

# Social Problems

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

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Amy S. Wharton, Editor  
Amy Jo Woodruff, Managing Editor  
Caroline Wilson Chiang, 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: 2007-08 Annual Report

Date: July 1, 2008

This report documents the activities of the editorial offices and staff at Washington State University from June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008.

## Editorial Office:

The editorial office ran smoothly this year. We are slowly closing out the last of the manuscripts submitted to the Washington State office (about 18 more to go, as of July 1). Amy Jo Woodruff has moved to half-time and is continuing work as production editor. She will stay with *SP*, going on Ted's payroll in August or September, when she begins work on the first of his issues. My editorial assistant Caroline Chiang is helping to process the last few papers and close down our office. Caroline, Amy Jo, and Sarah Chivers (who held Caroline's position previously) have been extremely conscientious and hard-working. During their tenure, we have seen the birth of a baby (Amy Jo's son, Ossley), a marriage (Caroline's), and the completion of a Ph.D. (Sarah's). Not bad for a three-year run. In the meantime, they processed close to 1,000 manuscripts, solicited approximately 5500 reviews, and still managed to maintain their sanity and good humor. 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 exceptional attention to detail, efficiency, and professionalism.

I would also like to thank 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 (much more than they thought!) and *Social Problems* has truly benefited from their expertise and judgment. I know that I could not have done this job without them.

Professional socialization of the next generation of authors and reviewers is an important task. To advance this goal, as we did last year, my associate editors and I taught a practicum on scholarly publishing for graduate students in the Department of Sociology at WSU during this past fall and spring. 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. I also gave two invited talks this year on publishing in journals. I was on an editors' panel at the Pacific Sociological Association Meetings in Portland, OR and gave a talk on journal publishing for sociology graduate students at USC in February.

The editorial transition has gone smoothly. Ted and Cyndy visited WSU at the end of January, and we spent two days discussing various aspects of the editorial process. In the spring, Caroline went to FSU and worked with Ted and his staff. I am excited about the journal's move to Manuscript Central and look forward to hearing about the effects of this change on manuscript processing.

#### Budget:

The editorial office stayed within budget this year and expenses for 2008 should be within budget as well. 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 342 submissions during the 2007-08 year, a 12 percent increase from the year prior. Our average turnaround time slipped a bit this year, but our median "days to decision" remained under three months, with 3.8 reviews per manuscript. The reviewer database includes over 8000 names. We added almost 1000 people to the database this year. This database has been converted to Manuscript Central, so will continue to be useful to *SP* editors.

Our acceptance rate for 2007-08 was 8.8 percent.

#### Production:

We produced four issues in 2007-08. There have been almost no problems with the production process this year. Issues have been mailed on time and without errors. Amy Jo has been an excellent production editor and works well with UC Press and our typesetter in India. I am pleased that she has agreed to stay on and believe that this continuity will serve the journal well.

#### Conclusion:

In conclusion, I would like to thank my associate editors, advisory editors, and staff for their dedication, professionalism, and hard work during the past three years. I would also like to acknowledge the folks at UC Press. Finally, to Michele Koontz and members of SSSP, I am grateful for your support of the journal and my editorship.

Serving as editor has been truly an honor and one of the most satisfying (and labor-intensive) professional experiences of my career. As I've said many times in many settings, most rewarding has been the opportunity to be involved in the "backstage" of the editorial process. Although it is always gratifying to see an issue in print, I have especially enjoyed the behind-the-scenes work with reviewers, associate editors, and authors as we collectively sought to identify and bring forth a paper's potential. I have learned that the editor's role is important in some respects, yet not-so-important in many others. *Social Problems* remains healthy and vital, and credit for this goes to a large community of scholars who feel invested in the journal and what it stands for. I am confident that it is in good hands with Ted and I look forward to seeing the next iteration of *SP*.

## Manuscript Traffic and Editorial Decisions

June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008

Decision	Original Submissions	Revised Submissions	Total	Percent	Mean Days to Decision
Accept	1	27	28	8.8%	43.6
Expedite Review/ Conditional Accept	1	4	5	1.6%	84.6
Revise & Resubmit	33	14	47	14.8%	106.2
Reject	161	13	174	54.9%	90.6
Deflect	62	1	63	19.9%	11.7
<b>Total Reviewed</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>67.3</b>
Currently Under Review	19	6	25	7.3%	
<b>Total Submissions</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>342</b>		

**Acceptance Rate: 8.8%**

**Mean Days to Decision (full review): 81.3**

**Median Days to Decision (full review): 86**

**Reviews Per Manuscript (for those undergoing full review): 3.8**

### Editorial Activity

Reviews Solicited: 2047  
Reviews: 991  
Reviewer Consent Rate: 48.4%  
Reviewers in Database: 8076 (989 added in 2007-2008)