2023 ASA Community Annual Report
South Asian Sociologists

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.

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.

Annual Business Meeting of South Asian Sociologists Community, Aug 19th ASA meetings, Philadelphia, PA

AGENDA

1. *Introduction to South Asian Sociologists (SAS) community: formation and goals*
2. *Activities to date*
3. *Introduction to SAS Committee members and governance structure*
4. *Breakout Groups to discuss goals and initiatives (mentoring, experiences of invisibility, involvement in DEI work)*
5. *Discussion of future initiatives (website, mentoring program, monthly informal meetings)*

Approximately 35 in attendance

2023 Finances

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

none

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.

We have communicated through email announcements (approximately every 2 months) from the co-chairs through the ASA list serv (attached is an announcement from September 2023). This has been an appropriate method during the initial year of setting up the community. We do hope to regularize this in the form of a brief newsletter that will include announcements from community members.

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).

At our inaugural business at the 2023 ASA Annual Meeting, we included opportunities for professional networking and the exchange of ideas through small breakout groups. One person from each group then summarized the discussion when we reconvened. As we talked about future initiatives, we asked for and gained volunteers to organize them. We invited those attending to come to an informal social hour at a nearby restaurant that evening.

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.

These include:
1. *On April 28ᵗʰ, SAS held on online mini-conference on the theme of South Asian American Invisibility with panels on Navigating Academia as a South Asian American and others (pdf of program attached)*
2. *A SAS publishing panel online (11-10-23) at which 3 community members who have held leadership positions at sociology journals shared their expertise on publishing journals. The panel was organized in response to member requests and concerns about South Asian representation in topics and leadership for generalist sociology journals.*
3. *Mentoring program. In response to member requests, we are in the process of setting up a formal mentoring program and hope to have this running in 2024, before the August ASA Annual meetings. So far, as of November, we have 38 responses.*
4. *SAS website. There is a committee that is working on creating a website which we hope to have operational in 2024.*
5. *Informal monthly zoom gatherings. There is a committee working on organizing these gatherings.*

South Asia Center

REGISTER NOW!

MINI CONFERENCE: SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN INVISIBILITY

Friday, April 28
Full Day Virtual Event

Panel 1: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Intersections of Religion and Race among South Asian Americans

Shruti Devgan "Between You and Me: Religious Identity and Boundary-Making/Breaking Between Researchers and Participants."

Manu Multani (co-authors Karmine Kaur, Manmit Singh, Prabhdeep Singh Kehal, Sukhmony Brar), "(Re) thinking through Duality: Researcher Reflections of Creating while Participating in a Sikh LGBTQIA+ Archive."

Debadatta Chakraborty "Hindutva and Hinduphobia: Transnational authoritarianism, gendered-racialized youth mobilization and nationalist politics of the Indian diaspora in the US."

Respondent:
Prema Kurien (Syracuse University)

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
Informal Conversation Time

Panel 2: 12:30PM -2:00 PM
Navigating Academia as a South Asian American
(Mentoring Panel)

Ali Chaudhary (Rutgers University),
Jyoti Puri (Simmons University),
Arun Hendi (Princeton University)
Ranita Ray (University of New Mexico),

Moderator:
Bandana Purkayastha (University of Connecticut)

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Informal Conversation time

Panel 3: 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Intersections of Race and Religion among South Asian Americans

Diditi Mitra "Sikh immigrant identity: at the intersection of race, religion and socioeconomic location."

Maheen Haider "From 9/11 to Travel Bans: The High-Skilled and Religiously Problematic Muslims."

Respondent:
Pallavi Banerjee (University of Calgary)

S Syracuse University
Maxwell School of
Citizenship & Public Affairs

Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs

1. **Mentoring Pairs**
2. **Inviting nominations (including self-nominations) for 2 open advisory committee positions for next AY.**
3. **Reminder about November Publishing event**

Dear all,

1) Having <u>formal mentor pairings</u> was one of the requests we received at the ASA meeting. Here is a <mark>link</mark> to the mentoring form. Thanks to Debadatta Chakraborty for putting it together!
   1. <u>Please fill it out if you are interested in being a mentor or being mentored</u>. The deadline is **November 1st**. We have a committee that will work on the mentor pairings. They will contact those who filled out the form once they are done with the pairings.

2) We are also inviting nominations, including self-nominations for two open 1-year positions on the advisory committee for AY 2024-2025. The deadline for sending in nominations is **Nov 15, 2023**
   • The first position is for a graduate student representative.
   • The second position is for a post-PhD junior scholar.

The advisory committee is expected to help with Community work through the year.

<u>Please email Nazli Kibria and Prema Kurien (**nkibria@bu.edu** and **pkurien@syr.edu**) with nominations</u>.

We need a minimum of 2 candidates for each position but can have more candidates.

The ASA emphasizes the importance of having a diverse slate, something that is very important to both Nazli and I as well.

Here are other criteria as per the ASA:

- When assembling a slate of candidates, please consider that all persons need to meet the standards of professional ethics as articulated in our Code of Ethics (e.g., harassment, plagiarism, discrimination).
- When recruiting candidates, please remind them that to be eligible to appear on the ballot, their ASA must be active between March 1 and June 1 of the election year and, if elected, their membership must be current throughout their term. Also, only Regular Members (including student, retired, international associate, high school teacher, and part-time contingent faculty members) are eligible to appear on the ballot and hold elected office in the association. The Association has made an effort to ensure membership is as affordable as possible. We have a progressive dues structure based on income, and we offer the possibility of receiving an additional 30 percent off (see here for details). We hope that makes membership feasible. However, if you are facing financial hardship beyond what our progressive dues structure and additional discounts can address and wish to serve, please let Mark Fernando (mfernando@asanet.org) know and we will provide you with a complimentary membership (sections and other add-ons not included). No details regarding need will be requested. We know that individuals and their families may face a range of structural conditions that tend to reproduce and intensify long-existing inequalities across multiple dimensions. We don't want to lose anyone who is generous enough to agree to serve ASA due to financial hardship. Diversity is an important principle for the Association, and it is critical that we embrace measures that are conducive to maintaining a diverse leadership.

- As you recruit candidates, it is suggested you treat it like a job posting. Though this is a volunteer position, being an elected leader takes up a lot of time. All potential leaders need to be aware of what they are volunteering for so they can make an informed decision BEFORE deciding to become a candidate.
  ASA also emphasizes the following:

- The need to complete an online bio for the election ballot by Feb 28
- The election is held in conjunction with the ASA election, so all candidates need to complete all election tasks by the stated deadlines.
- To be eligible to appear on the ballot, a candidate's ASA membership and community membership needs to be active between March 1 and June 1.
- To be eligible to vote in the community election, an active ASA and community membership between April 1 and June 1 is required.
- Election Dates: April 17, 2024 – May 20, 2024
- All candidates will be informed of the results via email from the ASA Office on or around May 23.

3) November Publishing Workshop

Dear South Asian Sociologists Community,

Please join us for an online workshop on **Publishing in Sociology Journals.** Three panelists who serve as editors of three key US sociology journals will offer insights into the publishing process and respond to audience questions.

Date and time: November 10th Friday EST 3 to 4:30 PM

Zoom:
https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/98157707592
Meeting ID: 981 5770 7592

Moderator: Prema Kurien

Panelists:

Atiya Husain (Sociology of Race and Ethnicity)

Vrushali Patil (Sociological Theory)

Sharmila Rudrappa (Gender & Society)

Look forward to seeing many of you!

Warmly,
Prema