

Report of the Editorial and Publications Committee, 2010  
Submitted by Claire M. Renzetti, Committee Chair on behalf of the Committee:  
Jim Holstein, Lora Bex Lempert, Benigno Aguirre, Marjorie De Vault, Lara Foley, Ted  
Chiricos, Anna Santiago, and Amy Wharton

### Social Problems Editorship

The Editorial and Publications Committee has had a busy year. We were charged with the task of selecting a new editor of *Social Problems*, whose three-year term will begin mid-year 2011. A call for applications went out in the fall of 2009 with an application deadline of February 12, 2010. The Committee received four applications. Following careful review, the Committee decided three of the applications warranted further consideration and each of the candidates was also invited to an interview at the 2010 meeting of the Society. Because time for the interview was limited, the Committee requested that each candidate respond in writing to a series of questions raised by the Committee during review of the applications. This request was made in April and responses were due July 1, 2010. Shortly before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, one of the three candidates withdrew her application. The two remaining candidates, Ray Michalowski (Northern Arizona University) and Becky Pettit (University of Washington) were interviewed on Friday, August 13, 2010. Each interview lasted 50 minutes.

Both Drs. Michalowski and Pettit presented strong applications, and the Committee is very pleased that we had two excellent candidates for the editorship. Following the interviews, the Committee deliberated for about an hour, resulting in unanimous endorsement (7-0-0) of the following recommendation to the SSSP Board:

***The Editorial and Publications Committee recommends to the SSSP Board of Directors that Dr. Becky Pettit be named the next editor of the Society's journal, Social Problems.***

The Committee thanks all four applicants – Drs. Beth Mintz, Ray Michalowski, Becky Pettit, and Ronnie Steinberg – for the time and effort they gave to the application process and for their willingness to serve the Society as its journal editor. In addition, the Committee thanks the Michele Koontz and Hector Delgado for their support of our work throughout the year.

### Social Problems Forum Editorship

In April 2010, the Committee was made aware that Ken Kyle, editor of the Society's newsletter, *Social Problems Forum*, would not be able to complete his term as newsletter editor. He subsequently submitted his letter of resignation. In accordance with the SSSP Operations Manual, the Committee issued a call for applications in May with a deadline of July 1, 2010. The Committee received two applications and after careful review decided that one candidate – Dr. Brent Teasdale (Georgia State University) – would be invited to an interview at the annual meeting. The Committee interviewed Dr. Teasdale for 30 minutes on Friday, August 13, 2010, and as a result of deliberations after the interview, the

Committee unanimously (7-0-0) forwards the following recommendation to the SSSP Board:

***The Editorial and Publications Committee recommends to the SSSP Board of Directors that Dr. Brent Teasdale be named the next editor of the Society newsletter, Social Problems Forum.***

The Committee thanks both applicants – Mr. Daniel Farr and Dr. Brent Teasdale – for the time and effort they gave to the application process and for their willingness to serve the Society as its newsletter editor. The Committee also thanks Michele Koontz and Hector Delgado for their support of our work in this selection process. And the Committee is especially grateful to Anne Mercuri and Steve Couch for generously agreeing to edit the two remaining issues of the newsletter in 2010.

Recommendation from the BFA Committee to Move to Electronic-only Option for SP Forum

At our meeting on August 13, 2010, Anna Santiago, Chair of the BFA Committee and voting ex-officio member of the E&P Committee, presented the BFA Committee's recommendation that electronic copy become the default option for receipt of *Social Problems Forum* by the Society's membership. Adoption of the electronic-only option would save the Society approximately \$11,000-\$12,000 per year and is also environmentally friendly. Following discussion of the BFA recommendation, the Committee unanimously (7-0-0) endorsed the following recommendation to the SSSP Board:

***The Editorial and Publications Committee recommends to the SSSP Board of Directors adoption of electronic-only copy of Social Problems Forum as the receipt default option.***

Other Business

At the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee heard reports from Rebekah Darksmith, UC Press, and Ted Chircos, editor of *Social Problems*. Although there is concern regarding the decline in institutional subscriptions to *Social Problems*, largely due to university library budget cuts, the Committee is pleased that the decline for *Social Problems* is lower than that of many other sociology journals, and we recognize and support the efforts of UC Press to continue to reduce or reverse this decline.

Much of the reason for the lower rate of declining institutional subscriptions to *Social Problems* is the consistently high quality of the scholarship published in the journal. The Committee thanks Ted Chircos, editor, and his staff for excellent job they are doing with the journal. Ted's report, which has also been presented to the Board, provides solid evidence of the health and stability of the journal.

At the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ted Chircos and Anna Santiago discussed with the Committee a suggestion forwarded at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting: the possibility of starting a new policy-focused journal, *Social Problems and Public Policy*, as a potential revenue generator for the Society, largely through institutional subscriptions. After a

discussion in which a number of concerns were raised, the Committee endorsed the following recommendation to the SSSP Board:

***The Editorial and Publications Committee recommends that the SSSP Board of Directors appoint an ad-hoc committee of individuals who wish to explore the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a new, policy-focused SSSP journal. The ad hoc committee would report its findings to the E&P Committee at the 2011 meeting along with a proposal for establishing the journal if the ad hoc committee determines such a journal is a feasible option.***

The Committee welcomes new members, David Smith and Suzanne Vaughn, who begin their terms August 15, 2010. The Committee also thanks outgoing members, James A. Holstein, Lora Bex Lempert and Anna Santiago, for their service. Finally, the Committee unanimously (6-0-1) re-elected Claire Renzetti as chair for 2011.