

2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Methodology

Introduction

Annual reports are used by the Sections Committee to assess the health of a Section, measure the Section's vitality, and identify processes, programs, or initiatives that could serve as a model for other Sections. In addition, they serve to provide institutional memory, socialize new Section leaders, and promote transparency to Section members.

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2022 to August 2023 and a fiscal year from January 2023 to December 2023. This portion of the report will be shared publicly.

Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes from the Section business meeting which include a count of members present and summary of decisions made at this meeting. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

The Business Meeting took place on August 21, 2023. About 45 section members attended.

J Freese presided. No decisions were made at the business meeting. The meeting included the following agenda items:

1. **The Duncan Lecture**, which was given by Annette Lareau, and which was followed by a lively Q&A discussion.
2. **Section Updates**, presented by J Freese, and featuring brief updates regarding the section's budget, membership, and recent events.
3. **Awards**, presented by J Freese.

Council Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda and draft/approved meeting minutes of all council meetings. Minutes must include a list of council members present and a summary of decisions made. Minutes are not a transcript of proceedings, but a listing of what discussions took place and official actions taken.

Council met on September 5, 2023, via Zoom.

This was later than planned but necessary to best accommodate the schedule of different members.

In attendance were: J Freese, E Leahey, L Quillian, J Calarco, X Song, X Zhou, C Ahearn, C Pollard, J Trinitapoi, B Stewart, I Lundberg

During the meeting, council discussed these agenda items:

1. **Committee Assignments.** We discussed upcoming committee responsibilities, along with efforts to identify Council members and section members who might lead and serve on these committees.
2. **Annual Meeting Sessions.** We discussed the section's ASA section allotment and possible plans for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Council members considered proposals from section members, as well as the possibility of having one or more "open" sessions. Council ultimately settled on a plan to have two broad sessions, one focused on the future of survey research, and the other on field-based research. In relation to this item, we also discussed the Council's desire to increase Section membership among qualitative researchers, and how a more qualitatively-focused session could help in this regard.
3. **Outstanding Publication Award.** We discussed the fact that the current award nomination call is inconsistent with our current practice of alternating between book and article awards and noted that this alternating schedule is also poorly aligned with the three-year publishing timeframe for the award, which means that books or articles may have only one opportunity to be considered for the award. There was strong consensus for making explicit the alternating schedule and for extending the timeframe to four years post-publication.
4. **ASA Reception 2024.** We did not have much time for this item, but there was general consensus among those Council members who did attend in 2023 that the joint reception was very effective and well-attended with high-quality food and drink options. It seemed there was a general consensus to repeat this again in 2024, though some Council members noted that there is also value in a smaller gathering with quieter opportunities for discussion.
5. **2014 Duncan Lecture.** We briefly discussed possible Duncan Lecture candidates, noting that because the award alternates between academic sociologists and methodologists working outside of academia, 2024 will be a non-academic year. There was some discussion of the possibility of inviting someone affiliated with the GSS to give the 2024 Duncan Lecture.
6. **Newsletter Light.** We did not have much time for this item, but the two student members of the Council seemed to express interest in assisting with this effort. The proposal is to perhaps have a once-per-semester spotlight featuring a young/junior section member of their work and/or asking a council member or two to describe a recent methods paper they've read, used, enjoyed.
7. **Mid-Winter Section Meeting.** We did not have much time for this item, but we briefly discussed interest among some section members for revitalizing the mid-winter section meeting, noting that we could possibly plan a meeting for January/February 2025.

Awards

Provide a list of Section awards and awardees conferred in the past year.

Clifford Clogg Award for Best Graduate Student Paper: Oscar Stuhler, New York University, "Who Does What to Whom? Making Text Parsers Work for Sociological Inquiry." *Sociological Methods & Research*. 2022.

Leo Goldman (Early Career) Award: Kristian Bernt Karlson, University of Copenhagen

Paul F. Lazarsfeld (Distinguished Career) Award: Duane Alwin, Pennsylvania State University

Innovation Award: Kristian Bernt Karlson, University of Copenhagen, Anders Holm, University of Western Ontario, and Richard Breen, University of Oxford

Outstanding Publication Award: Mario Luis Small, Columbia University, and Jessica McCrory Calarco, Indiana University Bloomington, *Qualitative Literacy: A Guide to Evaluating Ethnographic and Interview Research*. University of California Press. 2022.

Honorable Mention: Annette Lareau University of Pennsylvania, *Listening to People: A Practical Guide to Interviewing, Participant Observation, Data Analysis, and Writing It All Up*. University of Chicago Press. 2021.

2023 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2023 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2023. Please account for any substantive differences.

Our primary expense this year was our contribution to the joint reception we hosted with five other sections at the 2023 ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Additional expenses included plaques for award winners.

The Previous Year

Describe Section activities during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

The section focused on planning 2023 sessions, including one co-sponsored with Mathematical Sociology, as well as securing a slate of nominees for council positions, and reviewing nominations for our five (!) section awards.

Provide an overview of the Section's communications with its members and include explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Section. Include links to the section website, newsletters, and any other electronic media used.

Over the past year, the Section primarily communicated with members through ASA Connect.

Describe the Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

At the 2023 Council meeting, Council members expressed a desire to increase section membership among qualitative researchers and methodologists, particularly those at the more junior level.

In relation to this goal, Council decided to use one of our 2024 ASA sessions to feature field-based methods, including ethnography, in-depth interviews, and audit studies.

Provide an overview of the section's programming at the annual meeting and include explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

The Section held five sessions at the 2023 annual meeting:

1. Duncan Lecture (Annette Lareau)
2. Causal Inference in the Social Sciences
3. Computational Sociology: Methods and Application (joint with Mathematical Sociology)
4. Text as Data and Social Measurement

5. The Logit Wars: Contrasting Wisdom about Categorical Outcomes

Provide an overview of the Section's programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

Along with five other sections (Altruism; Morality and Social Solidarity; Evolution Biology and Society; Mathematical Sociology; Rationality and Society; Emotions; History of Sociology and Social Thought; Social Psychology), the Section hosted a joint reception at the 2023 ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The goal for this event was to provide opportunities for section members to network informally with each other and with members of other related sections.