

SECTION ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITIES

Approved 1997, Amended 2021

ARTICLE I. Name.

The Section shall be known as the Section on the Sociology of Sexualities.

ARTICLE II. Purpose.

The purpose of the Section on the Sociology of Sexualities is to encourage, enhance and foster research, teaching and other professional activities in the sociology of sexuality, for the development of sociology and the benefit of society, through organized meetings, conferences, newsletters, publications, awards, and other means deemed appropriate by the Section Council. The Section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in sociology, the sociology of sexualities, and allied disciplines.

ARTICLE III. Membership and Dues.

Section 1. Membership in the Section shall be open to all members of the American Sociological Association.

Section 2. Dues shall be set by the Section Council to cover the costs of operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the Association. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls at the end of each year.

ARTICLE IV. Officers.

Section 1. The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, nine non-officer members of the Council, and the graduate student members shall be elected directly by a simple majority of the voting membership.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect shall serve for one year and shall automatically become Chair the following year.

Section 4. The Chair shall preside at all business sessions of the Council and the Section, and perform all duties assigned by the Council, the Section and the Association. S/he shall serve a term of one year and shall not be eligible for re-election for re-election for a period of five years. In the event of death, resignation, absence or inability to serve, the office of Chair shall devolve successively upon the Chair-Elect and one of the Council members selected by a majority vote of the Council until the next election is held.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a three-year term. S/he shall record the transactions and circulate the minutes of the Section Council Meetings and Section Business Meetings, maintain official documents and financial records of the Section, execute all financial transactions of the Section, and perform such other duties as the Council may assign. All financial expenditures executed by the Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized by the Section Council, either directly or by delegation of such authority to the Chair. In the event of death, resignation or inability to serve, the office of

Secretary-Treasurer will temporarily be filled by a person selected by vote of Council until the next election is held.

Section 6. The Council shall consist of fourteen voting members: three officers, nine elected at-large, and two graduate student members. The officer members shall be the Chair, Chair-Elect, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The members-at-large shall be elected for staggered three-year terms with three elected each year. In the first election of the members-at-large, the terms of office, whether for one, two or three years, shall be designated by the Nominating Committee. The graduate student members shall serve for one year.

Section 7. No member shall be eligible for re-election to the Council until two years after the expiration of his or her term, and no individual shall be eligible for election to the Council after having served two terms on the Council (not counting graduate student terms). No member shall hold two Section offices simultaneously.

Section 8. The Council shall be responsible for the formation of policy and the general direction of the affairs of the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The Council shall take decisions by majority vote of its attending members. It shall have the power to fill vacancies in its elected membership appointees to hold office until replaced by officers elected at the next annual election.

Section 9. The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meeting by a majority vote using any method designed to allow all Council members a reasonable chance to register their votes, e.g., by mail, e-mail, telephone conference or fax transmission. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum of the Council.

Section 10. Any action of the Section may be brought to the vote of the Section by the Council, or by petition of ten percent of the members of the Section or twenty-five members of the Section, whichever is less.

ARTICLE V. Publications.

Section 1. There shall be a Section Newsletter issued under a title and at intervals approved by Council.

Section 2. The Editor of the Newsletter shall be appointed by the Chair subject to approval by the Council. The Council will review such appointments at least every three years, and such appointments may be renewable.

ARTICLE VI. Committees.

Section 1. For purposes of cooperating with the Association's Program Committee in planning the Section's sessions at the Annual Meeting, the Council shall be constituted the Section's Program Committee. Council shall elect one of its members to serve as Program Chair each year.

Section 2. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of the immediate past Section Chair, serving ex-officer as the Chair without vote, and three members elected at-large to three-year terms by the entire voting membership of the Section. One elected member shall retire each year and one new member shall be elected each year. The Section Chair shall develop a slate of at least two nominees for the next open position on the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees shall be placed on the ballot of the Section's Annual Election. In the first election of the Nominating Committee, the terms of office, whether for one, two or three years, shall be designated by the Chair.

Section 3. There shall be a Membership Committee consisting of one Council member, elected by the Council to a one-year term, who shall serve as Chair of the Committee, and three members appointed from the Section membership by the Section Chair, subject to approval by the Council. Members shall serve three-year staggered terms with one person appointed each year. The Committee will meet at least once during the Annual Meeting to conduct the business appropriate to the Committee. That business will consist primarily of preparing and/or updating a Section brochure, and of exploring ways to increase and/or maintain the Section's membership. During the first year, the terms of office, whether for one, two or three years, shall be designated by the Section Chair.

Section 4. In the event of the death, resignation, absence or the inability to serve of any members elected or appointed to a committee, the Section Chair may appoint a member of the Section to fill the vacancy during the Chair's term of office, subject to the approval of the Council.

Section 5. The Council may create such temporary committees not provided for in the By-Laws as may seem useful for promoting the work of the Section.

Sections 6. There shall be an Awards Committee to select a recipient of the Section on the Sociology of Sexualities Award. The Committee shall consist of a Chair, appointed by the outgoing Chair of the Section, and two members appointed by the Council. The Committee shall select the best work published since the period covered by the last award. Published works may include books, monographs and journal articles. The Council shall determine whether to confer this award and the frequency for making such an award.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings.

Section 1. At each Annual Meeting of the Association, 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.

Section 2. 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.

Article VIII. Elections and Voting.

Section 1. The Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, at-large and graduate student members of the Council and the members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by mail ballot to the members qualified to vote. The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the Association and coordinated to its schedule. The exception to this shall be the first election which shall be carried out concomitantly with the formation of the Section.

Section 2. All Section offices filled by voting of the membership at large shall be conducted by mail ballot under the following procedure:

- (a) as soon as practical after the ASA Annual Meeting, the Secretary-Treasurer shall place in the hands of the Nominating Committee a list of those who have occupied all offices in the Section since its founding, a lists of the membership eligible to hold office, and a copy of the Section's By-Laws.

- (b) Coordinated with the schedule and requirements of ASA election procedures, the Nominating Committee shall select at least two nominees for each elective must give prior approval for placing their names on the ballot.
- (c) In the election of at-large and graduate student members of the Council (normally with at least four candidates for two positions in each category), each voter shall have two votes for each category. The two candidates with the largest number of votes in each category shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote for a council seat, the tie shall be broken by a random process determined and conducted by the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall receive the results of the election ballot, and shall notify all candidates for office and appropriate Section officers of the election results.

Section 4. The terms of office shall begin one day prior to the date announced for the close of the Annual Meeting of the Association in the year which they are elected.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments.

Section 1. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of those voting in a referendum submitted by mail to the voting members of the Section.

Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by a majority vote of the Council, or by petition of at least ten percent of the voting members of the Section or twenty-five members of the Section, whichever is less.