

## 2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for [Sociology of Human Rights]

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### 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.

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### 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.

#### 2023 Sociology of Human Rights, Business Meeting

August 19, 2023 (5pm to 5:30pm in Franklin Hall #5 at Marriot)

#### Agenda

1. Brief address by outgoing Chair (Zakiya)
2. Report by Secretary/Treasurer (Jeong-Woo)
3. Award Ceremony (award committee chairs)
4. Brief address by new Chair (Lynette)

#### 1. Brief address by outgoing Chair

Zakiya welcomed everyone (15-20 attendees). She gave an overview of the section's activities, including the panel earlier today and the joint reception from 6:30pm. She encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter with their papers and research-in-progress and other stories. She also mentioned that ASA would switch from ASA Connect back to Listserv, which will be updated monthly. Then Zakiya asked the audience if there was any open discussion for the section before handing it over the new Chair. There being none, she went on to encourage members to consider serving for the section, including being nominated. She also thanked members who served on the award committees as well as the Council.

#### 2. Report by Secretary/Treasurer

Jeong-Woo reported on the current budget (\$2,428) and memberships (197 at the time of the meeting) with a note that there are 7-8 sessions with a relatively low membership like our section.

### 3. Award Ceremony

The three chairs of the award committees (book, article, and grad paper) presented the respective awards and congratulated and took photos with the recipients.

### 4. Brief address by the new Chair

Lynette briefly addressed the attendees about her plans. In the coming weeks, she will make the first announcement on the reinstated Listserv. From September, she will send the usual official announcements via the Listserv. She emphasized two main goals. One is to collaborate with other sections. We are small so probably working with others is an effective strategy. The second thing is to figure out ways to use social media and the newsletter effectively. She plans to discuss it with other Council Members.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded.

### **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 Meeting

August 9, 2023 (virtual)

Present: Zakiya Luna, Jeong-Woo Koo, Lynette Chua, Marie Berry, Danielle Lucksted, Wesley Longhofer, Susan Pearce, Matthias Koenig, Nicole Fox, Minwoo Jung, Reema Sen, Monika Krause.

### Agenda

1. Greetings and introductions (Chair)
  2. Review of past year including upcoming ASA sessions and activities (Chair)
  3. Membership and budget report (Treasurer)
  4. Upcoming issues
    - a. Return to section listserv (Chair)
    - b. Newsletter processes (Chair and student reps)
    - c. Potential collaborations with other sections? (Open discussion)
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1. The Chair and Council Members introduced themselves.
  2. Zakiya gave a summary of ASA 2023 activities: joint reception with Political Sociology, and Collective Behavior, and Peace, War, and Social Conflict sections on August 18<sup>th</sup>; section business meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> and two section sessions (panel and roundtable) for the meeting. She said that the reception would be in the same format as last year's in LA, and that the joint format would ease our small section's burden. Since it is a joint reception, each section's leaders will give remarks and likely take group photos. There is overlapping membership among the 4 sections, and she expects a few hundred attendees at the reception. Lynette updated that the participants of the junior scholars' roundtable had withdrawn for various reasons such as illness and funding and asked if we should shift the business meeting time, since

the roundtable was carved out of the 90-min business meeting slot (60 mins for the roundtable). Zakiya replied that it would be better not to change the meeting time because people might not know about the change in time to adjust their plans.

3. Jeong-Woo gave a report on the budget and section membership. With the new section budget allocation of \$1,071, the ending balance as of August 9 2023 is estimated to be \$3,600. The scheduled section costs for this year include \$1,000 for the joint reception and \$162 for award plaques. Therefore, the remaining balance is estimated to be \$2,428.

Jeong-Woo also reported that the current section membership as of August 7, 2023, is 192 (14 low-income, 40 student, and 138 regular members). He pointed out that membership fluctuated slightly over the years: 197 in January 2022 and now settling at 192. Out of the 53 ASA sections, two sections have more than 1000 members (Sex & Gender; Race, Gender & Class), and about 7-8 sections, like ours, have relatively small membership.

4. Zakiya said that ASA Connect would cease to exist after ASA 2023, a decision that ASA took based on feedback from section leaders. She said that the incoming Chair, Chair-Elect, and the Secretary would decide what to do with the Listserv (same email as previously), which is one-way communication where only authorized people are able to send messages, e.g. Chair. With the switch back, membership would be updated monthly as opposed to daily.

Danielle reported on developments on the newsletter front. A short version, together with the section announcement, will be sent out soon. The council then had a brief discussion about our section's social media and how it is being managed.

5. Zakiya concluded the meeting by thanking everyone who was rotating off the Council and said she looked forward to ASA 2023 in Philadelphia.

## **Awards**

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

Graduate Student Paper Award: Samuel Dinger, New York University, "Coordinating Care and Coercion: Styles of Sovereignty and the Politics of Humanitarian Aid in Lebanon." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 13 (2): 218–39. 2022.

Best Scholarly Article Award: Nisa Göksela, Arizona State University, and Jaimie Morse, University of California, Santa Cruz, "'Legal Exhaustion' and the Crisis of Human Rights: Tracing Legal Mobilization against Sexual Violence and Torture of Kurdish Women in State Custody in Turkey since the 1990s." *Journal of Human Rights*, 21 (2): 174–90. 2022.

Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Book Award: Lynette Ong, University of Toronto, *Outsourcing Repression: Everyday State Power in Contemporary China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2022.

### **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 current 2023 balance is \$2,756. We projected \$1,000 for the joint reception and \$162 for the award plaques. We ended up spending \$844 on the reception. Our Secretary/Treasurer sponsored the plaques, so we did not incur any expenses on that front. Our beginning balance for 2023 was \$2,529. This means we had a net increase of \$227.

### **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.

After ASA implemented ASA Connect, the Chair requested all Council members to introduce themselves on a section-specific introduction thread which continued to be used throughout the year. The Chair also helped to direct many members, who were used to the one-direction listserv, to Connect's two-way model of communication.

The Section also continued with its Fall and Spring newsletters as a way to reach out to section members about key section activities, including awards and the annual meeting, showcase member publications and other research activities, and feature relevant issues in our field of study.

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

The Section did not undertake a concerted member recruitment drive this past year, but we note that our membership demographics are compatible with ASA's. Our past and present leadership has racial and gender diversity. We are also more likely to have non-US based members than some other sections, a characteristic that is highly relevant and important to the focus of our section, the international discourse of human rights. The processes of forming of our award and nominations committees also took into account diversity and representation in terms of career stage (when appropriate), institution type, gender, and other unrepresented identities. In addition, the Section held its annual Council meeting virtually. Because many Council members could not attend ASA in person that year due to cost, COVID or other reasons, the virtual format increased the meeting's accessibility and had almost full attendance.

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).

For ASA 2023, the Chair-Elect held an open call to section members asking if anyone would like to organize the regular panel. She also requested using one hour of the designated 90 minutes for the Business Meeting for a roundtable session to increase intellectual exchanges. Ultimately, a member volunteered to organize a regular panel titled, The Politics of Human Rights, featuring scholars from different ranks and research backgrounds, including disciplines outside sociology. The Chair-Elect organized the 60-minute roundtable session to feature works-in-progress by junior scholars.

In addition, our section Chair organized a joint reception with CBSM and Political Sociology, and the section leaders developed relationships through this process. The Chair of Peace, War and Social Conflict section wanted to continue sponsoring a reception, so our section Chair also facilitated the connection with other co-reception chairs. At the reception, to increase connections with section members, outgoing/incoming section leaders introduced themselves and prioritized providing free drink tickets to graduate students and early career faculty. There were hundreds of attendees.

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.

Our section Chair discussed with two other section chairs (Political Sociology, CBSM) the possibility of holding webinars. Unfortunately, due to illness amongst the three section chairs, the plan did not come to fruition. On this note, our section is keenly aware that some section members—particularly women, those of color and those from lower-income backgrounds—are still dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased that our section successfully focused on its main activities at ASA 2023 (see relevant sections of the report), and continued to disseminate information on networking and employment opportunities through ASA Connect and our newsletter.