of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. Editor(s) of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* can be called upon to provide Publications Committee advice and to answer questions when requested.

The Publications Committee will receive and evaluate an annual report from the Editor or Co-Editors of

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity; solicit nominations when a new Editor or new Co-Editors (of either Sociology of Race and Ethnicity or Remarks) are to be appointed and make recommendations to Council about whom to appoint; approve upon the recommendation of the Editor or Co-Editors the incumbents of other editorial positions (Associate Editors, Book Review Editors, Editorial Board members, etc.); maintain a handbook detailing the ongoing procedures and operations of the publications committee. The ASA guidelines specify further that the committee must review the viability of the journal “prior to the appointment of a new editor” and prepare a written report identifying strengths and weaknesses and providing recommendations concerning the latter. This report is to be submitted to the section Council and the ASA Publications Committee. The annual report of the Editor or Co-Editors of Sociology of Race and Ethnicity to the Publications Committee must, at a minimum, provide the data that the ASA requires of its journals. The Publications Committee may request additional information.

The Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities maintains the following publications:

***Sociology of Race and Ethnicity:*** This is the official journal of the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities of the American Sociological Association.

***Remarks:*** This is the official newsletter of the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities of the American Sociological Association

***SREM Website***

***SREM Social Media***

**Sub-Section 1. Editorial Team.** *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* will have an editorial team consisting of an editor or co-editors along with several Associate Editors, whose primary function will be to provide important advice and consent to the editor(s) as well as to provide serious and continuous oversight of the journal operations. The term of office for the first co-editors will be four years, with the possibility of a renewal for another three years. Thereafter the tenure for the editors or co-editors will be four years. The Journal Editor and Co-Editor are responsible for editing the journal and will be required to attend the ASA Annual Meeting to report to SREM members on the status of the journal, selection of articles, number of articles received, desk rejects, acceptances, revise and resubmits along with review and acceptance time, backlog, an forthcoming issues. Additionally, they will be responsible for liaising with the publisher of the journal via The ASA Director of Publications on an on-going basis, and for reviewing a written budget and financial statement each year received from the Section Secretary Treasurer Section Treasurer and/or ASA Director of Publications .

**Sub-Section 2. Deputy Editors.** There will be at least two (2) and no more than five (5) Deputy Editors of the journal. They serve terms of three (3) years that are ***synchronized with the term of the Editor or Co-Editors***. The terms of the Deputy Editors may be renewed once. If a Deputy Editor must be named in the middle of an Editor’s term, then the term of the new Deputy Editor ends when that particular Editor’s or Co-Editors’ term(s) does as well. The Deputy Editors are named by the Editor or Co-Editors and approved by the SREM Publications Committee. Deputy Editors will serve in an advisory role to provide important advice and consent to the Editor or Co-Editors about journal operations. Deputy Editors will also review annual journal statistics and information and suggest opportunities to strengthen contributions to and by the journal to the field.

**Sub-Section 3. Book Review Editor.** The Editorial Team will recommend a Book Review Editor, who will be confirmed by a majority vote of the Publications Committee. Candidates for the position of Book Review Editor must be SREM members in good standing, engaged in the business of the section. The book review editor is responsible for soliciting reviews of books within the area of race and ethnicity and

is responsible for editing book reviews for the journal. The Book Review Editor is required to maintain on-going contact with the Editor and Co-editor of SRE and submits a report to the Publications Committee at the Annual section meeting regarding the number of book reviewed, forthcoming reviews, and any additional resources or expenses needed in consultation with the ASA Secretary and ASA Director of Publications.

**Sub-Section 4. Pedagogy Editor.** The Editorial Team will recommend a Pedagogy Editor, who will be confirmed by a majority vote of the Publications Committee. Candidates for the position of Pedagogy Editor must be SREM members in good standing, engaged in the business of the section. The Pedagogy Editor is responsible for soliciting articles on teaching and learning within the area of race and ethnicity and is responsible for editing articles for journal publication. The Pedagogy Editor is required to maintain on-going contact with the Editor and Co-editor of SRE and submitting a report to the Publications Committee at the Annual section meeting regarding the number of articles and forthcoming articles for publication. Additionally, they should report any additional resources or expenses needed in consultation with the ASA Secretary and ASA Director of Publications published in SRE is responsible for editing the book reviews for the journal, maintaining contact with the Editor of the Journal on an on-going basis, and submitting to the Publications Committee annually.

**Sub-Section 5. Editorial Board.** The Publications Committee will create an Editorial Board by soliciting recommendations from members of the Editorial Team and the Publications Committee and voting on those individuals submitted for consideration. Editorial Board members should be selected giving consideration to the maintenance of a diverse (diversity broadly defined) Editorial Board, and members must be members in good standing of SREM. Editorial Board members will agree to review 2-3 articles per year in their respective areas of scholarly expertise and will serve three-year terms initially. After the launch terms are done, one-third of the members will continue for one more year, one-third of the members will continue for two more years, and one-third will consist of new members appointed for three year terms. Editorial Board members will subsequently be appointed for three year terms such that one-third of the board is repopulated each year.

**Sub-Section 6. Communications Coordinator.** The Council will appoint one or more of its members to serve as Communications Coordinator(s). They will coordinate and oversee the production of the SREM newsletter, the various official SREM media sites including the SREM website and SREM social media sites including Facebook and Twitter. The Communications Coordinators are charged with making sure that messaging is consistent, coordinated, and appropriate across media platforms. They have responsibility for approving the content of the SREM newsletter and for vetoing or removing any social media content. A Communications Coordinator will serve as an ex officio member of the publications committee.

**Sub-Section 7. Editorial Team Selection Process.** The process for the selection and replacement of editors will be as follows: the initiation of a Call for Editor and Co-Editor for SRE publicized by the SREM Publication Committee to the section. All applicants for the position of Editor and Co-editor will be reviewed by the Publication Committee.

Nominations for new editors will be vetted by the Publication Committee, in consultation with the current Chair and members of the SREM Council. Editorial candidates will be SREM members in good standing for five (5) consecutive years within the last 10 years, show good SREM citizenship, engagement with the section and have been a contributing member to SREM. Prospective editors would submit proposals and vision statements approximately a year and a half before a new editor is to step in to insure adequate transition time between the two locations. It is the responsibility of the SREM Publications Committee to solicit feedback from the entire SREM membership on anonymized submitted application packets before voting. Ultimately, applicant materials will be reviewed and ranked by the Publications Committee who

will make a **recommendation for Editor and Co-Editor to the SREM Council. The SREM Council will vote on the recommendations presented to them by the Publications.** The replacement of an Editor and/or Co-editor will be conducted by the Publications Committee from among the ranked pool of applicants for the position of Editor and Co-Editor. Then, recommended for a vote by the Council. The proposed editorial team will then be submitted to ASA Publications Committee and ASA Council for approval.

The editorial office ideally would be comprised of co-editors, a managing editor, along with graduate and/or undergraduate research assistants depending on the location of the university or college where the journal is located.

**Sub-Section 8. Newsletter.** Remarks is the official SREM newsletter. There shall be a newsletter editor appointed by the SREM council. The newsletter editor will be charged with editing and maintaining the SREM newsletter. The newsletter editor will work in communication with the Communications Coordinator.

**Sub-Section 9. SREM Website.** There shall be a website administrator appointed by the council and charged with editing and maintaining the SREM website. The website administrator will work in communication with the Communications Coordinator.

**Sub-Section 10. SREM Social Media.** There shall be a social media administrator appointed by the council and charged with editing and maintaining SREM's social media sites including Facebook and Twitter. The social media administrator will work in communication with the Communications Coordinator.

**Section 3.** There shall be a Program Committee charged with developing sessions on racial and ethnic minorities at each annual meeting, in cooperation with the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association. The Chairperson shall serve as Chair of this committee. It shall have at least four members, those other than the Chairperson being appointed by the Council.

**Section 4.** There shall be a Mentoring Committee appointed by the Chairperson each year with approval of the Council. The Mentoring Committee is charged with addressing several specific needs among our membership. These needs include, but are not limited to: dissemination of specific information related to professional success; discussion forum that serves as "safe space" to discuss specific research or teaching issues in members' area of expertise; and a Q&A forum for general questions asked by SREM members.

**Section 5.** There shall be an Awards Committee for each of the Section's five awards. The Section shall give five awards annually. Four awards shall be permanently listed each year. The Chair of each Awards Committee (below) shall be a member of Council or appointed by the Council.

***The Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award*** recognizing sociologically related books published in the two years prior to the current meeting that make a distinguished and significant contribution to the eradication of racism. One member of Council serves as Chair of The Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM.

***The Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award*** recognizing the author or authors of the best research article in the sociological study of race and ethnicity published in the past three years of the current meeting. One member of Council serves as Chair of The Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM.

***The James E. Blackwell Graduate Student Paper Award*** recognizing the best graduate student paper that

focuses on the relation between or issues relevant to socially divided racial and ethnic groups. One member of Council serves as Chair of The James E. Blackwell Graduate Student Paper Award Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM.

*The Founder's Award for Scholarship and Service* recognizing career excellence in scholarship as well as service. One member of Council serves as Chair of The Founder's Award for Scholarship and Service Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM. Nominations from the previous two years worth of nominations should remain in consideration for this award.

The following two awards shall be rotated every other year.

*The Joe Feagin Distinguished Undergraduate Student Paper Award* recognizing the best undergraduate paper that focusses specifically on the relation between or issues relevant to socially defined racial and ethnic groups, uses an integrative race, class, gender analysis, and/or makes an important theoretical, methodological, or empirical contribution in the field of Race/Racism/Race Relations Studies. One member of Council serves as Chair of The Joe Feagin Distinguished Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM.

*The Distinguished Early Career Award* recognizing exceptional achievement and scholarly contribution to research on the sociology of race and ethnicity. One member of Council serves as Chair of The Distinguished Early Career Award Committee and assembles a Committee of 4-6 Section members, representative of the membership base of SREM. Nominations from the previous two years worth of nominations should remain in consideration for this award.

There shall be no monetary awards associated with these awards with the exception of the Founder's Award for Scholarship and Service which was established in 2007 with a donation from Professor Charles Smith (one of the original founders of the SREM section) to recognize career excellence in scholarship as well as in service. For this award, a plaque and a \$100 award will be presented at the annual reception.

## **Article IX. Membership**

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

## **Article X. Dues**

Dues shall be sent by the Council to cover the operation of the Section 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. Increases in Section dues are considered extraordinary and are typically related to ASA policy, Section support of a Section journal, or other Section initiatives. As such, alterations in Section dues must follow ASA protocol, be voted on by the Section membership, and approved by Council.

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

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

Section members.

## **Article XII. Removal From Office**

Following the default policy recommended by the ASA Section Committee, any SREM Officer or Council Member may be removed from office by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Council. The vacancy should be filled by the Council for the unexpired portion of the term. This should involve dividing up the member's responsibilities among the Council members or finding a section member volunteer to take over the office for the remainder of the term. If the Officer who is removed from office is part of a succession (e.g. Chair-Elect to Chair, or Chair to Past-Chair), the Council should decide whether the unexpired portion of the term will be defined as the remainder of the succession or the remainder of the current position. Motions to remove an editor of the *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* must be made by a member of the SREM Council or SREM Publications Committee and are subject to a vote of the SREM Council. If an editor of SRE is removed, it becomes the responsibility of the Section Chair-Elect in consultation with the Chair of the SREM Publications Committee, and with the assistance of a subcommittee made up of 3-4 members of the SREM Council and SREM Publications Committee, to find a replacement to fill the remainder of the editorial term. That replacement must be approved by the SREM Council.