

2023 ASA Community Annual Report

Sociologists Working Everywhere

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

The Community annual report is divided into two parts. Please complete both parts and submit your report to hwashington@asanet.org by December 15.

Part I

Part I of the annual report covers the period of Community activity from January 2023 to December 2023. This section of the report may be shared publicly.

Community Governance

Provide details of the Community's governance activity during the period between January 2023 and December 2023.

Sociologists Working Everywhere (SWE) maintained a leadership body of 6 members throughout the year. The original leadership team includes:

Marie Skoczylas, Highmark Health/University of Pittsburgh
Maliq Matthew, Northwestern Mutual
Scott Whiteford
Terceira Berdahl, AHRQ/CFACT
Jillian Powers
Augie Diana, NIH (retired)

After the ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Jillian Powers asked to step down from her role as SWE leadership team member. Gay Young, who had become an active Community member by that time, agreed to step in to Jillian's position. The current leadership team, then, includes:

Marie Skoczylas, Highmark Health/University of Pittsburgh
Maliq Matthew, Northwestern Mutual
Scott Whiteford, Terceira Berdahl, AHRQ/CFACT
Gay Young, American University, DC Sociological Society
Augie Diana, NIH (retired)

The leadership team held monthly meetings that were open to all of ASA's membership. The primary purposes of the meetings were to:

- Share the Community’s focus and goals, as outlined in our proposal to ASA. Among these were to reach sociologists working in settings not commonly connected to a professional sociological association, and to engage those in these settings to share experiences and opportunities.
- Recruit from the wider sociological population for participation in the Community, and ASA more generally.
- Brainstorm ideas for activities the Community can offer. Among the ideas were webinars, coffee chats, participation in ASA’s Annual Meeting, and coordination with ASA Sections and other sociological association events.
- Invite speakers or other interested parties to discuss activities that could benefit from participation by non-academic sociologists. For instance, an NSF grant led by Catherine Mobley (Clemson University) and Chloe Bird (Tufts University, formerly at RAND) is seeking participants in a research study exploring career paths by sociologists.
- Plan for future years of the Community, with expected changes in leadership. Required tasks, ASA Annual Meeting planning, etc.

The monthly events were engaging but, generally, attendance was low. However, we were able to establish committee expectations and roles, and begin work on a number of projects. In 2024, we will continue to have monthly meetings focused on business logistics, but additionally host some purely social virtual networking happy hours to build the group and encourage participation.

Business Meeting

Copy and paste below (or attach separately) the agenda(s) from the Community’s business meeting(s). If possible, please include a count of Community members present.

Attached separately.

2023 Finances

Provide a narrative on the Community’s expenses in 2023. If the Community had no expenses, please indicate below.

SWE had no expenses this year. We planned to use funds for an activity at the ASA but those plans were canceled.

Community Activities

Describe Community activities during the period between January 2023 and December 2023.

Provide an overview of the Community’s communications with its members and include an explanation of how your communication strategy meets the goals and values of the Community. Please include examples and/or materials that demonstrate your communication strategy.

SWE’s primary activities were the monthly meetings, described above. These meetings were the principal sources of communication with Community members and the wider ASA audience, all of whom were invited. Some highlights resulting from these meetings, and from outreach efforts by the SWE leadership team, were:

- A very successful shared reception with SPPS at the ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Our expectation is that there will be a lot of ongoing coordination with SPPS who are equally interested in the collaboration with SWE.

- Involvement of members from other allied organizations and projects, who shared their work, which opened discussions relevant to our members. For example, Catherine Mobley and Chloe Bird whose NSF study should contribute very useful information about sociologists' career choices and how their sociological training has helped them in their careers. This study is particularly relevant to SWE's goal to better understand, and engage, practicing sociologists. Catherine and Chloe have conducted a number of interviews in the first round of their study – some of these might also generate interest in participation in SWE.
- Shared announcements and job openings (from our members) with our members through the listserv.
- Continued discussion on a virtual rolodex project that will serve as a networking and informational hub for sociologists considering careers outside academia.
- Began to plan our Spotlight Speaker Series (launching in 2024) that will highlight sociologists in industry and non-profits, talking about the ways we use their methodological training and theoretical expertise in applied settings.

Provide an overview of the Community's activities at the ASA Annual Meeting and explicitly connect activities to the goals and values of the Community (e.g., intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

Marie Skoczylas represented the SWE leadership team at the ASA conference. Marie reported that she saw/heard a lot of interest in outside work from academics unhappy about their work situations and pay. Many people knew nothing about the Community and interest grew.

SWE participated in a combined reception with SPPS, which was friendly, fun and engaging. SPPS Section Chair, Jill Waity, plugged SWE a lot.

Marie connected with Erica Ramos, currently at Northwestern University. Erica has been working with SWE leadership team member Augie Diana on creating a "Directory" of resources, contacts, skill sets and other tools for practicing sociologists. Recently termed a Virtual Rolodex, our goal, working directly with Erica, is to create a minimum viable product (MVP). The tool will need to be flexible to accommodate other, new aims (e.g., as new members join and identify additional needs). There might be an opportunity to coordinate with AACCS, especially if the 2024 conference is in Chicago, on Erica's campus.

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

See above (monthly meetings, virtual rolodex, planning speaker series, promotion of allied groups with similar aims, etc.)

We do not have records from the January and February meetings

March 1, 2023 4PM EST

11 Participants

- Scott Whiteford
- Jillian Powers
- Marie Skoczylas
- Maliq Matthew
- Carrie Gray
- Augie Diana
- Stanley Capela
- Catherine Mobley
- Rick Moore
- Michael
- Amanda Udis-Kessler

Agenda:

Business:

- What is the SWE community? How does it work?
- Who is the community?
- What can we do?

Discussion

- What might the community offer?
- What is our relationship with SPSS?
- Future Discussions?

Announcements

April Meeting: April 5, 2023 1PM Eastern

5 Participants

- Marie Skoczylas
- Scott Whiteford
- Jillian Powers
- Augie Diana
- Lisa _____?

Agenda:

Continue monthly discussions? Keep them open?

Co-sponsor SPSS social?

Shall we start work on a project that will start to define us and build momentum?

3-4 potential activities in progress:

1. Start building out our SWE digital resource rolodex as a first project to grow our network and offer aid/connection to sociologists outside of traditional academic roles.
2. Host an RT as part of the SPPS business meeting, when the business part is done, with tables for different industries/sectors (we'll have a rep at each one). Attendees can stop by and chat. We'll use this as a way to network and help out folks who are interested in what's out there but additionally as a way to further build out our SWE digital resource rolodex.
3. Co-sponsoring SPPS reception
4. Potentially having an additional coffee meet up at the Philly meetings and reach out to sociologists in Philly who are not ASA members. We can use group funds for this. We could also reach out to a Philly businesses to host something like this for/with us.

Announcements

May Meeting: we skipped this one

June meeting: June 9, 2pm EST

Marie Skoczylas, Maliq Matthew, Terceira Berdahl, Gay Young, Hillary Steinberg, Stan Capela, Anne Brown, Meghan Warner, Catherine Mobley, Augie Diana

Updates on ASA annual meeting events

- SPPS social
- RT after SPPS Business meeting
- Philly area coffee meet up or business-hosted event?

Project updates: virtual rolodex

Gay Young from American University would like to share info about their group District of Columbia Sociological Society.

General discussion: We have a lot of overlap with the section Sociologists in Public and Practice Settings. How are we (or can we be) distinct and complementary?

Stan Capela: Commission on Applied and Clinical Sociology

Next meeting: What week do we target in July?

Who can take on agenda/advertising responsibilities for next time? (Drafting an agenda in this doc ~2 weeks in advance, soliciting items from committee, posting it with the Zoom link to our SWE d-list ~2 weeks in advance, posting it as an Event on our ASA Connect page ~2 weeks in advance).

Announcements

July Meeting: July 7, 2023, 2PM Eastern

Terceira Berdahl, Augie Diana, Maliq Matthew, Marie Skoczylas, Joseph Stoskos, Stan Capala, Gay Young

Updates on three SWE events at ASA annual meeting

SWE/SPPS social at ASA August 19, 6:30-8:30 PM at Jet Wine Bar (Near conference hotel – 20 minute walk in the Gayborhood.)

SPPS Roundtable at ASA August 19, 10 AM – seeking SWE rep to participate (Marie can connect SWE rep to the roundtable organizers.)

Planning additional event: local/Philadelphia area business to host SWE/applied sociologists (Learn about business and do some networking.)

Update on Virtual Rolodex project

Plan is to create a virtual tool identifying: organizations that hire sociologists; sociologists who might serve as points of contact at the relevant organizations; sociologists with skill sets that can be useful beyond the academy; *else??*

General discussion on “value added” by SWE:

SWE has considerable overlap with the section Sociological Practice and Public Sociology. What SWE community initiatives, etc. might set it apart from the section? Or what might it offer members that the section does not? In what ways might the community work in complementarity with the section?

Next meeting: Early August? Or after the annual meeting?

Volunteer for agenda/advertising responsibilities for August meeting

Entails drafting an agenda in this Google doc ~2 weeks in advance; soliciting items from steering committee; posting agenda with the Zoom link to SWE discussion-list ~2 weeks in advance

Announcements

Skipped August because of ASA

September Meeting Agenda, September 6, 2023

Terceira Berdahl, Augie Diana, Maliq Matthew, Marie Skoczylas, Gay Young

Housekeeping:

- Volunteer to take minutes at this meeting (and post to Shared Doc)? - **Augie**
- Welcome to new people with short intros (and brief intros by standing members if fewer than 8 attendees in total) - **No new people**
- Proposal for standardizing meeting admin tasks (timeline and bottom-liners): monthly meeting, Doodle scheduling, Zoom-hosting, advertising
- Return to listservs: update and sending out explanation to membership
- Clarification on SWE Community length of terms for steering committee members

ASA meeting follow up

Update on Virtual Rolodex project

Continue discussion of possible “off-cycle” Community activities

Announcements

October Meeting Agenda, October 10, 2023:

Attendees: Augie Diana, Yintan Fan, Maliq Matthew, Catherine Mobley, Marie Skoczylas

Discussion of requirements to be on the Steering Committee:

Overview:

Basic requirements:

- Attend at least half the monthly meetings over the course of a year
- Help with administrative tasks, e.g., schedule meetings, take minutes
- Spearhead a special project, e.g., plan special events, plan a virtual forum, etc.

Confirm current committee members:

- We need to respond to ASA about whether we need to revise our current slate of committee members, which consists of these individuals serving these terms:

Term expires in August 2024: Jillian and Maliq

Term expires in August 2025: Terceira and Marie

Term expires in August 2026: Augie and Scott

- Proposed amendment to slate and terms based on committee participation over the past year:

Term expires in August 2024: Jillian and Scott

Term expires in August 2025: Terceira and Augie

Term expires in August 2026: Marie and Maliq

Other items

- Marie proposed a Spotlight Speaker Series.
- Report back from SPPS/SWE Collab Meeting: To be discussed at next meeting
- Applied sociologist rolodex initiative: To be discussed at next meeting

Announcements

November Meeting Agenda | November 14, 2023 | 1 PM (Eastern)

The only attendees from the committee were Marie and Gay. We had one other attendee from the general membership. Stan also attended the first 10 minutes.

Marie reported on SPPS/SWE collaboration meeting and discussed her plans for the Spotlight speaker series and then we adjourned due to low attendance.

December Meeting Agenda | December 7, 2023 | Noon (Eastern)

Attendees: Marie, Gay, Augie, Terceira, Maliq

General:

- Volunteer to take minutes at this meeting (and post to Shared Doc)?
- Welcome to new people with short intros (and brief intros by standing members if fewer than 8 attendees in total)

Committee Member Items:

- [Augie] 2023 ASA Community Annual Report - completion and submission
- ASA elections (Jeannie ASA staff election person) – need to recruit at least 2 candidates for each position (i.e., 4 candidates) by Jan.15, 2024.
- Member expectations: go-around on plans for taking on projects/initiatives

Spotlight speaker series: Marie

Digital Rolodex project updates: Augie

Other business or projects?

Announcements?