

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS



2010 ANNUAL MEETING

SURVEY RESULTS

Attendees: 582
Surveys completed: 227
Participation Rate: 39% (up 9% from 2009)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

9/28/2010

This is a summary report of the 2010 Annual Meeting survey results.
It lists each question, possible answers, response summary, and all unedited comments for each question.
Please note there will be misspellings and errors as the comments appear exactly as entered by the responder.

1. Ease of accessing the online annual meeting schedule

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	51.1%	115
Above Average	31.1%	70
Average	12.4%	28
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	4.9%	11
Comments (please specify)		7
answered question		225
skipped question		2

Comments (please specify)	
1	Full schedule in one doc is better than ASA
2	I'd like to be able to leaf through the on-line meeting schedule like I used to leaf through the hard copy --- day by day; hour by hour rather than just looking up people by name or divisions. Perhaps this application is available and I'm just not doing it right.
3	very confusing to find sessions and map out the session I wanted to attend
4	The direct link should always be prominent on the home page
5	I can never remember what my online password is. Do you have a way for members to change their password? If not, you should--almost any other password accessible system has that feature. The main problem is that those numbers you assigned to me are just not memorable. This means I have to look them up before interacting with the system. I find this highly annoying.
6	The pre-assigned password seems unnecessary
7	everything was perfect.

2. Ease of online pre-registration for the annual meeting

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	64.8%	147
Above Average	22.9%	52
Average	7.5%	17
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	4.8%	11
Comments (please specify)		3
answered question		227
skipped question		0

Comments (please specify)	
1	It was complicated. I had thought I registared for the meeting and I had not,
2	Generally good, but see comment in 1 above.
3	I was a first time attendee & Michelle was really helpful.

3. Ease of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	46.2%	104
Above Average	9.3%	21
Average	7.1%	16
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	37.3%	84
Comments (please specify)		7
answered question		225
skipped question		2

Comments (please specify)	
1	I did not know when or where pre-registration occurred, nor did the folks I happened to find when I arrived at the hotel before the opening reception. A mass e-mail to registrants listing the hours and locations of registration would have been very helpful.
2	Printer was having problems when first arrived, but was able to get name-tag later. Otherwise, very smooth.
3	Friendly!
4	It was difficult to find the registration area because the sign in the lobby was not well-placed.
5	The desk was run in an efficient way, and staff were pleasant.
6	It was a little confusing to find the registration. I suggest better signage and it was quite a distance from the lobby to the registration.
7	Super friendly!

4. Location of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	46.9%	106
Above Average	20.4%	46
Average	18.6%	42
Below Average	1.3%	3
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	11.9%	27
Comments (please specify)		10
answered question		226
skipped question		1

Comments (please specify)	
1	Having the meeting at a major hotel close to the ASA venue was very nice.
2	The location was fine, but put a sign or two in the front lobby with a big thick arrow pointing in the right direction. If there was such a sign on Thursday, I somehow didn't see it.
3	Hotel meeting rooms were fine, but expensive and Atlanta in the summer is not the best. But these issues could not be helped.
4	It was wonderful to have to walk only a very short distance to get to the ASA hotels.
5	I found that the location of the meetings was in an area that was not very walkable. While I did enjoy Atlanta, I would have preferred a place near more places to eat and explore.
6	The location was fine, but it was not as easy to find as it should have been.
7	I know SSSP follows ASA so I can't criticize too much, but Atlanta is not a great city for an annual meeting - especially in August. Also, my bed at the hotel was infested with little spiders. They changed my room, but still creepy.
8	I had significant trouble accessing disability parking, and my hotel room had to be moved because it was not accessible from any elevators.

9	While I appreciate that the hotel was redecorated, and the room was very comfortable, the hotel itself was laid out in a confusing way and I kept getting lost because of the two towers. The hotel staff were very pleasant.
10	good location. Nice to have tables in the foyer around the coffee!

5. Clarity of program

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	45.8%	103
Above Average	37.3%	84
Average	13.8%	31
Below Average	1.3%	3
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	1.3%	3
Comments (please specify)		6
answered question		225
skipped question		2

Comments (please specify)	
1	The only problem was the scheduling of a Division reception (Alcohol, Drugs...) at the same time as the welcoming reception and banquet.
2	I have thought about how to propose constructive change to the program. I draw a blank! However, the on-line program had FAR TOO MUCH text and was very difficult for me to read, understand and actually get through. Holding the program in my hand, on-site, was better. Please, please give some thought to reorganizing and presenting in another layout future programs. Otherwise, the program seems to me to overwhelm as opposed to inform.
3	THANKS for finally putting the date-time header in the program listing!!
4	Several papers in the institutional ethnography sections were not institutional ethnographic
5	I say above average but the truth is that most conference programs are clear these days, so the SSSP seems typical rather than way out in front. I'm not sure what could be done to make it any better, except by finding a way to use less paper.
6	The printed program should have a better internal graphic design and larger font so that it is easier to read and understand.

6. Quality of book exhibit

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	10.6%	24
Above Average	18.6%	42
Average	29.2%	66
Below Average	16.8%	38
Not so Good	4.9%	11
N/A	19.9%	45
Comments (please specify)		29
answered question		226
skipped question		1

Comments (please specify)	
1	I did not spend much time at it. I am not looking for books at present.
2	I'm used to a quite small exhibit so don't always even look
3	I didn't look at them, too much going on for that
4	It was so small!

5	Rather limited...
6	More older 'bargain' books would be appreciated, as well as a 'classics' section
7	Too few copies of CWM finalists books. Also too few authors bothered to have their works there.
8	Roman and Littlefield dropped the ball and were not there, and I had a book with them to advertise.
9	did not go to this
10	Not enough copies if people want to buy there.
11	Hardly anyone.
12	Would like to have seen more publishers represented
13	Certainly much better than previous exhibits that I remember.
14	I really enjoy multiple publisher stalls. If I don't also go to ASA, I miss the book exhibit. This year's system I couldn't even get exam copies. It was worthless this year.
15	Sad, but I know this is b/c ASA is down the road.
16	It was a small book exhibit, but we're a relatively small meeting! Well enough organized and attractive.
17	It's hard to compete with the ASA book exhibit. I often felt sorry for the person who I saw at the book exhibit who had very few people around the exhibit.
18	Not enough exhibitors
19	Nothing of relevance to me.
20	Limited Selection.
21	It would be nice to see a greater selection, although that might be redundant with ASA.
22	This is understandable given the proximity of the ASA conference.
23	Always small and unimpressive.
24	There were more books this year that caught my interest, perhaps because there were so many C. Wright Mills awards nominees that were compelling.
25	I think there should be more books exhibitors in such a big academic meeting.
26	It seemed to be that there were more exhibitors than in the past. I didn't get much out of this. If exhibitors are bypassing SSSP in favor of ASA, can something be worked out to permit SSSP members access to the ASA exhibit? This was a big disadvantage for me.
27	Seemed a little limited
28	I thought the selection in 2009 was better.
29	Not much there. Maybe there could at least be a book signing event with all of the C. Wright Mills Award nominees.

7. Quality of sessions attended

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	25.7%	58
Above Average	38.5%	87
Average	27.0%	61
Below Average	4.0%	9
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	4.0%	9
Comments (please specify)		28
answered question		226
skipped question		1

Comments (please specify)	
1	The quality of the sessions was great, but the attendance sometimes makes the sessions less dynamic than they could/should be. Having less sessions during each time slot might mitigate this.
2	The attendance was poor at many sessions. I am afraid that too many sessions were scheduled against each other. Also the presider listed for our session and one other education session, Erica Chito Childs, did not show up and did not let anyone at the sessions know she would not be attending. We took over, but wasted time waiting for her.

3	Not many people. Also, with the overlap of SSSP and ASA we lose a lot of participants.
4	I would definitely suggest expanding the scope to include issues of international relevance.
5	I was only able to attend 2 sessions, but they were terrific.
6	I was shocked at how unprepared many speakers seemed to be--the emphasis on discussion time meant that most of the time was spent asking basic, clarifying questions.
7	I only attended my own. I know that is bad. I wanted to but I was pulled in a lot of directions.
8	Still too many small sessions. Not everyone met minimum. And the panels with more speakers seemed to be better attended. Also, we need to work harder to include major figures in some of our sessions.
9	I enjoyed all the sessions I attended. Mostly IE sessions.
10	More could be done to attract accomplished scholars and leaders in the field to participate in the program. Most of the sessions I attended were venues for ABD presentations. While this is good, I'd like to see a mix of talent.
11	Some of the sessions seemed to include papers that were not related to topic. I understand this is the responsibility of the individual session organizers. Many sessions were sparsely attended.
12	Disappointed in many sessions. Graduate sessions seemed the best prepared, best organized.
13	Too little detail: all were 15 minutes or so; this makes it hard to really focus.
14	Often times, the papers presented did not reflect the general theme of a workshop, for example, in the Global Human Trafficking section, 1 of 4 papers actually dealt with human trafficking.
15	some sessions were great while others featured multiple works in progress that had little to no analysis. These sessions hurt the professional nature of an otherwise great meeting.
16	Too many sessions per block...difficult to get in all I wanted to.
17	Too many sessions not allowing time for questions. For example 5 speakers were in the new researcher section.
18	There were some sessions with papers that didn't appear to be very closely related to the theme of the session. It made it difficult to walk away with a coherent picture. Also, a surprising number of discussants were not in attendance or unprepared.
19	Quality was somewhat variable. There were some great ones.
20	Unfortunately, too few people attended the sessions.
21	attendance was poor
22	Low turn out in session attendees when compared with other academic meetings of this nature
23	Attendance was poor at many of the sessions I attended
24	Presentations were serious and lively.
25	The student awards session was awesome.
26	I appreciate the opportunities for students, but it leads to a really "mixed bag" quality-wise.
27	Some papers seemed off topic.
28	The sessions I attended were quite engaging.

8. Effectiveness of meeting space

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	35.2%	80
Above Average	41.0%	93
Average	19.8%	45
Below Average	1.3%	3
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	1.8%	4
Comments (please specify)		20
answered question		227
skipped question		0

Comments (please specify)	
1	We were interrupted REPEATEDLY by people who were scheduled to use the room AFTER use. FIVE TIMES.
2	I thought the layout of the hotel was very confusing.
3	a little noisy from adjoining room

4	I think these were the best meeting rooms ever.
5	It was great to be so near to ASA this year.
6	nice rooms, all in one area, very good
7	We were in the last session of the last day. The workers in the hotel were setting up for another conference. Despite repeated requests to keep the noise down so we could complete our session, workers continued their noisy work. Perhaps unavoidable, but unpleasant for presenters.
8	technology wasn't great. had problems with mac/pc transfers.
9	hotel fine, Atlanta below average
10	Lots of switching in and out of personal laptops - might be better if spaces were equipped with laptops and presenters were required to have presentations on flash drives.
11	a bit too cool
12	Far too cold in some of the meeting rooms.
13	The lights kept going on and off in our room.
14	The hotel was superior and staff were exceptional.
15	Internet connection would have been helpful.
16	The conference rooms were nice, but it would have been nice if there were signs posted in the lobby or other main areas of the hotel to direct participants to areas where major functions were taking place . . . especially registration.
17	Great location!
18	Generally effective, but divided rooms can be a problem if the people on the other side of the division are very loud.
19	I really liked that it was so close to the ASA conference.
20	The room size was much more appropriate compared to 2009.

9. Did you stay at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel? If so, please answer questions 10 and 11 below.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.4%	118
No	47.6%	107
If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.		45
	answered question	225
	skipped question	2

	If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.
1	The hotel was too expensive for me, as I was an international participant in short of financial means.
2	Too expensive
3	Price
4	Saved money by staying with friends in their home.
5	Had other accommodations.
6	Buckhead hotels were actually cheaper. I stayed there and just drove to the sessions. The parking a block away from the hotel was \$3 a day -- so it was more cost effective for me to do it that way.
7	Too expensive.
8	Got lower cost hotel in the vicinity
9	stayed at the asa hotel
10	I live in Atlanta and stayed at my place
11	I live in Atlanta and stayed at home.
12	I stayed at the Hilton w/ ASA
13	I stayed at ASA hotel. However, I have previously stayed at that Sheraton and found it quite nice.
14	part of honors program @ another hotel
15	I flew in and out on the same day due to budgetary constraints. I still enjoyed a full day of the meeting.
16	I take turns with a colleague paying for hotel rooms. One year I pay at SSSP hotel, next year she pays at ASA hotel. This was her year.
17	I am a graduate student with limited funds, and the Wyndham across the street cost me half as much.

18	Cost. Cheaper to stay at the Westin Peachtree Plaza.
19	stayed at Marriott for ASA because of special rate
20	Stayed in the Hilton Atlanta for ASA.
21	I was registered at ASA and had a paper presentation in the first morning session. I have stayed at SSSP hotels in the past, though.
22	I also participated in ASA, and stayed at the ASA hotel (Hilton)--closer to most of the "action"
23	too expensive
24	got a vacation rental
25	the cost was prohibitive. I was able to stay at a nearby marriot hotel for \$105/night after taxes
26	Found alternative.
27	but only because I had 2 other room mates. Could not have afforded to stay here alone. Excellent hotel staff
28	Too expensive
29	live in Atlanta
30	To support SSSP and be close to the meetings/sessions.
31	A friend offered accommodations.
32	I stayed with a friend in order to avoid paying for a hotel room.
33	Stayed with a friend at the Hilton who was attending ASA
34	I always look for more affordable hotels near the hotels where SSSP and ASA are taking place. Usually I find hotels within walking distance. I prefer to pay less than \$100 per night.
35	Better hotel at better price elsewhere
36	live in town
37	Have to stay with same hotel chain for hotel loyalty program.
38	I stayed at Days Inn because it was relatively cheaper
39	I was able to find cheaper accommodation in the area that met my needs.
40	stayed at Hilton, also presented at ASA
41	The price is not affordable
42	Stayed at ASA hotel.
43	I was presenting at ABS
44	The budget allocated by my university did not allow it. Sorry!
45	Expense

10. Quality of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	29.4%	48
Above Average	23.9%	39
Average	15.3%	25
Below Average	3.7%	6
Not so Good	0.6%	1
N/A	27.0%	44
Comments (please specify)		19
answered question		163
skipped question		64

	Comments (please specify)
1	not really worth the money, but not particularly unpleasant
2	Guest room was fine, but the swimming pool badly needed cleaning, I thought. The water was murky.
3	the hotel was a little down at the heel (especially since it was recently renovated apparently). The lay out of the hotel was hugely confusing.
4	Our room was very average.
5	very noisy hallways. :(tight bathroom for 2 people
6	Small room, plastic cups. Otherwise fine.
7	Room itself was great, but very noisy guests in other rooms kept me awake until 4 a.m. the night before my

	presentation. They were yelling in the hallway; sounded like a dorm. Security came up once, but this only solved it temporarily. I am very, very unhappy about this.
8	The room itself was good but it was under the parking lot and speed bumps so there was bump, bump, bump, bump noises from about 5:30 a.m. to about 1 a.m. whenever cars went over the speed bumps. At registration when offered a larger than usual room on the first floor, I specifically asked whether there was a subway or anything nearby that would create more noise on the lower floor than a higher floor and the desk person said no -- this turned out not to be true.
9	Staff was very slow to get the feather pillows out of my room, the pillows that I am allergic to.
10	The room was lovely. But their practice of having one person clean 16 rooms meant that, as I was told at the desk, "they have until 5 p.m." If I wanted to take a break, take a nap -- I had to get back into an unmade bed. For what we were paying, even discounted, that was outrageous. The rooms should be cleaned by noon. I wouldn't stay there again.
11	They went above and beyond even offering us complimentary access to the Club Lounge and discounted parking. The pool area was lovely and the location was terrific.
12	Much had to do with placement near exit doors and excessive noise. Our room was also very musty and/or mildewy.
13	Did not like the sliding bathroom door, but a bathroom is a bathroom!
14	The room was smaller than I expected, but nicely decorated. I was disappointed in the cleanliness of the room. It was tidy when we checked in, but had not had a good cleaning in awhile. Also, we stayed two nights and housekeeping did not remove dirty dishes or trash on the second day.
15	Room was very clean and comfortable. Free in-room wireless would have been ideal
16	Small
17	Spiders in my bed in the first room - second room was fine.
18	As noted earlier, I had significant trouble with disability accommodations
19	Room was recently redecorated. Bed was very comfortable. Desk was decent for one person, but awkward for two. Room size was good.

11. Cost of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	13.9%	23
Above Average	20.0%	33
Average	31.5%	52
Below Average	3.6%	6
Not so Good	1.2%	2
N/A	29.7%	49
Comments (please specify)		14
answered question		165
skipped question		62

	Comments (please specify)
1	Better than the ASA hotels.
2	too costly
3	at over \$150 a nite, it seemed high for the quality
4	A real bargain this year!
5	I am not sure what you are asking? Are you asking if the price was above average or (which would mean it was bad) or the deal was above average (which would mean it was good). The price reasonable, but I booked through Cheaptickets and got a better deal.
6	I wasn't sure how to answer this because I think that the cost of the rooms was in the range of what was expected, in which case should I have answered "above average", meaning I was not unsatisfied with the price?
7	Higher than I expected, especially given the noise.
8	Good value for the price.
9	good value for funds
10	The room and room-related service was not worth the expense of the room.

11	My university reimburses at the GSA rate, and this was about \$20 above that.
12	Problem with this question: does "Above Average" mean the cost was above average, or below average, for conference accommodation, or does it mean that the value for the money was average, above, below, etc. This question is poorly designed. The room seemed about average in price for conference accommodation in a city like Atlanta; I would expect to pay more in New York or Chicago.
13	Seemed expensive for the space
14	The cost is higher than my university room allowance maximum.

12. Service by hotel staff

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	43.9%	86
Above Average	23.5%	46
Average	7.7%	15
Below Average	1.0%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	24.0%	47
Comments (please specify)		16
answered question		196
skipped question		31

	Comments (please specify)
1	A bit unprofessional.
2	Everyone -- and I really do mean everyone -- I interacted with at the hotel was fabulous.
3	Very friendly!
4	I was chased away from the pool area while trying to prepare for my presentation because of a "private event." Also, when I complained the next morning about the noise, I was told that that was because "there are lots of different types of events going on here." I replied that regardless of the events, yelling in the hallways at 4 a.m. is never appropriate.
5	See #10 above.
6	The woman who staffs the Club Lounge (sorry, but don't know here name) is extraordinary!
7	Except for the feather pillow issue
8	very friendly staff
9	Great staff!
10	I would have chosen excellent except for the housekeeping. The rest of the hotel staff was fabulous, particularly the front desk.
11	amazing staff!!!!
12	Best service I've ever had at a hotel. I conveyed this to management.
13	Conseirge service was horrible!
14	Friendly and accommodating staff.
15	One of the friendliest, most-helpful hotel staff I have interacted with.
16	This hotel went above and beyond - they allowed us access to the club lounge at no added charge.

13. Quality of restaurant guide

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	17.9%	38
Above Average	23.1%	49
Average	16.5%	35
Below Average	7.1%	15
Not so Good	2.4%	5
N/A	33.0%	70
Comments (please specify)		25
answered question		212
skipped question		15

	Comments (please specify)
1	Did not use it.
2	I longed for past guides that were actually mini-reviews. The guide this year seemed restaurant generated with no sense by the local committee for why those restaurants were selected. Fortunately I had my 2003 guide with me and used that for some actual information
3	I didnt need it. I'm familiar with Atlanta.
4	As I know Atlanta restaurants, I did not check it out.
5	I did not use the guide.
6	didn't look at it - lots of choices just walking around
7	The average price of food at each place in the guide would have been extremely helpful!
8	There were lots of good restaurants in Atlanta.
9	It was only what the restaurants told us. I actually got much better info from the concierge. I like when a local tells us what is really going on.
10	would have been nice to have more restaurants closer to meeting site and there was no list of cool places to see.
11	I didn't use it.
12	Nice & simple; we found a great restaurant within walking distance.
13	It didn't seem like a serious effort this year; not particularly helpful
14	Did not review the guide
15	The concierge was most helpful with recommendations.
16	it would be helpful to have more restaurants that have cheaper menus. many of the restaurants were not in a grad student's price range
17	Prices ranges were not provided.
18	didn't include many local spots (such as those in Edgewood, Old 4th Ward, Auburn Ave., Cabbagetown, Capitol Hill area).
19	There were very limited options nearby.
20	Not as good as past meetings.
21	Some restaurants did not have descriptions. There were no reviews.
22	The breakfast was not so good
23	I was confused by what areas of Atlanta they were in.
24	Could be more informative.
25	Only ate once there-ouch except for the coffee and the reception

14. Overall Experience of Welcome Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	17.9%	40
Above Average	19.3%	43
Average	8.1%	18
Below Average	0.9%	2
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	53.4%	119
Comments (please specify)		17
<i>answered question</i>		223
<i>skipped question</i>		4

	Comments (please specify)
1	I did not attend
2	Did not arrive in time
3	I didnt go
4	They closed the bar too early
5	Did not attend
6	loved the venue but the wine was mediocre and over-priced.
7	This is a great way to begin the meetings.
8	Did not attend.
9	I think it would be helpful to have a very short, formal welcome by the President of the Society and perhaps Executive Office
10	arrived too late to participate.
11	Did not attend.
12	Needed far more tables and space.
13	I found "breaking in" to the social groups at this meeting. The mentorship experience was terrible! My partner was unavailable. Found the group not to be accepting of grad students. Could be just my division. I hate wearing labels at conferences that tell all I am a grad student. You are immediately treated differently when people see this tag
14	Didn't attend.
15	Kind of crowded.
16	Seemed okay
17	Did not arrive in time for this.

15. Overall Experience of Division-Sponsored Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.8%	53
Above Average	12.1%	27
Average	3.1%	7
Below Average	0.4%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	60.5%	135
Comments (please specify)		22
answered question		223
skipped question		4

	Comments (please specify)
1	the Drug and Alcohol reception was lovely - though it conflicted with the annual banquet. I hope that doesn't happen in the future.
2	I missed that too.
3	Did not attend
4	great attendance and GREAT food!
5	I love the idea of combining more divisions so it is better attended and better funded. Maybe we need to have one each night with half of the divisions.
6	Loved the combined division reception. Great food!!!
7	Did not attend
8	Great food.
9	Best Food in a long time
10	Did not attend.
11	loved the taco and pasta bars.
12	Excellent food!!!
13	Didn't attend.
14	Too crowded, not enough seats.
15	Did not attend.
16	The Mental Health Division Reception was one of the most welcoming groups of experienced scholars I've ever had the privilege to be a part of.
17	did not attend
18	There were not enough chairs so my colleagues and I ate while standing. It was nice that so many people came but I would have stayed longer if I could have sat and chatted comfortably.
19	This was a great way to make use of our resources. Since it was so well attended, the room seemed a little cramped.
20	Seemed okay
21	It was very nice but as a first timer, I think some sort of introductions would be helpful just to help break the ice.
22	This was great! The food was really good. The room was a bit on the small side for the big turnout!

16. Overall Experience of Reception honoring our Past Presidents

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	12.6%	28
Above Average	6.8%	15
Average	4.1%	9
Below Average	0.9%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	75.7%	168
Comments (please specify)		18
answered question		222
skipped question		5

	Comments (please specify)
1	Food was fantastic.
2	Yeap, I sound delinquent - but I didnt go to that either.
3	Did not attend
4	Did not attend
5	as before: loved the venue! but the wine remained mediocre and over-priced.
6	There was a late start and I do not understand why we ahd to buy tickets for beverages
7	The location was very attractive.
8	Pleasant atmosphere, well attended.
9	Similarly, some words of welcome would be beneficial.
10	Didn't attend.
11	Did not attend.
12	Started late and very expensive drinks?
13	Didn't attend.
14	did not attend
15	did not attend
16	I don't think I went.
17	I don't think I attended this one, or even knew about it.
18	Did not attend

17. Overall Experience of Awards Banquet

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	14.9%	33
Above Average	12.2%	27
Average	3.6%	8
Below Average	1.4%	3
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	67.4%	149
Comments (please specify)		29
answered question		221
skipped question		6

	Comments (please specify)
1	This was my first banquet and I sat with the most welcoming people possible. The banquet staff was also very accomodating to my allergy issues.
2	Food was better than at most previous banquets. Stay away from that bread pudding, though. Very caloric, I understand!
3	couldn't attend because I was helping with the alcohol and drug reception
4	or this one...

5	The food was AMAZING! Thank you!
6	Great bread pudding
7	The Awards event appeared to be shorter than in the past, which is a good idea.
8	Did not attend
9	Not good food value for the money. Fine as far as large receptions go. I will not likely attend next year, though.
10	great job on the food; one could almost forget it was banquet fare! the desert array was breath-taking (and I'm not a desert fan). sadly, the same sub-par wine. (a shame with such nice food)
11	Liked the way the awards are now handled -- good job!
12	I am repeatedly awed by the accomplishments of SSSP members.
13	Keeping the award presentation brief was good.
14	wish it did NOT have to be inside hotel, boring boring boring
15	Too expensive for me to attend.
16	Superb food!
17	cost of dinner exceeded value
18	Best Food in a long time
19	Didn't attend
20	Good food and a great group of folks at my table!
21	My division was not welcoming of new members. I will never attend again.
22	Didn't attend.
23	did not attend
24	did not attend
25	This was a really good meal, perhaps the best I've experienced out of 5-6 banquets that I have attended. The staff were terrific.
26	Well done. Good food, efficient service.
27	Food was okay. I was glad that the speeches were kept short, and would like them even shorter. Since there are so many, each one needs to be very succinct.
28	seemed more streamlined than in other years, which is an improvement
29	Well organized and accompanied by tasty food.

18. Days you attended the annual meeting (select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Thursday	39.1%	88
Friday	79.6%	179
Saturday	86.7%	195
Sunday	65.8%	148
answered question		225
skipped question		2

19. Please tell us your experiences accessing SSSP meeting resources and if you experienced any problems at the 2010 Atlanta meeting. If you wish to share more about your concerns with the Chair of the SSSP's Accessibility Committee, she would welcome hearing from you. You can reach Deborah Little at little@adelphi.edu. Please put SSSP Accessibility in the subject line.

Answer Options	Response Count
	28
<i>answered question</i>	28
<i>skipped question</i>	199

	Response Text
1	I appreciated that the conference hotel was so close to the ASA conference.
2	no problems
3	N/A
4	I am transgender, and my presider introduced me using the incorrect pronoun. I'd appreciate it if SSSP could do something to help prevent this from happening. Thanks.
5	Excellent program. I look forward to next year's event.
6	The only concern I have is the overlapping receptions, which I noted above.
7	GREAT job in signing the gender free bathroom! It made it easy to find the bathroom while also bringing the issue to the attention of gender normative members.
8	No problems.
9	The experience is good. I feel the mentor program is wonderful. I appreciate my meeting mentor Prof. Williams' help.
10	Problems with very noisy guests on the same floor. They kept me awake until 4 a.m. the night before my presentation. They were yelling in the hallway; sounded like a dorm. Security came up once, but this only solved it temporarily. I am very, very unhappy about this. Also, I was chased away from the pool area while trying to prepare for my presentation because of a "private event." When I complained the next morning about the noise, I was told that that was because "there are lots of different types of events going on here." I replied that regardless of the events, yelling in the hallways at 4 a.m. is never appropriate. Overall, I got the impression that the Sheraton is known for being a "party hotel" rather than a conference hotel.
11	All fine.
12	It was my first time attending and I had an enjoyable and productive experience. I would attend again in the future.
13	I was disappointed at the turnout of the session at which I presented. I was disappointed at the quality of the sessions which I attended.
14	na
15	Great conference! I'm a new SSSP member and this was my first conference. Unfortunately, our session, scheduled on a sunday afternoon was attended by only 3 people which is unfortunate. My co-presenter was an invited presenter, but this was not mentioned on the conference itinerary, had it been, I think we would've gotten a better turnout even at such an awful day/time.
16	Some were easy to access to an extent
17	I signed up for the mentoring program, but never received a reply from my mentor, so we never did meet. Tracking the mentoring program more closely would be helpful.
18	No problems.
19	I only had one thing go wrong during the SSSP conference. The gentleman from my mentor program did not reply to e-mail about meeting up. I was looking forward to making connections at SSSP, especially with someone who was amenable to meeting a student in a mentor capacity. If there were an emergency, I would understand. But, having just completed my first year of graduate school, I was very disappointed to have not made his acquaintance and discussed our academic careers.
20	N.A.
21	I had a problem finding the registration area because the sign in the lobby was inconspicuous.
22	Hotel layout created some confusion.
23	RE: SSSP Accessibility I requested two ASL interpreters prior to the conference and was contacted by the Accessibility Committee and Ms. Koontz with utmost professionalism. They were very accommodating and respectful of my request for the interpreters (as it is obligated under the ADA). I am truly appreciative of SSSP and their willingness to provide equal access and their mannerism on making the conference an extremely enjoyable one. Thank you!

24	No problems!
25	At times I had difficulty accessing the internet on my laptop.
26	had difficulty in power point presentation, computer or laptops are essential at such meets.
27	Good experiences
28	I don't know if this counts as an accessibility issue, but while there was a prominent sign downstairs announcing a gender-neutral bathroom upstairs, that bathroom was really hard to find. I asked hotel staff where it was and they looked at me like I was asking a bizarre question.

20. Do you have any other comments or thoughts about the annual meeting, including ways in which we can improve it for next year?

Answer Options	Response Count
	57
<i>answered question</i>	57
<i>skipped question</i>	170

	Response Text
1	I believe that having fewer sessions overall would increase the quality and attendance.
2	I just wish that more people were engaged in sssp. I suppose that asking people to contribute to multiple conferences can be problematic. It would be nice if more "big name" scholars were active.
3	go back west!!
4	Perhaps having a preconference workshop sponsored by the IE division
5	SSSP really needs to do something to increase attendance. Too often session participants don't show (and perhaps cancel too late to allow replacements) and audiences are too small, often less than number of participants.
6	My biggest complaint (which is a compliment) is there were several sessions i had to miss because of conflicting schedules. I remember at one of the 10am sessions there were 3 sessions i wanted to go to, but had to miss. That speaks volumes to the subject matter. If there is a possibility of participants to receive session notes prior to the session thats helpful. I'm one of those slow people who cannot always come up with questions right away - so reviewing material before the session helps me ask the questions i end up wanting to know. I'm glad it will be in Chicago next year -- i live here. :-)
7	Yay us for having a gender neutral restroom, and maybe next time it could be easier to find.
8	The convenience of a close-by ASA hotel was helpful for those with dual responsibilities.
9	The two day overlap with ASA has made it more and more difficult to enjoy the SSSP meeting. Many friends have stopped coming to SSSP because they find too many conflicts with ASA, and the subsequent running back and forth between hotels, to be too great. I also have friends who register for SSSP but stop coming after the first day because of the conflicts with ASA. One friend attended only one SSSP session this year because of conflicts. Though I continue to come, I find the meetings less enjoyable on the days that overlap with ASA. I enjoyed my participation in SSSP much more when we only had one day of overlap with ASA.
10	I had such a blast at the conference. As a graduate student sometimes these events can be overwhelming but the warm welcome I received from those at the registration table, session organizers, and other participants was wonderful. I felt much more at ease attending sessions at this conference and navigating SSSP than I have at other events. I can't wait to attend next year and hope to present again. I received great feedback during the session I presented in and was able to meet a number of other graduate students and faculty members from around the country (even Canada) that I would feel very comfortable contacting for advice and assistance in the future. I thought my whole experience was very successful and would like to thank the conference organizers for such a great event.
11	Courteous and effective office staff at SSSP. Brava!
12	Wireless internet access throughout the meeting rooms would have been helpful.
13	I think it wasn't just my impression that attendance was lower this year. Some sessions had very (very) low audience turnout. Perhaps it was simply timing, though it seemed unusually sparse this year.
14	No.
15	The mentor program could be better developed. There should be a defined format for what the meeting with the mentor should look like that mentors should agree to. For instance, it might be good to request that they try to set aside a minimum of 20-30 minutes. My experience and a friends was that it was more of a "catch me if you can" game.

16	Fewer concurrent sessions.
17	My abstract was accepted to a session in which I felt that I was placed there to be ridiculed by everyone else for being different in its research scope. If abstracts are not appropriate for a particular meeting or even for a particular session, then why are they accepted in the first place? I would rather have an abstract rejected than to spend a ton of money to show up at a conference and be told that my research doesn't really jive with everyone else's.
18	We need to have fewer sessions with only a couple of attendees. Nearly all the non IE sessions I attended were like that. Boost membership or have less concurrent sessions during each time slot or both.
19	Not sure if having questions held till all presenters had finished was ideal - maybe try questions immediately following each presenter. Although, logistically, it might be harder to keep to time constraints with this option - but worth considering.
20	Better food at the receptions.
21	Michele Koontz and Hector Del Gado did a great job! Thanks so much!
22	Let's model 2011 after 2010. A fabulous meeting all-around!!
23	There should always be drinks available during the conference sessions and at the reception area: coffee, tea, water until the last session of the day begins
24	The proximity to the ASA hotels was excellent. It made the whole experience so much easier and more pleasant for me. I know a lot of factors play into which hotel SSSP can use, but finding a place within 2-3 blocks of the ASA hotels is a big plus for me. When ASA is distant, I literally have to run miles or skip ASA stuff. Also getting together with friends staying at ASA hotels is difficult.
25	Perhaps combining sessions to improve attendance. Many presenters were a little disappointed at the turnout in individual sessions.
26	graduate workshops with specific feedback. At times it seemed graduate students were platforms for others - eg advice to grad students to read professors own papers even when not relevant to the topic. Not helpful, in fact this can be infantilizing! Meeting a mentor was helpful and a great idea.
27	The drinking and drugs division had too much overlap with session at ASA. I was often running from conference hotel to conference hotel and had to miss some sessions. I was lucky that the sessions on which I was presenting did not occur at the same date and time as ASA.
28	I really LOVED the insulated reusable bag that you distributed to registrants - unlike those distributed at many conferences, this is a bag that can and will be used over and over again!
29	I participated in mentoring. I was matched with another assistant prof, and we met and that went fairly well, even if our interests did not match. I also agreed to act as mentor to a student, but that student never took me up on meeting at the SSSP. I'm not sure what can be done about mentoring -- in principle its a great idea because I believe one-on-one meetings are some of the most meaningful at conferences, but in the two years I've done mentoring, the relationships haven't lasted longer than one meeting at the SSSP conference. Of course, that's largely the participants fault (including me!), but I wonder how SSSP can innovate further this one-on-one meeting form to promote more meaningful interactions at conferences between people who would otherwise not naturally meet.
30	Well organized.
31	As a first time attender, I was pleased overall with the conference. Subsidized parking was a nice addition. Enjoyed the discussion time at the end of the workshops.
32	I enjoyed my time at the conference very much. I was not overly impressed with the hotel room. As a person in need of monitoring their blood sugar it was difficult to keep food in the room, and at one point I was very unwell and had to wait for room service before I could eat. I would have appreciated at least a fridge in the room.
33	I absolutely loved the bags! They were a real winner! I met someone who had a similar bag that she paid for after the meetings and I was pleased to know that SSSP was really forward thinking when it came to a bag that we'll want to use again and again.
34	As a grad student, I participated in the faculty mentor program. I would like to suggest that students get paired with senior faculty members--at least Associate if not full professors. The professor I was paired with was a jr. faculty member, around my same age, and had little to share w/ me since he was only a few years out of grad school himself. Plus, as a female student of color who is trying to balance motherhood/family life, it would've been nice to be paired with someone who had an idea what I was talking about. What I got was a white, male professor who was my age. He was a really nice guy and I enjoyed talking to him, but it was not a "mentorship" experience by any means. This was probably my least satisfactory part of my conference experience and my new membership with SSSP.
35	I won't be back.
36	The programme of events should be clearly formatted and presented. This would allow quick overview
37	Schedule morning sessions later than 8am / 8:30 am. Not many attend, other than presenters.
38	Ensure ample room for reception space.

39	<p>I continue to be concerned about our attendance at sessions. I believe people are giving their papers and then spending most of their time at the ASA, leaving our sessions relatively empty. Overlapping with the ASA two days may have made this problem worse. I'm not certain what the answer is, but it is a problem that needs to be addressed. Perhaps we should go back to one day of overlap. Wasn't that what we used to do? I also believe we might want to consider pairing up with other organizations on a rotating basis, instead of only connecting ourselves with the ASA.</p> <p>Otherwise, we might as well merge with the ASA altogether. If we are in the same hotels and combine our program with theirs we will probably get more participation in our sessions, since SSSP members will not have to walk back to the SSSP convention site. We must not forget that the primary purpose of these meetings is to share information with one another about social problems. With the ASA finally moving more in that direction lately we are faced with competing with them -- and we can't. Best, John</p>
40	<p>It seems to me that the number of people presenting this year were smaller than in previous years I've attended. In as much as many of us participate in both ASA and SSSP, perhaps people providing their service time are too overwhelmed to seek more participants. Yet, it would be a good idea to do so. For instance, one of my sections in ASA did explicitly ask people to submit papers for round tables. I did not plan to do so, but made the effort. It may be a way to entice people to participate in SSSP.</p>
41	<p>If we have to go to Atlanta again, I'd like to be in the same hotel. It was very comfortable with great staff.</p>
42	<p>I was not pleased about when the decision to decrease the number of sessions was made. I loved the availability of tea and coffee. The tables in the round session worked well.</p>
43	<p>I am increasingly less likely to attend SSSP. The sessions are very poorly attended, and I question how central the role of the organization is to any social science research or engagement. The journal remains extremely important, but I find the conference itself increasingly marginal and irrelevant. This is someone who has been attending and a loyal member for 20 years. I think the organization is foundering, and the conference demonstrates it.</p>
44	<p>I know that the Hospitality Suite is very expensive, but I really missed it this year. The space in the basement was cold and unwelcoming if you wanted to relax or meet friends</p>
45	<p>Was not a big fan of the spatial aspects of the conference. In particular, the lack of a beverage, bar, water snack area near the session rooms - namely a centrally located networking, visiting, chill out area on the main floor. The little set up of tables was good but there was nothing to go with that. Why sit down with nothing else?</p>
46	<p>More travel grants should be provided in future to encourage participants from low income countries. I thank SSSP for providing me some financial assistance to be able to attend the meeting.</p>
47	<p>I loved the bag. It was better quality and nicer than ASA's one</p>
48	<p>I believe the conference overall was good. However, in my session there was a very offensive person that was more into "tearing down" projects rather than offering constructive feedback. I was able to handle her, but I felt bad for others if they were to encounter such a negative person in their sessions.</p>
49	<p>I especially enjoyed the movie showings and the extras such as the coffee service in the morning and the cold pack bag.</p>
50	<p>Pick more interesting cities. I realize this is tied to ASA. I hope not to visit Atlanta again for a long time, if ever. If you want to do southern cities, what about New Orleans or Miami? Does SSSP have any input into ASA location planning?</p>
51	<p>No, it was just disappointing that no one came to my session besides the president, presenters, and one of the presenter's mom. I think this was perhaps because it was scheduled during one of the major sessions and prior to the start of ASA. I'm not really sure that there is any good answer to this.</p>
52	<p>It was nice you had a gender neutral bathroom advertised. However, when I went to the third floor, I couldn't find it.</p>
53	<p>I liked Atlanta, and I think you could have done more on suggesting things to do in that City -- particularly the King Center was a wonderful experience. You might have organized some time for us to be there.</p>
54	<p>Thanks for inviting me-impressed by the people I met and discussions had...like to let more filmmakers in New Day know about the value of attending,</p>
55	<p>book exhibition should have large number of books to select from and on variety of issues from different parts of globe.</p>
56	<p>Combine some sessions for improved attendance in audience</p>
57	<p>The AIDS Fundraiser format this year was very dignified, and I enjoyed it, but I did miss the social fun of auctions and karaoke. But I realize the dance fundraisers can flop when the music quality is poor or doesn't appeal to many. This is Cary Costello, and my spouse Beta has an internet radio station and DJs professionally. If the administrative staff can arrange for the hotel sound system staff to set up a P.A. and a mixer that can accept input from a laptop, I'm sure she'd be willing to DJ a fundraising event, with an ear toward choosing music that appeals to people of varied ages that is NOT the Chicken Dance. Just an offer.</p>