

SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND NATIVE NATIONS

2021

ARTICLE I: NAME

The Section shall be known as the Sociology of Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Section is to advance scholarship to address erasure of Indigenous Peoples within the discipline and resist the settler colonialist foundations of sociology. In doing so, we challenge the illusion that "colonialism happens elsewhere" while still attending to decolonial struggles of Indigenous Peoples globally. The Section encourages and promotes research and teaching with, by, and for Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations. Any member of the American Sociological Association, regardless of rank or institutional affiliation, who share these research or teaching interests are encouraged to join.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. Rights and Responsibilities of Membership. All members shall have the following rights and responsibilities:
 - a. The right to attend all open membership and committee meetings.
 - b. The right to participate in section discussion and provide input to the Council.
 - c. In addition to following the [ASA Code of Ethics](#), members are expected to honor the values set forth by the section in Article II.
2. A general Membership meeting shall be held at the time and place of the yearly ASA meeting, or as determined by the Council and stated in the notice of meeting. Additional member meetings will take place on a quarterly basis, or as determined by majority vote of the Council.
3. Members will be notified a minimum of ten (10) business days prior to any and all duly called Member meetings.
4. Every effort will be made to ensure maximum accessibility to member meetings for all members, including but not limited to electronic formats for participation.

ARTICLE IV: COUNCIL

1. Governance. The Sociology of Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations shall be governed by a Council, which shall,
 - a. Establish the policies and have responsibility for the affairs of the Section.
 - b. Create Ad Hoc Committees as needed and appoint Chairs and Members of Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees, unless otherwise specified.
 - c. Approve Section budgets, awards, grants, and bylaws revisions.
 - d. Vote on formal recommendations (drafted in conjunction with the Communications Committee) for public statements to be considered by the ASA Council, on issues and in areas that relate to the expertise, competence, and/or interests of the section.

2. Composition. The Council shall consist of the Immediate Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, two (2) Members-at-Large, and two (2) Student Representatives.
3. Council Meetings. The Council shall meet quarterly, whether in person or through electronic means. One meeting shall be called the Annual Meeting, and will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.
 - a. Any member of the Council may participate in a meeting of the Council in person or by means of telephone, video conference, or similar communication methods.
 - b. The Chair shall preside over Council meetings.
 - c. A majority of Council members, including at least two (2) Officers, shall constitute a quorum.
 - d. The acts of a majority of the Council participating in a meeting in which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the Council.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

1. Officers. The Officers of the Section shall be the Chair, the Chair-Elect, the Immediate Past Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Duties of the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair. It is intended that the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair shall constitute a non-hierarchical collaborative structure of three who work together to provide continuity of leadership for the section. The Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair, shall
 - a. Preside over all meetings of the Council. The gavel of authority to preside will be held by default by the Chair. If the Chair is unable to preside at a given meeting, the gavel shall reside with the Chair-Elect. If the Chair-Elect is unable to preside, the gavel shall reside with the Immediate Past Chair.
 - b. Have responsibility for the implementation of the policies of the section as established by the Council.
 - c. Prepare agendas for meetings of the Council.
 - d. Mentor one another in the duties of Chair to ensure continuity of leadership for the Section.
 - e. Perform other functions as appropriate or as provided by the Bylaws.
3. Duties of the Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair works with other Section Officers to provide overall leadership of the Section; serves as Co-Chair of the Program Committee; and other duties as deemed necessary by the Chair.
4. Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer handles all correspondence and all financial affairs and record-keeping of the Section; works with Section Officers to provide overall Section leadership, ensures that the bylaws are up-to-date, takes notes and distributes minutes of the quarterly Council Meetings.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTION AND TENURE OF THE OFFICERS

1. Frequency of Elections. Section elections shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule.
2. Terms of Office. The terms of office shall be as follows:

- a. The Chair-Elect shall be elected by the membership for a one-year (1-year) term of office, shall then become the Chair for a one-year (1-year) term of office, and shall then become Immediate Past Chair for a one-year (1-year) term of office.
 - b. The Vice-Chair shall be elected by the membership for a two-year (2-year) term of office.
 - c. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by the membership for a three-year (3-year) term of office
 - d. Members-at-Large and Student Representatives shall serve staggered two-year (2-year) terms.
3. Eligibility requirements
- a. Persons who occupy the offices of Vice-Chair and Student Representatives must be Student Members of the ASA at the time of taking office, and must be Student Members or Regular Members for the duration of their terms.
 - b. Persons occupying the elected offices of Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Council Member-at-Large and Student Representative must, upon taking office, not have held the same elected office in the previous year.
 - c. Persons occupying the elected office of Chair-Elect must, upon taking office, not have held the office of Immediate Past Chair in the previous year.
 - d. Persons occupying any elected office must not simultaneously occupy a different elected office of this Section.
4. Nominating. Nominations shall be solicited from Section Members via the internet, newsletters and/or other means recommended by the Nominations Committee.
5. Assumption of Office. Newly elected Officers, Members-at-Large, and Student Representatives shall assume office on September 1 the year elected. Prior to assuming office, newly elected Officers may attend meetings of the Council as non-voting participants.
6. Removal from Office. Any Officer or Council Member may be removed from office by special election requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of fifty-one percent (51%) of Section Members.
7. Resignations. Any Officer or Council Member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Council. Resignations shall take effect upon receipt of notice, or at such later time as shall be specified in such notice; and, unless otherwise specified therein, acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
8. Vacancies in Office. If, for any reason, an Office or Council Member position is declared vacant before the term is completed, the Chair may appoint a person to fill the remainder of the term, subject to confirmation by the Council.

ARTICLE VII: STANDING COMMITTEES

- 1. The Standing Committees shall be as follows:
 - a. Nominations Committee
 - i. The Nominations Committee shall be chaired by the Immediate Past Chair and shall include no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) additional Committee

Members, at least one of whom must be a Student Member. The Committee Chair shall nominate, and the Council shall appoint Members to fill vacancies that may arise to serve staggered three-year (3-year) terms.

- ii. The Nominations Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for each vacant office to be voted on by members of the Section.

b. Membership Committee

- i. The Membership Committee shall be charged with responsibility for building and sustaining membership, including recruitment of new members and retention of current members; maintaining membership rosters; advising the Council on matters related to ethical conduct as it pertains to membership.
- ii. The Membership Committee shall comprise a Chair, appointed by Council to serve a one (1) year renewable term, and no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) additional Committee Members, at least one of whom must be a Student Member. The Committee Chair shall nominate, and the Council shall appoint Members to fill vacancies that may arise to serve staggered two-year (2-year) terms.

c. Program Committee

- i. The Program Committee shall be responsible for developing sessions for the ASA annual meeting and shall initiate and promote other activities that are in line with the purposes of the Section.
- ii. The Program Committee shall be co-chaired by the Section Chair and Vice-Chair.
- iii. The Program Committee shall include no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) additional Committee Members, at least one of whom must be a Student Member. The Committee Co-Chairs shall nominate, and the Council shall appoint Members to fill vacancies that may arise to serve staggered two-year (2-year) terms.

d. Communications Committee

- i. The Communications Committee shall oversee Section communication, including the development of communication channels as defined by the Council. Communication channels may include Section newsletter, social media, and listserv communication.
- ii. The Communications Committee will also be responsible for developing public facing channels that represent the Section, such as a Section website and social media accounts.
- iii. At the direction of Council, the Communications Committee, shall be responsible for drafting formal recommendations for public statements to be considered by the ASA Council, on issues and in areas that relate to the expertise, competence, and/or interests of the section.
- iv. The Communications Committee shall be Co-Chaired by a Regular Section Member and a Student Member of the Section who are appointed by the Council.
- v. The Committee shall include no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) additional Committee Members, at least one of whom must be a Student Member. The Committee Co-Chairs shall nominate, and the Council shall appoint Members to fill vacancies that may arise to serve staggered two-year (2-year) terms.

e. Awards Committee

- i. The Awards Committee shall be responsible for the nomination, review, and selection of award winners for the following Section awards, and other awards as approved by the Council:
 1. Best Publication Award (alternating annually between a Book Award and an Article Award).
 2. Graduate Student Award (alternating annually between a Dissertation Award and an Article Award).
 3. Outreach Award (awarded to scholarly projects that support the value of community engagement, relationships, and reciprocity).
- ii. The Awards Committee shall be Co-Chaired by the Section Chair-Elect and a Student Member of the Section who is appointed by the Council to serve a one (1) year renewable term.
- iii. The committee shall include no fewer than three (3) and no more than five (5) additional Committee Members, at least one of whom must be a Student Member. The Committee Co-Chairs shall nominate, and the Council shall appoint, Members to fill vacancies that may arise to serve staggered two-year (2-year) terms.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

1. Proposals for Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by
 - a. The Section Council, or by
 - b. Petition to the Council signed by no fewer than 10 percent (10%) or 25 Members, whichever is smaller.
2. The Council must act upon amendments within six (6) months of submission.
3. Approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Council is required for further consideration of an Amendment.
4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute copies of the proposed Amendment to all Members of the Section, no more than four (4) weeks after approval by the Council.
5. Section Members shall be given the opportunity to discuss the amendment (after notification and prior to the vote) in at least one public forum, such as the Annual Business Meeting or duly called Member meeting.
6. Amendments shall be reviewed and approved in cooperation with the American Sociological Association policies and schedule prior to being added to the election ballot.
7. The adoption of a proposed amendment shall require an affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Members who participate in the voting.