

Social Problems

The Official Journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Amy S. Wharton, Editor
Amy Jo Woodruff, Managing Editor
Caroline Wilson, Editorial Assistant

Associate Editors:
Lisa Catanzarite
Clay Mosher
Nella Van Dyke

To: SSSP Board of Directors
Editorial and Publications Committee
Advisory Editors

From: Amy S. Wharton, Editor, *Social Problems*

Re: 2006-07 Annual Report

Date: June 15, 2007

This report documents the activities of the editorial offices and staff at Washington State University from June 1, 2006-May 31, 2007.

Editorial Office:

The editorial office is running smoothly. Amy Jo Woodruff has taken on the role of managing editor and is now responsible for some “front end” work, as well as production duties. Caroline Wilson assists Amy Jo on the front-end. They are both extremely conscientious and hard-working. I would also like to acknowledge the staff in the College of Liberal Arts at Washington State University Vancouver for their assistance and support, and Michele Koontz (as always!) for her attention to detail, efficiency, and professionalism.

I continue to work closely with my three associate editors: Lisa Catanzarite, Clay Mosher, and Nella Van Dyke. They have each devoted significant amounts of time and energy to the journal and *Social Problems* has truly benefited from their expertise and judgment. This spring my associate editors and I taught a practicum on scholarly publishing for graduate students in the Department of Sociology at WSU. Authors of papers accepted for publication in *Social Problems* agreed to have students read their original submissions, blinded reviews, and revised manuscripts. The students were uniformly enthusiastic about the value of this opportunity to gain an inside look at the process of peer review and publication. We will be teaching the seminar again during the 07-08 academic year.

Budget:

The editorial office ran slightly over budget this year due to higher than anticipated personnel costs. A revised 2007 budget was submitted to (and approved by) the Board in March. Expenses for 2007 should be well within the revised budget. I have also received additional funds from the University to support the work of editorial assistant, Caroline Wilson.

Manuscript Submissions and Processing:

Submissions to *Social Problems* continue to be strong and steady. As the attached table shows, we processed just over 300 submissions during the 2006-07 year, down slightly from the previous year.

(During the calendar year 2006 we processed 333 manuscripts, however, so the small decline may simply reflect the timing of our count.) The system that we have devised for processing manuscripts is functioning relatively well. Our average turnaround time is 71.9 days and median time to decision for manuscripts undergoing a full review is 72 days. We average 3.3 reviews per manuscript. The reviewer database includes over 7,000 names. We added 1297 people to the database this year.

Our acceptance rate for 2006-07 was 11 percent.

Electronic Processing of Manuscripts:

Social Problems manuscripts are processed almost entirely electronically. Contributors and reviewers seem comfortable with this arrangement. My associate editors and I also correspond this way. This increase in electronic communication has cut down significantly on mailing and copying costs. I have continued to send decision letters and reviews via snail mail.

In January I attended an online workshop with other UC Press journal editors on the use of Manuscript Central. Manuscript Central is an online manuscript tracking system that automates almost all aspects of the process. UC Press has signed a contract with Manuscript Central and has offered this system to their journal editors. I believe that this system could be very useful for *Social Problems*, given the number of submissions we receive and the labor-intensive manuscript tracking that is required. I would encourage the next editor to discuss this option with UC Press.

Production:

We produced four issues in 2006-07. During this time UC Press contracted with a new typesetter and a new printer. These changes produced some inevitable and expected problems and delays as new people took over journal production and new systems were put in place. There were also some additional issues with the printer: (1) The August issue was mailed approximately a week late as a result of problems with the ink density used in the cover; After being alerted to the problem by the printer, UC Press asked to have the cover reprinted; (2) Despite being made aware of and asked to correct their error, the printer transposed the inside front and inside back covers of the February issue. Production for the May issue went much more smoothly, however, and the August issue is also proceeding well.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my associate editors, advisory editors, and staff for their dedication, professionalism, and hard work during the past year. I would also like to acknowledge the folks at UC Press, who have helped to make the journal's transition to a new typesetter and printer a relatively painless one. Finally, to Michele Koontz and members of SSSP, I am grateful for your support of the journal and my editorship.

Manuscript Traffic and Editorial Decisions

June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007

Decision	Original Submissions	Revised Submissions	Total	Percent	Mean Days to Decision
Accept	0	28	28	11.1%	23.3
Expedite Review/ Conditional Accept	2	8	10	3.6%	78.3
Revise & Resubmit	38	7	45	17.9%	89.2
Reject	115	10	125	49.6%	76.2
Deflect	44	0	44	17.5%	14.2
Total Reviewed	199	53	252		62.8
Currently Under Review	40	14	54		
Total Submissions	239	67	306		

Acceptance Rate: 11.1%

Mean Days to Decision (full review): 71.9

Median Days to Decision (full review): 72.0

Reviews Per Manuscript (for those undergoing full review): 3.3

Editorial Activity

Reviews Solicited: 1728

Reviews: 864

Reviewer Consent Rate: 50%

Reviewers in Database: 7087 (1297 added in 2006-2007)