

2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Sociology of Culture

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.

Sociology of Culture Section Business Meeting ASA 2023

Sun, August 20, 9:00-9:30am, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 4

1. Welcome and Summary of the year from the Chair: Vanina Leschziner (4-5 min)
 1. Programming highlights: ASA sessions, joint reception with theory today 6-8pm
 2. Communications: Newsletters, transition from ASA Connect back to listservs (save materials, email Monika for announcements)
 3. Invitation to contribute to the Sociology of Culture Section (volunteer doc, we'll send it again)
 4. Volunteer to be a mentor (Marshall Taylor)
2. COO report: Clayton Childress (3 min)
3. Mentorship program report: Marshall Taylor (2 min)
4. Awards (15 min)
 1. Douglas Award for Best Book: Fatma Müge Göçek
 2. Geertz Award for Best Article: Christina Simko
 3. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper: Paul Joose
5. John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant Award: Tania Aparicio (2 min)
6. Pass the baton to Monika Krause (3 min)

February 28 Culture Section Council Meeting

Participants: Vanina Leschziner (VL), Japonica Brown-Saracino (JBS), Christina Simko (CS), Amin Ghaziani (AG), Jean Beaman (JB), Juan Pablo Pardo Guerra (JPPG), Tania Aparicio Morales (TAM), Clayton Childress (CC)

Meeting Notes

1-Updates from all committee chairs/liaisons

DEI Committee (JB): Survey upcoming; mid-career Stuart Hall Award (initial language to be drafted JB, and it will be proposed next council meeting)

Mentorship Program (VL): Mentorship application opening tomorrow

2-ASA 2023 Annual Meeting Reception

-Joint reception with Theory – should we hold it onsite or offsite?

Verdict: accessibility, proximity, size dictates onsite or offsite

3-Joint Sessions with Race, Class and Gender (re. EDI Committee) and with Mathematical Sociology

-Should we keep them going forward?

Voted: yes to extending joint sessions with R/G/C and Math Soc for two years

4-Culture Section Membership now has over 1,000 members, so we'll likely have an extra session next year

-Ideas about what to do with this session?

Voted: dedicate to Stuart Hall award (approved)

5-Council Meeting at the ASA 2023 Annual Meeting

-In person or on Zoom?

Voted: on zoom unless a shared time doesn't work

6-Communications Committee, with Newsletter and Social Media Sub-Committees

-Are they working well? Should we keep these committees?

Have a committee to supervise editors and merge these things together.

Cut down on number of newsletters?(left open)

7-Staffing Culture Section Committees

-Feedback on challenges related to this big task

To be decided. Proposal to cut committee members from 6 to 4, have chairs take on staffing duty from spreadsheet with diversity considerations relayed

[ENTER RESPONSE HERE]

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.

ASA Culture Section Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 1:45pm EST/10:45m PST

Council members present: Vanina Leschziner, Ann Mische, Japonica Brown-Saracino, Jean Beaman, Tania Aparicio, Monika Krause, Amy Zhang, Michaela DeSoucey, Hannah Wohl

1-General Updates

- Joint sessions with RGC and with Mathematical Sociology confirmed for 2024 and 2025.
- Offsite reception with Theory confirmed.
- Membership decline in prior six months needs to be monitored.

2-COO Report (by Clayton Childress)

Council votes to (1) eliminate summer council meeting at ASA, and therefore chair's breakfast budget; (2) switch from awards plaques to certificates.

3-Council Meetings Summer

- Council voted unanimously to hold council meetings before ASA on Zoom.

4-Awards

- Council voted to not limit the number of co-winners and/or honorable mentions for awards.

5-Communications Committee/Newsletter Sub-Committees

Council members unanimously voted the proposal of having 2-3 newsletters per year, instead of the 4 we've typically had.

6-Stuart Hall Award

Council voted unanimously to go ahead with the Stuart Hall Award for a mid-career scholar, with a lecture given by the award winner in a CCL panel every year.

7-Mentorship Program

- Actionable item: we need to increase mentor volunteers. Council members suggested that the return to listservs alone might help, because section members would be receiving information in their inboxes.

8-Culture and Contemporary Life (CCL) Series

- We discuss whether to modify the current structure of 4 panels per year in view of all the work involved in organizing the series and the low attendance we've had this year. Council members suggested that this too may improve with the return to listservs. And maybe consider organizing 3 panels a year, instead of the 4 we've typically had.

[ENTER RESPONSE HERE]

Awards

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

Section Awards

Mary Douglas Award for Best Book

Co-winners:

Karen A. Cerulo and Janet M. Ruane, 2022. *Dreams of a Lifetime: How Who We Are Shapes How We Imagine the Future*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Raúl Pérez, 2022. *The Souls of White Jokes: How Racist Humor Fuels White Supremacy*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Honorable Mention:

Noah Amir Arjomand, 2022. *Fixing Stories: Local Newsmaking and International Media in Turkey and Syria*. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Committee Members: Terry McDonnell (Chair), Waverly Duck, Rebecca Jean Emigh, Amin Ghaziani, Fatma Gocek, Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz

Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article

Winner:

Gary J. Adler Jr., Daniel DellaPosta and Jane Lankes, 2022. “Aesthetic Style: How Material Objects Structure an Institutional Field.” *Sociological Theory* 40(1): 51-81.

Honorable Mention:

Eric W. Schoon, 2022. “Operationalizing Legitimacy.” *American Sociological Review* 87(3): 478-503.

Committee Members: Iddo Tavory (Chair), Sharon Quinsaas, Jeff Sheng, Christina Simko, Yongren Shi, Talia Shiff

Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper

Co-winners:

Tomás Gold, 2022. “Contentious Tactics as Jazz Performances: A Pragmatist Approach to the Study of Repertoire Change.” *Sociological Theory* 40(3): 249-271.

Turgut Keskindürk, 2022. “Religious belief alignment: The structure of cultural beliefs from adolescence to emerging adulthood.” *Poetics* 90: 101591.

Honorable Mention:

Sarah Larissa Combellick, 2023. “‘My Baby Went Straight to Heaven’: Morality Work in Abortion Online Storytelling.” *Social Problems* 70(1): 87-103.

Committee Members: Paul Joosse (Chair), Elisabeth Becker, Matteo Bortolini, Larissa Buchholz, Jun Fang, Meltem Odabas

2023 Finances

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

The section spent \$250 less than projected on the ASA Council Breakfast by permanently moving the council meeting to being online before ASA.

The section spent \$258.03 more than projected on plaques due to more multiple authored publication winners/co-winners/honorable mentions than had been budgeted for.

The section spent \$300 more than projected by having co-winners for the Peterson Prize (graduate student paper award), thereby doubling the projected expense of \$300.

The section distributed \$500 more than projected to John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grant co-winners due to an unplanned for \$500 outside donation.

We project that council voting to (1) switch from plaques to certificates and (2) eliminate the chair's breakfast should rectify these recurring expenses and misalignments in the budget.

The Previous Year

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

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.

Throughout the year, section Chair Vanina Leschziner communicated with section members through ASA Connect regularly. ASA Connect was used to circulate information about section activities, events, and awards, and to circulate announcements shared by section members (calls for papers and conferences, publications, academic events, etc.). We sent frequent announcements and reminders about section events and application deadlines, highlighting and giving credit to all the work being done by section committees.

In addition, the section produced four issues of the Culture Section Newsletter, which were shared with section members through ASA Connect, and are available on the section's [website](#). The newsletters were produced by an editorial team comprised of four section members (three of whom were graduate students, and one who had recently graduated): Manning Zhang, Elizabeth Trudeau, and Man Yao, and our webmaster Derek Robey. The newsletter editors were supported by a newsletter committee which consisted of graduate students and faculty: Hannah Wohl (chair), Anne Marie Champagne, Jennifer Dudley, Lisa McCormick, and Ann Mullen. Below are the links to each of the four newsletters.

Winter 2022, Vol. 38 Issue 3 [\[PDF\]](#)

Spring 2023, Vol. 39 Issue 1 [\[PDF\]](#)

Summer 2023, Vol. 39 Issue 2 [\[PDF\]](#)

Summer 2023, Vol. 39 Issue 3 [\[PDF\]](#)

We also sent out announcements about section events and other news through the section's [Twitter account](#) (now X) account.

Announcements were also regularly posted on the Culture Section website. The section's webmaster, Derek Robey, regularly maintained the section's website. Here is a direct link to the website's [homepage](#). We posted information about the section's "Culture in Contemporary Life" series, as well as links to recordings of the panels on the [website](#), as well as on a [YouTube channel](#).

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

For the past few years, the Culture Section has been engaged in various diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and this year we continued the work on various programs and activities to make the section more welcoming for everyone.

- Following last year's creation of the [John Mohr Dissertation Improvement Grants](#), we put together a committee to award two grants to fund two racially or ethnically underrepresented graduate students at a public institution. This year's award winners are Jeung Hyun Kim and Yingjian Liang. The committee was comprised of Tania Aparicio (chair), Joshua Doyle, Jelani Ince, Mehr Latif, Chanel Prince, and Craig Rawlings. Clayton Childress' leadership in creating and maintaining this award, which is wholly funded by donors, has been fundamental to the success of this award.
- The section continued to promote initiatives proposed by our Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which was constituted by Jean Beaman (chair), Laura Adler, Victoria Asbury, Mari Sanchez, Mattias Smangs, and Luis Vila-Henninger. The committee produced a report based on a demographic and climate survey they created the previous year, which we shared with section members. The committee has also been discussing the possibility of conducting a diversity audit of section officers, awards, nominations.
- The section maintained another recent initiative, the Mentorship Program, organized by the membership Committee, this year constituted by Marshall A. Taylor (chair), Thomas Davison, Asia Friedman, Khoa Phan Howard, Samantha Leonard, and Amy Zhang. This program was developed to support graduate students and junior faculty, especially minorities, by putting them together in mentoring pods with more senior faculty, fostering a sense of inclusion as well as providing professional support and advice. Marshall Taylor wrote an extensive report on the Mentorship Program, which we published in the Newsletter.
- The Membership Committee has also proposed creating a BIPOC Resource Sharing Network, aiming to develop a community of support and information exchange for BIPOC section members, which the section has been planning to launch.
- The section's ASA programming maintains a focus on race and ethnicity, chiefly through a commitment to a joint session with the section on Race, Gender, and Class (RGC). We just finished a two-year commitment for this joint session with the RGC section, and our

Council unanimously voted to renew the commitment for the next two years, which was also approved by the RGC section.

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).

Please see information above about how the section's programming meets the goals and values of the section. The 2023 Annual Meeting's Program committee was comprised of chair-elect Monika Krause, Fabien Accominotti, Guillermina Altomonte, Omar Lizardo, Jaimie Morse, and Derron Wallace. Below are all the section's sessions held at the Annual Meeting.

Early Career Professionalization Panel: From Dissertation to Book

Sun, August 20, 8:00 to 9:00am, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 4

Description

Speakers shared how they navigated the process of turning their dissertations into books. Invited panelists pulled from their perspectives as authors, as well as reviewers of book proposals.

Organizer: X. Amy Zhang, George Mason University

Presider: Tania R. Aparicio, Teachers College-Columbia University

Panelists: Clayton Childress, University of British Columbia

Raul Perez, University of La Verne

Kazuko Suzuki, Texas A&M University-College Station

Comparative and International Perspectives on Race and Culture (Co-Organized with the Section on Race, Gender, Class)

Sun, August 20, 10:00 to 11:30am, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 8

Description

This special session of invited panelists examines the complex relationship between race and culture from comparative and international perspectives. Inspired by the work of cultural theorists such as Stuart Hall, Gaytri Spivak, Pierre Bourdieu, Sylvia Wynter, and Franz Fanon, panelists will consider the political construction of racial categories and the enduring social processes of racialization in diverse cultural contexts. Panelists will explore a range of timely questions. These include (but are not limited to): How are race and culture deployed as politically charged codes for making meaning of social differences? How do such meanings shift across time, place and space? Under what political-economic conditions are race and culture used to draw or disrupt distinctions between social groups? How do the meanings attached to race and culture reproduce inequalities, particularly for minoritized groups? This panel aims to center un(der)explored perspectives in US sociology of culture by investigating perspectives from the regional and diasporic traditions of African, Asian, Caribbean, and European

sociology. This session is jointly sponsored by the ASA sections on the Sociology of Race, Gender and Class and the Sociology of Culture.

Organizer and Presider: Derron Wallace, Brandeis University

Papers:

Amused Racial Contempt: Towards a Theory of Racist Fun and a Culture of humor (Raúl Pérez, University of La Verne)

Intersectional Confusion(s): Interrogating Race, Culture and Everyday Life beyond the American Context (Waverly Duck, University of California Santa Barbara)

Fanon, Wynter, and Sociogenic Considerations of Race, Culture, and Identity for Afro-Caribbean Women: A Critical Interrogation (Talia Randa Esnard, University of the West Indies)

The Evolution of Race and Culture in the 20th Century South Africa (Crain Soudien, University of Cape Town)

Cultures of Expertise: Mediating Global Challenges

Sun, August 20, 2:00 to 3:30pm, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 7

Description

Global crisis and challenges like the war in and against Ukraine or the covid 19 pandemic have highlighted the role of experts in mediating societal responses to social problems, while also renewing debates about how the social organization of expertise is changing.

In this context, this panel welcomes papers that apply tools and methods of cultural analysis to questions about the process of labeling expertise, about expert practices and expert communities, the institutional contexts of expertise, the content of expert knowledge, the effects and failures of expert knowledge, and/ or the technologies of expert knowledge. Papers on experts and expertise related to the social sciences and humanities are especially welcome as are papers on the full global range of expert communities. Papers that make new theoretical or methodological connections, such as for example, between cognitively oriented cultural sociology and the sociology of expert practices are also especially welcome.

Session Organizer and Presider: Monika Krause, London School of Economics

Papers:

Construction of Science Skepticism during the News Coverage of the Covid-19 Mask Debate (Yujia Lyu, University of Iowa; Michael Sauder, University of Iowa; Mario Paez-Arellano, University of Iowa)

Declaring Crisis? Temporal Construction of Climate Change on Wikipedia (Olivia Steiert, New School for Social Research)

Doubtful Calculation: How Energy Experts Inquire into The Future (Ankit Bhardwaj, New York University)

How Experts See Politics: Boundary Work and Issue Framing on Climate Change and LGBT Families (Michael Stambolis-Ruhstorfer, Université Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès)

The Experts on the Past: Witnessing, Authority, and Youth Trust in Experts (Paula L. Mantilla Blanco)

**Modeling Cultures (co-sponsored by Sociology of Culture and Mathematical Sociology)
Mon, August 21, 8:00 to 9:30am, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Floor: 100 Level, 103C**

Description

There has been increased interest and excitement recently in identifying and using mathematical models and other formal concepts and approaches in the study of cultures and cultural practices. At the same time, there has been increasing interest among sociologists of science and knowledge in studying modeling itself as a cultural practice. This session is open to papers that develop and apply mathematical models to questions including (but not limited to) how cultures evolve, polarize, and transform social relations and how formal cultural analysis can be integrated across scales; the session is also open to papers that ask about meaningful practices among researchers and others who develop and use models, that investigate how models are interpreted, how models are different from each other and related tools, and how they do or do not travel across cultures. This session is jointly sponsored by the Sociology of Culture and the Mathematical Sociology sections.

Session Organizers/ Presiders: Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, University of California-San Diego

Ronald L. Breiger, University of Arizona

Papers

How Culture is Coherent: The Reproduction of Gendered Naming Aesthetics in the United States 1880-2016 (Charles F. Seguin, Pennsylvania State University; Brandon Gorman, SUNY-Albany; Yongjun Zhang, Stony Brook University)

Social Identity Schemas, Political Discourse, and Interpretation: A Workflow for Analyzing Cultural Schemas in Texts (Marshall A Taylor, New Mexico State University; Dustin S. Stoltz, Lehigh University)

Testing the (Disputed) Claims of the Sociological Dual-Process Model Using Multinomial Processing Tree Models (Andrew Miles, University of Toronto; Salwa Khan, University of Toronto; Yagana Samim, University of Toronto)

The Effect of Ideological Cluster Belief Network Structures on Public Opinion Change (William Holtkamp, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Scott W. Duxbury, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

Commentator: Neha Gondal, Boston University

The Sociology of Art and Art Institutions

Mon, August 21, 12:00 to 1:30pm, Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Floor: Level 4, Franklin Hall 13

Description

This session welcomes submissions that contribute to the sociology of art and art organizations. How is art labelled art and by whom? How and by whom is art (e)valuated? How do art valuations travel or how do they not travel across time and space? What is the role of local, national and transnational sponsors? What borders does art encounter? How does judgement about art relate to other forms of valuations, such as economic or political valuation? How do forms of inequality and oppression interact with art and art institutions? How do artists and how do art institutions conceive of their social context and how do they respond to inequality and injustice (if at all)? How does art patronage vary within and across national borders? Papers that address the full range of art forms, art institutions and artist communities within a US and/or within a global context are especially welcome.

Session Organizer and Presider: Patricia A. Banks, Mount Holyoke College

Papers:

Constructing a Genre System in American Popular Music: The Role of Jazz (William G. Roy, University of California-Los Angeles)

Perceptions of Artists and Collective Efficacy: Understanding the Impact of Artists in Communities (Rachel Skaggs, Ohio State University; Jennifer Novak-Leonard, University of Illinois)

Race, cultural capital, and social mobility: Barriers and benefits of arts participation in Charlotte (Vaughn Schmutz, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Alexandria Lee-Anne Andre, UNC Charlotte; Meg Whalen, UNC Charlotte)

The Diversity Experience: White Parents' Search for Racial Diversity in Social Justice Arts Education (Rachel Keynton, University of Notre Dame)

The Price of Hierarchy: Consecration and the Production of Value in the Market for Modern Art (Fabien Accominotti, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

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.

We had three sessions of our ongoing [Culture in Contemporary Life Series](#) (CCL) throughout the academic year. The CCL Committee, constituted by Fiona Greenland (chair), Annie Hikido, Michael O. Johnston, Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, Miray Philips, and Ana Velitchkova, put together three highly impressive panels on important and timely topics. The CCL series was launched by Terry McDonnell, when he was section chair in 2020-2021, as a means to have culture section members draw on their scholarly expertise on current social issues and apply cultural sociology tools to comment on current social issues. The CCL series is also a means to foster a sense of intellectual community and connection throughout the year, as well as to strengthen the link between scholarly research and public sociology.

Links to videos from all the panels from the past two years can be found on the [culture section website](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The following are the 2022-2023 panels:

Session 1. Inequality and the Politics of Cultural Authenticity – Authenticity can refer to multiple traits associated with “realness,” such as originality, purity, or genuineness. As a social construction, it confers status and legitimacy to objects, practices, places, and people. In this panel, three sociologists discuss why examining authenticity is key to understanding racial, gender, class, and global inequalities today.

Panelists: Marie Sarita Gaytán, University of Utah; Fred Wherry, Princeton University; Sharon Zukin, CUNY Graduate Center

Moderator: Annie Hikido, Colby College

Date/Time: Friday, January 27, 1:00p PST / 4:00p EST

Session 2. **Belligerent Nationalism in Big Power Politics** – Violence is an ever-present possibility within nationalism. Belligerent nationalism in the case of big powers, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, China’s increasing militarization, and the January 6th insurgency in the United States, has raised concern about new practices of violence in the name of the nation. Panelists are invited to examine the causes of this resurgence of belligerent nationalism, to situate them in their contemporary socio-political contexts, and to examine how cultures of nationalism play a role.

Panelists: Olga Shevchenko, Williams College; Andreas Wimmer, Columbia University; Xiaohong Xu, University of Michigan **Moderator:** Ana Velitchkova, University of Mississippi
Date/Time: Wednesday, March 1, 2:00p PST / 5:00p EST

Session 3. **Theodicy and the Problem of Meaning** – What is the meaning of suffering? Sociologists have examined it as an individual experience that is at the heart of meaning-making in collective memory. Paradoxically, however, it is the inability to find meaning that makes suffering unbearable. This panel addresses the problem of meaning, how people reconcile the existence of God with evil, and what it means to find meaning in violence.

Panelists: Zeina Al Azmeh, University of Cambridge; Christina Simko, Williams College; Biko Mandela Gray, Syracuse University **Moderator:** Miray Philips, University of Minnesota
Date/Time: Monday, April 17, 10:45a PST / 12:45p CST / 1:45p EST

Our Mentorship Program is another way for the culture section to foster professional connections and social community through the year. We concluded our fourth successful year with this program, thanks to the membership committee, constituted by Marshall A. Taylor (Chair), Thomas Davidson, Asia Friedman, Khoa Phan Howard, Samantha Leonard, and Amy Zhang. The committee put together 17 mentoring pods, each comprising one mentor and three-five mentees. See the full report produced by Marshall Taylor and published in the second [Summer section’s Newsletters](#) below). These pods are meant to meet online throughout the year and encouraged to meet in person at the ASA Annual Meeting, to share feedback, advice, and support.