

2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for Section on Sexualities

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.

ASA Section on Sociology of Sexualities 2023 Business Meeting

August 19, 2023 from 11:00am to 11:30am
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Floor: 100 Level, 103A
In attendance: Approximately 50 members

1. Welcome to New Section Officers and Thank You to Outgoing Members (Moon Charania)
 - a. Outgoing Council Members: Outgoing Council Members (**Brandon Andrew Robinson, Greggor Mattson**), Outgoing Student Representatives (**Sarah Steele, Jessennya Hernandez**), Outgoing Past-Chair (**Angela Jones**), Outgoing Chair (**Moon Charania**)
 - b. New Chair (**Theo Greene**) and Chair-Elect (**Shantel Buggs**), Council Members (**Cristina Silva, Alison Better, Terrell J. A. Winder**), Student Representatives (**Atticus Wolfe, Alex Eleazar**)
2. New Section Journal Update: *Sex and Sexualities* (Theo Greene)
 - a. Volunteers needed for Publications Committee, which will oversee the journal and play a role in selecting editors
 - b. Formal call for editor applications will go out in September
 - c. We want the editorial team to reflect the diversity of our members
 - d. Journal timeline: aiming for first issue to be published in Spring 2025
 - e. Dues will increase in 2025 cycle
 - i. \$25 for students, \$42 for non-members
3. Financial / Membership Report (Megan Carroll)
 - a. Membership: 448
 - b. Section budget: \$1,343
 - c. Reception cost: \$4,981 (thanks to Spelman College for \$2,500 contribution!)
 - d. Martin P. Levine Dissertation Fellowship – suggested donations
 - i. \$2 grad students, \$15 jr faculty, \$40 senior faculty/professionals
 - ii. Every bit helps!

4. Award Presentations (Award Committee Chairs)
 - a. Distinguished Book Award – Moon Charania
 - b. Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Award – Moon Charania
 - c. Distinguished Article Award – Theo Greene
 - d. Best Graduate Student Paper Award – Jane Ward
 - e. Simon-Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award – Greggor Mattson
 - f. Early Career Award – Angela Jones (not formally presented)
5. QR code provided at tables for members to offer:
 - a. Ideas for ASA 2024 Section Sessions
 - b. Nominations for Chair-Elect and Council for 2024

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 Sexualities Council Meeting 2023

8/19/23

Philadelphia

In attendance:

Greggor, Theo, Moon, Chris B., Minwoo, Angela, Brandon, Terrell Winder, Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, Jane Ward (via Zoom), Alex Eleazar (via Zoom)

- Section journal
 - Membership voted for the dues increase but did NOT SEE HOW MUCH the dues would increase
 - \$25 for students, \$42 for regular members
 - Timeline is QUICK – constrained by ASA structure
 - Council members will receive more info from THEO
 - Email Theo with volunteers for co-chairs of the publications committee
 - Questions
 - Angela: is the publications committee going to create a description of the journal, structure of the journal
 - Helpful for recruiting editors, these are the questions theyre asking
 - Are there feature articles? Book reviews? Some discussion/essays? Etc
 - Greggor: council AND publications committee could come up with a draft together
 - Moon: borrow from the original proposal, add and subtract from that
 - Theo: agreed, and an editor could be involved in shaping specifics after council and publications committee creates a draft
 - Chaitanya: shared experience from SWS publications committee
 - Theo: ASA's policy is that we can't double dip (i.e. council members can't be editors of the journal or pub committee)
 - Moon: How many members do we want on pub committee?
 - Theo: I've seen 6, 2 grad representatives on for a year
 - More grad representation rather than less (6 + 2)

- Consider co-chairs
 - Secretary will serve ex facie on the committee to laissee
 - Want continuity across years
 - Greggor: recommends council has a strategy session, the people who have the most experience to help set it up should run it first
 - Chaitanya: gender and society had co-editors, consider models from other journals
 - Megan: one volunteer for co-chair of the pub committee has already come forward
 - Expecting FEW editor applications: CUSS (Greggor says) only received 3 and they were solicited
 - Due increase means we're going to be TIGHT
 - Theo: might require some marketing to get editors and make the deadlines
 - Angela: investigating how to maintain our membership (funding support with dues increase)
 - Theo: encourage people to use the website for communication
 - Angela: waiting to hear from institution if they'll have the support for editorship
 - Congratulated each other on the journey to have the journal approved
- Committee reports
 - Moon: encouraging SUBMISSIONS, we only received 3 MPL diss award submissions, very strange
 - Why? Was it not communicated/marketed well
 - Megan: ASA Connect was not sending out announcements
 - Jane: we also had 13 submissions for grad paper (good amount) – other awards received enough submissions, unusual that MPL didn't
 - Need to link with the LGBT Caucus person – which is THEO
 - Martin P. Levine: need to change language of "homosexuality"
 - Jane Ward: "let's keep that word! Love it"
 - We have not been publicizing the award call to SEX AND GENDER – that would help with getting more people doing the WORK to participate (even if they're not members of the section)
 - ACTION ITEM FOR MARTIN P LEVINE COMMITTEE 2023-24: Reach out the CHAIR OF SEX AND GENDER to put in their digest
 - Career awards
 - Angela: rubrics for early career award do NOT WORK – NEED TO BE REVISED
 - Only capturing research, need to be redesigned to capture service
 - Keep a rubric to avoid bias in the selection of awards
 - Need to better publicize the award, people think they don't qualify
 - For Both Simon-Gagnon and Early Career award, don't get enough submissions/application
 - One candidate received 5 nomination letters, other had 6 people signed to one letter – difficult for committee to evaluate
 - Jane: We can also normalize nomination partnerships (two people take turns nominating each other), and also having

- nomination committees in departments (so faculty get credit for their labor)
 - Terrell: in the call, specify which kind of letter we want (one letter signed by many or many letters)
 - Angela: in the call say ONE nomination letter
 - Discussed possibility of returning to SELF NOMINATIONS
 - Terrell: that's the only way you can stop inconsistency in letters
 - Brandon: liked the multiple letters approach
 - Jane: It took my PhD advisor 2 decades to finally tell me she was hoping, waiting, dreaming about being nominated for Simon and Gagnon. It would have been great for her to be able to self-nominate (though I don't know if she would have).
 - She did win, once she was nominated
 - Need communication between former chair and current chair (transitional document?), example: person who didn't get selected but was close could be considered next year (people short listed or long listed, let next chair know)
 - Moon: concern about what "early" means if people might receive award later
 - Angela: "early" is 10 YEARS FROM PHD
 - Theo and Moon: maybe this just happens via the chairs of each committee (without formal process or using dropbox)
 - Greggor: we can reproduce a line for SERVICE, MENTORSHIP, and TEACHING (re the early career award rubric)
 - Theo: is there a best practices we could come up with regarding HOW people solicit for these awards?
 - Theo: Important to have an ENERGIZED and VITALIZED section
 - It's labor but JOYFUL labor! Bring that energy back to doing this work

Awards

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

Sociology of Sexualities 2023 Distinguished Book Award

- WINNER: Dr. Srila Roy, University of the Witwatersrand, *Changing the Subject: Feminist and Queer Politics in Neoliberal India*
- HONORABLE MENTION: Desmond Goss, Georgia State University, *Race and Masculinity in Gay Men's Porn: Deconstructing the Black Beast*
- HONORABLE MENTION: Steven Epstein, Northwestern University, *The Quest for Sexual Health: How an Elusive Ideal Has Transformed Science, Politics and Everyday Life*

Sociology of Sexualities 2023 Distinguished Article Award

- WINNER: Dr. Emmanuel David, University of Colorado Boulder, "Transpinay: Genealogy of a Term." *Sexualities*.

- HONORABLE MENTION: Nehal Elmeligy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "Airing Egypt's Dirty Laundry: BuSSy's Storytelling as Feminist Social Change." *Gender & Society* 36(1): 112 – 139.

The 2023 Sociology of Sexualities Martin P. Levine Memorial Dissertation Fellowship

- WINNER: Brandon Alston, Northwestern University, "Surveilled and Controlled: How Criminal Legal Surveillance Produces a System of Sexualized Social Control"

2023 Best Graduate Student Paper in the Sociology of Sexualities Award

- WINNER: Pamela P. Tsui, University of Toronto, "Erotic Capabilities: A Feminist Analysis of Sexual Justice and Pleasure in Heterosexual Sex Partying."
- HONORABLE MENTION: Kris Rosentel, Northwestern University, "Beyond 'Walking While Trans': Transgender Discrimination, Gendered Spatial Stigma, and Biased Police Deployment in Sex Work Arrests."

The 2023 Simon-Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award*

*Selected in even-numbered years and awarded in odd-numbered years
Dr. Jyoti Puri, Simmons University

2024 Early Career Award*

*Selected in odd-numbered years and awarded in even-numbered years
Theo Greene & Alan Santinele Martino

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 budget for awards (\$300) closely matched our award expenditures (\$333). When we drafted our budget, we were considering cancelling our WordPress account. We decided to keep our website, so there was a cost of \$318 for website maintenance that was not in our original budget. We originally budgeted \$3000 for reception costs. We ended up receiving a sponsorship from Spelman University of \$2500 to supplement our reception costs, and we spent \$4,280 on the reception. Overall, our net assets decreased by about \$489, which is more than we anticipated.

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.

In AY 2022-23, our section transitioned to ASA Connect. We posted announcements regularly and members used the discussion boards to share information. We later found out that the ASA Connect announcements were not going out as emails to our members and found the tool to be limiting our communications with the section. Once ASA connect transitioned back to listservs,

we immediately prepared biweekly digests, resuming our communication strategy prior to AY 2022-23.

We also maintained a section website and distributed biannual newsletters to our members. The newsletters offer a chance to highlight section accomplishments, section members on the job market, and essays written by our members. The newsletters are available on our website: <https://sexualitiesasa.org/newsletters/>

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

Our section continues to have the highest number of graduate students and is one of the only sections with ongoing leadership that is predominantly Black, Brown, queer and trans. This is the result of various ongoing practices by our section. As a section, we are deeply committed to connecting scholars from different types of institutions, particularly those institutions that have the least access to national academic organizations, such as community colleges, HBCU's and state universities with small, underfunded departments. This year we intentionally recruited volunteers from these institutional sites as well as within our own academic communities to ensure that committees and participants and membership diversity grew in a meaningful way. Our Section's conference themes also reflected social issues that affect most profoundly marginalized communities, thus our session participant and papers reflected deep diversity of thought in both the US context and transnationally. Finally, as a section, we worked together to build community with our membership through communication that addressed pressing contemporary issues, support members traveling internationally to the annual meetings, and bridged connections between different sections, such as the section for Body and Embodiment and the section for Global and Transnational Sociology. We believe these crossings – institutionally, intellectually and internationally – demonstrate our section's deep investment in diversity.

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 the 2023 Annual meetings, the Program Committee developed two open sessions which meditate on the exigent aspects of sexuality studies in the contemporary moment. Both sessions encourage diverse scholarly orientations, innovative methodologies, and specifically BIPOC scholars and scholarship. We have a third invited panel honoring the work of this year's Simon-Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Professor Jyoti Puri.

ASA 2023 Sexualities Section Sessions

Session Title: Abortion. Now.

Organizers: Chris Barcelos and Shantel Buggs

Description: This panel explores the virulent and violent effects of the fall of Roe v. Wade. How will the overturning of Roe disproportionately impact abortion access for people of color, low-income people, undocumented people, youth, and queer people? What tactics, strategies, and technologies of resistance will this moment produce? Whose stories, experiences, fears, realities, and violences are folded in and whose remain outside the legible and official archive? This panel will trace the wide-ranging sexual effects of living in this moment -- sexual behavior and politics

(such as shaping where young people decide to go for college), intensified digital surveillance, the link between the abortion and varying white supremacies, what US-based movements can learn from abortion activists in the Global South, and others. We encourage submission that move away from US-based imperatives and analytics, that center decolonial and transnational analytics.

Session Title: Sticky Sexualities

Organizers: Ethan Coston, Kyle Callen, and Jessie Laljer

Session Description: *Sex* and *the erotic* are complicated, unstable, ephemeral, and messy. Scholars of *sexuality* know this and often embrace the paradoxes of *sexual and erotic life*. And yet, there remain theoretical, methodological, and conceptual terrains of sexuality(ies) unrealized. This panel seeks contributions that explore the awkward pairings of/with sex (i.e., madness, perversity, spirituality, healing, affect, panics, war, etc.) that sociologists of sexuality have yet to contend with. We especially *desire* contributions that center Black, brown, Indigenous, diasporic, immigrant, queer, trans, asexual, disabled, and/or neurodivergent perspectives, narratives, commentaries, and reflections on the field's moments, methods, and modes of *stickiness*. What are the tense, frictional, competing and awkward remains of the study of sex? How should or can we reorient sociology to the geographic, historical, affective, subjective, experiential, embodied, queer, trans and racialized aspects of sexualities that have been left behind, rejected, and framed as dangerous, deviant, and abject?

Session Title: To the Limits! Radical Itineraries for Sexualities Research: Simon-Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award Panel

Organizers: Ghassan Moussawi and Sharmila Rudrappa

Session Description: As this year's Simon-Gagnon Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Jyoti Puri is recognized for theorizing sexuality from a transnational and postcolonial feminist lens. Her focus on sexuality, gender, race, state and nation against the backdrop of colonial and postcolonial legacies has extended the meanings and scope of what it means to do sexualities research. The panel's purpose is two-fold, first to celebrate and recognize the cutting-edge work that Puri has done throughout the years, and two, to hear from and highlight voices innovating sexualities research. Twenty-five years on, where are the cutting edges of the sociology of sexualities? Taking up this question, the panel brings together scholars whose work presses against the limits of studying sexuality. The three invited scholars speak to the questions, methods, and critiques that vitalize researching and theorizing sexuality.

Roundtable Organizers: Jennifer Whitmer and Alicia Walker

Description: The section on sexualities invites a broad range of papers related to sexualities for this roundtable session. We seek papers that use intersectional and transnational frames, and we especially encourage papers foregrounding the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) as well as transgender, non-binary, agender, intersex, and other gender-expansive people throughout the world.

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.

Given the Pandemic and the subsequent lack of community building among sociologists of sexuality, we decided to partner with the Section on Body and Embodiment to promote and encourage community building within and across like-minded sections. Our key networking event is our Section reception, where our members connect with one another as well as with mentors. Our reception this year was co-sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Studies Institute at Spelman College. Spelman College's generous gift allowed us to create an open-air fully outdoor event at City Winery in City Center Philadelphia. The reception was well attended with close to 100 members joining the event.