

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS



2011 ANNUAL MEETING

SURVEY RESULTS

Attendees: 716
Surveys completed: 265
Participation Rate: 37% (down 2% from 2010)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
9/19/2011

This is a summary report of the 2011 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.

Q1. Ease of accessing the online annual meeting schedule

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	54.3%	144
Above Average	26.4%	70
Average	12.8%	34
Below Average	3.0%	8
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	3.0%	8
Comments		21
<i>answered question</i>		265
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Comments	
1	Would help a lot to have a searchable schedule rather than pdf that can only be scrolled through from beginning to end
2	the website was extremely difficult to navigate, as a new member. I only found a temporary online schedule, and NO guidelines for presentations for new members/undergraduates.
3	I did not do it.
4	I wasn't sure where to find this information prior to a few days before my visit.
5	It is good to have the date and time at the top of every page. Otherwise it is hard to find your place.
6	Having the conference program as a PDF in advance was convenient.
7	Having the pdf was very useful.
8	I didn't read it.
9	I had no problem whatsoever in accessing the schedule
10	I especially liked the linked table of contents in the pdf version of the program!
11	a word document would also be nice
12	I registered and attended from Australia, and the online information and links made the timezone differences completely irrelevant. I wish some of the local Aussie conferences that I attend would do as well.
13	if i'm remembering correctly i had difficulty navigating through the days. it wasnt bad, but i think it was different from last year (i was expecting similar).
14	Best I've ever seen
15	I find it so confusing when looking at the schedule online. It would be nice if you could filter the program to look at sessions associated with individual divisions.
16	Except in the conference hotel.
17	It is very useful to have this available.
18	It would be great if the SSSP program can be like the online program for ASA where you can search by name easily.
19	I had a lot of trouble loading and working with the PDF file available on the website, but I do appreciate that the file was available.
20	I did not try to view the online meeting schedule.
21	I like having it online in as a website, rather than only available as a .pdf. I think the SSSP does a better job than the ASA with its online program. Still, I found it difficult to navigate. Perhaps on the main program page -- http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/424 -- there might have been more, brief descriptions of what each section is. And, then, on the program schedule it might have allowed you to browse by day, rather than offering a lengthy list that cover the entire conference.

Q2. Ease of online pre-registration for the annual meeting

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	64.8%	171
Above Average	23.9%	63
Average	9.1%	24
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	1.5%	4
Comments		5
<i>answered question</i>		264
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Comments	
1	The receipt needs to show more information such as the last 4 digits of the credit card number to make receiving reimbursements from school easier.
2	As above - for international registrants the process was simple and user friendly
3	did not pre-register online
4	Had no problems with online pre-registration, went smoothly.
5	My institution requires that the method of payment be clearly indicated on conference registration receipts. SSSP staff graciously worked to get me a receipt that indicated that I paid with a credit card. It would be wonderful if SSSP could add such a line into next year's registration system.

Q3. Ease of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	48.5%	127
Above Average	14.5%	38
Average	5.0%	13
Below Average	1.1%	3
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	30.5%	80
Comments		14
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Comments	
1	Finding it given the horrible directions in the hotel was annoying.
2	SO EASY! very awesome!
3	Friendly folks and a great bag!
4	The meeting secretariat/administrative unit did a very good work
5	As always, the staff at the registration desk were helpful and welcoming.
6	All staff were very friendly and helpful.
7	I thought that the registration desk hours were a little confining, as previous conferences I've attended open the registration desk before the first session of the day begins. Folks who get in town the evening before they present and are assigned an 8am session should be able to register before their session.
8	Very friendly and helpful registration staff.

9	The registration table was only open 8-6. I presented at 8am and my plane arrived after 6pm the night before, so I was unable to register prior to presenting.
10	On the day I tried to register, the registration desk opened at the same time as the first presentations were supposed to start. While it wasn't a problem for me, I could see that it would be a problem for those actually presenting. The registration should open at least 15 min before the first presentations start in the morning.
11	The only problem was finding the registration area, and that was a result of the venue.
12	Like other Las Vegas casino hotels, Harrah's was difficult to navigate; I found it difficult to locate SSSP conference registration.
13	It would have been great to have registration open the hour before the Institutional Ethnography workshop.
14	DK - registered online

Q4. Location of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	39.0%	103
Above Average	18.2%	48
Average	21.6%	57
Below Average	5.7%	15
Not so Good	6.1%	16
N/A	9.5%	25
Comments		39
<i>answered question</i>		264
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Comments	
1	I think that as sociologists we need to consider the implications of holding a conference in a location that embodies blatant forms of race, sex, and gender inequalities. While it is not possible to ever find a location absent of any of these inequalities, Las Vegas seemed to be an especially poor choice because of what it has going on there (i.e. the objectification of women is a central feature of what makes Las Vegas so memorable for so many consumers). I realize that this location may not have been ideal for meeting organizers who were left scrambling after an unsure arrangement in Chicago. Perhaps this just couldn't be helped. In any case, perhaps we could have addressed this more matter-of-factly during the conference as a form of acknowledgement of this contradiction.
2	bad directional signs in the hotel
3	too, too expensive.
4	all the sessions were fairly close to eachother. and ASA accessibility was nice too.
5	It was a little difficult to find - but I think that was because of the massiveness of the hotel and not the conference itself
6	Overall, things were difficult to find in the hotel, so once I found the registration area, the location was centrally located.
7	Logical positioning of the table.
8	Oh, Let's stay away from LasVegas strip from now on . . .
9	I really found Harrah's a difficult venue all round
10	It was impossible to avoid people smoking in the hotel. We should only go to non-smoking venues in the future.
11	The conference center was a bit confusing.
12	I'm not a big fan of Las Vegas -- it's not a conference-friendly city.
13	I would have preferred another place other than Las Vegas in August (too hot).
14	Had to go through very smoke-filled areas to get to the tower where registration was located.
15	Vegas was not an ideal place to hold an academic conference
16	no signs at the lower level leading you to the floor with the registration.
17	but i'm a compulsive gambler...i'm sure few share my enthusiasm
18	One of the few places at Harrah's that was actually easy to find :-)

19	LV is a social problem.
20	Las Vegas is contradictory to our progressive social movement.
21	Casino was difficult to navigate. Also, the table seemed to close early and open later than past years or perhaps I just was booked at odd times and missed them.
22	If you mean the hotel--Harrah's--it was a nightmare checking in. The location and functioning of the meetings themselves was excellent.
23	The conference center was extremely difficult to find, though this is more a consequence of Vegas hotel structure than SSSP.
24	Signs in the hotel leading to the conference center would have helped.
25	hard to figure out where to go in the casino. more signs would have been helpful.
26	Wish there had been a sign in the main lobby of Harrah's indicating second floor
27	absolutely horrible venue and town. Loud, expensive, and terrible hotel rooms.
28	I realize this was a last minute option & probably the "best" under the circumstances.
29	Vegas was too expensive.
30	Harrah's Hotel was confusing so it was hard to find the conference center but then again, so was all of Las Vegas
31	Vegas casino with scantily clad girls dancing is not the best place for a conference. Also, the hotel was TERRIBLE. It sat right next to a club that blasted music until 3 AM and there were people up all hours of the night in the halls.
32	The hotel was awful
33	The flight selection from my location was not great. I also did not care for Las Vegas - even though I love exploring new places and off-beat cultures, this environment did not feel safe (I also know someone whose wallet was stolen and heard about a student being jumped as part of gang initiation)
34	I appreciated that the registration site was away from smoking areas.
35	I hated having the conference in Las Vegas, but I understand that it was a last minute choice.
36	It was great to have everything right on the same floor, very centralized. It was annoying to have to wade through the casino to get to the meeting floor access, but that's Las Vegas. Nice to have meeting area in same tower as guest rooms. Great elevators!!!!
37	It was a little difficult to find inside the casino.
38	Felt a bit disorderly and could have used a better seating area.
39	Vegas not easy place to get around. Food and transport very expensive. Smoking everywhere!

Q5. Clarity of program

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	49.2%	129
Above Average	32.1%	84
Average	15.3%	40
Below Average	1.9%	5
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	1.1%	3
Comments		9
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Comments	
1	I really think someone could have put a but more production value into. the rooms/session times text on the program all look sort of jumbled, no clear definitive bold text/clear organization.
2	I liked the pull out summary grid.
3	Program and session topics were clear -- sometimes papers in a given session were not good fit to the session topic.
4	I was able to download the final program before leaving Australia, and identify all the sessions relevant to my Division and my field of research, so that even before I got to Las Vegas I had prepared my individual schedule of all the sessions. Didn't miss one.

5	The program is very busy and hard to read at times
6	Would be helpful to have abstracts of papers listed somewhere, even online. There were times I was debating which session to attend and the titles alone were not enough to help me make an informed decision.
7	Somewhat difficult to follow the sessions as they seem spread out without much reason -- there were specific topics with a number of sessions but spread across days and times
8	Some sessions really didn't fit the overall theme of the session.
9	I like the addition of the dates / times to the top of each program schedule page.

Q6. Quality of book exhibit

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	10.1%	26
Above Average	12.4%	32
Average	35.7%	92
Below Average	12.0%	31
Not so Good	3.9%	10
N/A	26.0%	67
Comments		23
<i>answered question</i>		258
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Comments	
1	Very small
2	didn't visit.
3	The selection of books was very good. I bought multiple books this year. I would like to see more higher education and institutional ethnography related books included.
4	I .loved the book exhibit!
5	I'm not sure I made it to the book exhibit this year. I did browse the small table in the hallway close to the registration area, which seemed to contain some interesting titles.
6	In past years there has been a better offering of up to date Soc Probs textbooks. I guess your exhibitor is more of a scholarly publications rep than a textbook rep.
7	I don't recall a book exhibit.
8	Could have been larger
9	Very few selesctions. Would like to see a bit wider variety.
10	never got there!
11	It would be nice to hear from more progressive publishers.
12	seemed like more books this year.
13	Good selection, although smaller than other meetings (but that is to be expected given the size of this meeting versus others I attend)
14	Woudl really like to see more here, but I feel that the link with ASA allows publishers to focus on ASA since they know that there is a lot of overlap.
15	did not see book exhibit
16	Did not see it.
17	Did not seem to have many books.
18	American authors only. I am looking for Canadian authors. My university only allows for Canadian books to be used.
19	More books needed!! More vendors! It's not fair that you actually have to get a membership and register for the ASA conference in order to see the best books.
20	Need greater representation
21	I understand SSSP is a relatively small conference, a poor relation (so to speak) of the ASA, but perhaps as part of SSSP registration could come access to the ASA book room....
22	Most of the books on display (those of interest to me) were published a long time ago. More recent publications would be ideal (published within the last 3-5 years).
23	Basically, the book exhibit is a bunch of books loosely related to the theme of "social problems" dumped on a long table. It's hard to compete with ASA's book exhibit so I would suggest not trying to.

Q7. Quality of sessions attended

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	28.0%	73
Above Average	41.4%	108
Average	22.2%	58
Below Average	3.4%	9
Not so Good	2.3%	6
N/A	2.7%	7
Comments		36
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Comments	
1	All the sessions I attended were well-attended.
2	Sessions were of high quality, though I was dissapointed that many scheduled presenters were not in attendance. In each session at least two scheduled presenters did not show up, which I found dissapointing and conference attendees were not notified in advance to inform them of these circumstances.
3	People who have funded studies should get off their high horse and during Q and A, should not place their research on a pedestal of hierarchy.
4	The panels were imbalanced--some presenters/papers were excellent, others just okay.
5	SSSP sessions are still generally very poorly attended and makes me not want to present there.
6	One of my sessions was excellent, but the other was of very poor quality. I was surprised at the number of presentations in which the scholars had not done any data collection but were essentially presenting a plan for the future.
7	Overall, I was not able to attend too many sessions due to other obligations as Division Chair. While the papers were fine, the turn out of audience members in sessions was poor. I'm not sure if this is because many people go to sessions at ASA, SWS and other meetings, or if it was because of the location in Vegas so people were out on the town.
8	Time conflict with ASA sessions though. For example the harm reduction session was the same time as the drug sessions at ASA
9	Superior work on Institutional Ethnography and Humanist Sociology.
10	While the content of sessions were outstanding, my issue, and it is a significant one, is that in many sessions only 2 of 4 presenters showed up.
11	there were too many distractions at the hotel used for the conference
12	Ranged from okay to above average. One session I attended had three presentations that were well below SSSP average
13	punlishing sessions are very important to have. some of the question people had were basic. i wonder if there is a way to have a basic handout to distribute at these explaining publication so that the questions can be more in depth
14	i find the format not conducive to critical thinking...three papers often pretty unrelated followed by a discussant who often summarized what we just heard...or threw out some rather disjointed observatuions (what is their responsibility or task?) then leaving a few minutes to talk and that talk often went all over the map. If I'm going to be critical I should make some suggestions which i will if there is a meeting or webinar for us to discuss this.
15	some were good and one was atrocious...poorly facilitated to say the least.
16	I enjoyed all the sessions and events I attended. It's always disappointing when people submit an abstract to present in a session and then don't turn up. As a session organizer I'm aware of how may good papers weren't able to be accommodated, and it seems very selfish of others to take a space and just not show up without advising the session organizers in advance. It's disappointing to have a session organizer have to open a session by asking whether all the presenters are present. Despite this, in each case where I attended a session that had fewer papers than expected (and where that wasn't confirmed until the session started), the session organizers did very well in using the time for more in-depth discussion of the issues from those papers that were presented. Really well handled

17	Institutional Ethnography rocks!
18	couldn't attend, was selling journals
19	Despite the high conference attendance, none of the sessions I went to/presented in had many attendees. This may be due to the city chosen to host the conference -- there are many distractions in Vegas. Perhaps something to think about as we move forward?
20	Some were really good, but i was dissapointed e few times when sessions were cancelled
21	Many of the presentations in the session I attended seemed to be drawing upon dated literature. In one session, two papers did not use literature dated any later than 1990. Not very invigorating to listen to. In addition, sessions were sparsely attended.
22	The session I organized was excellent! I also attended others that ranged from average to excellent.
23	The sessions varied from fantastic to poor - the quality was quite uneven.
24	The quality was undermined by too many presentations being scheduled under one session. Many included as many as five presentations, which leaves little to no time for questions, comments, and concerns.
25	Many authors and sessions were cancelled or re-organized at the last minute. Hence the program was not up to date.
26	some sessions only attended by presenters. little to no critical feedback given on presentations
27	attendance was low this year at sessions. the sssp banquet was amazing.
28	In each session at least one presenter did not show up. In my session, the presenter nor the presider showed up. Many sessions appeared to provided presentations that were unorganized or not well-thoughtout
29	Paper sessions (including the one in which I presented) were extremely informative. I was able to attend one session focused on institutional ethnography and obtained a great deal of practical information that I will be able to use in future research. I wish that I was able to attend the workshop on IE (could the cost of these workshops be subsidized in the future for graduate students?). I also attended a roundtable which produced an interesting discussion and sharing of ideas across disciplines. In addition, as a former social worker and current sociology graduate student, I greatly appreciated other sessions in the program which fostered these interdisciplinary discussions.
30	Having 5 papers with 15 minutes each leaves no time for discussion. Thus, some sessions are not as fulfilling as they could be.
31	Spent some time talking with the book person, so I know about specialty service, but there just wasn't very much, and not usefull for course books
32	This was my first SSSP meeting, so I can't compare it to others, but the session in which I presented a paper was not well organized. The discussant showed up several minutes late, and we had to borrow a laptop from an audience member to start on time. The discussant made not comments on any of the papers presented, which was also disappointing.
33	For whatever reason, there seemed to be more choice amongst really excellent sessions this year than last. Attendance at sessions seemed slightly better than last as well.
34	Attendance was very low, especially in sessions on the last day.
35	Social problems used to be a place for critical discussions of the construction of social problems. It seems that a lot of people missed that history and now just come to present on social problems whose existence they benefit from. The critical edge seems to be waning severely. I did attend one very good panel on the Sociology of Diagnosis that was well-organized. The best part is that the speakers were only allotted 5 minutes to talk and then it was opened up for a discussion with everyone in attendance.
36	Pretty sparsely attended, but unfortunately, was expecting that given the location

Q8. Effectiveness of meeting space

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.2%	53
Above Average	32.1%	84
Average	28.2%	74
Below Average	11.1%	29
Not so Good	6.9%	18
N/A	1.5%	4
Comments		51
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Comments (please specify)	
1	I didn't enjoy endless walks through acres of slot machines...
2	Casino noise unbearable--lack of quiet spaces to congregate outside of sessions.
3	The smell of cigarette smoke was extremely strong in the meeting rooms.
4	hate the smoke in casinos, but I know that was out of SSSP's control
5	No internet.
6	easy to use.
7	The audio-visual equipment lacked audio! I tried to show a video clip and it was basically silent--very frustrating.
8	I did not like being in a casino
9	I use lots of video, but there was no option for sound. I had to buy speakers.
10	Smoke permeated the meeting rooms. Did not like the Las Vegas setting for the meetings!
11	Las Vegas Strip was NOT conducive for a conference location. While the conference rooms in the hotel were acceptable, the actual location was quite poor. People said it was difficult to move between the ASA hotel and the SSSP hotel, it was time consuming to get anywhere outside of the hotel. The city is not really pedestrian friendly.
12	Confusing layout
13	It was a little confusing to have sets of rooms broken up throughout the hotel.
14	It lacked multiple quiet areas to meet people. That is the problem with Vegas.
15	some acoustic issues in the big rooms
16	One area must have been recently recarpeted. The off-gassing fumes made me sick.
17	I'm not sure what this means. The meeting rooms seemed fine, if that's what effectiveness refers to.
18	The only drawback was that there was no wireless internet available for attendees, even for pay, and the business center was closed on Sunday. However, the cost of the rooms and the compactness of the meeting space far outweigh this disadvantage, in my opinion.
19	Meeting space was good but the walk across casino areas and smoke were problems.
20	the meeting rooms themselves were nice. getting to them through the throngs of lights and people another story.
21	The meeting space was really good. Affordable and good food options in the locality were limited, but that's the Las Vegas strip for you...
22	I appreciate those rooms that have sufficient sound insulation so that I am not disturbed by presentations in adjoining rooms.
23	in past years meeting spaces were small and often could hear other presenters next door. The spaces at harrah's were outstanding
24	didn't like smoky atmosphere, and it was a little hard to find things in the hotel.
25	The Institutional Ethnography workshop space was too small.
26	Once you were there it was ok but initial navigation was difficult.
27	No internet access
28	The conference center was clean and well-organized.
29	I really didn't like the hotel.
30	Hotel location and space were subpar and shockingly lower in caliber than SSSP hotel in the past.

31	There were no chairs or tables provided by the casino for the hallways. This prohibited informal networking and being able to talk with people I knew. While a small area was set aside with tables and chairs, this was not sufficient. It was also just inconvenient to not have a space to set one's bag between sessions. Mostly, however, it meant I had to venture out to the casino if I had time between sessions and there was no space to sit in the area by registration.
32	Having workshop spaces, registration, book display, dinner, etc on ONE floor was great !
33	Providing equipment including speakers, laptops, etc would make the process better for participants.
34	There was a lack of general seating and places to congregate near where the sessions were taking place. Had to venture away from the conference area to meet and mingle after sessions.
35	I was disappointed when the meetings moved to Vegas. I was even more disappointed when I got to Vegas and had to walk through smoke filled casinos with women in silly costumes to get to the conference sessions to find out that no one was really talking about this. After being in Vegas for SWS years back and not talking about the obvious before I was thinking for sure that there would be big formal discussions full of critical analysis and exchange and was disappointed to find that this was not the case again.
36	The lighting in some of the rooms made it hard to look at speakers and for them to look at the audience. We eventually turned them off in the session I chaired and spoke to each other in the relative dark.
37	Too much smoke...
38	Harrah's is not a pleasant or convenient location for a professional conference.
39	Room beside the designated division meeting room was loud. We needed a mike or a different space.
40	HORRIBLE.I waiting 30 minutes just to check in and was charged for things I did not use from mini bar. te venue was noisy, smoky and crass,
41	Rooms were fine and tech support was very good, in my experience.
42	Too cold
43	The business center was closed on Sunday which meant I couldn't make copies for my presentation. And the printer they put outside the business center was broken. This caused an undue amount of stress and strain. I had to beg someone at the ASA hotel to use their business services to print out my documents and even then, I couldn't get a good internet connection in the hotel to send them the presentation!
44	Awful - I will never return to Las Vegas
45	Las Vegas is not conducive to this kind of meeting.
46	Terrible conditions for meetings and the hotel obviously could have cared less about the group
47	The meeting spaces were nice and the podiums were great with clocks and outlets for computers, although I could hear some of what was going on in rooms around me.
48	Rooms seemed in close proximity to one another.
49	Points off for being in a casino Las Vegas. (Although, under the circumstances, I'm glad the meetings were held there rather than not at all).
50	It seemed fine.
51	The space was far better than the ASA's. Still, there was a whole side to the conference, where the parlor rooms were, that felt hidden. Perhaps making sure we have more signage up in the physical space would help.

Q9. Did you stay at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel? If so, please answer questions 10 and 11 below.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	69.7%	182
No	30.3%	79
Comments		39
	<i>answered question</i>	261
	<i>skipped question</i>	4

If No, please specify reason for not staying at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel.	
1	Stayed off-site
2	too expensive
3	I live in Las Vegas and attend UNLV. I heard amongst local volunteers that they would have liked to trade their rooms for perhaps, a year's membership to SSSP no charge, or waive registration costs.
4	Stayed at ASA hotel.
5	Casino and smoking on entry level. A depressing and difficult environment to pass through. I stayed at a hotel with no casino.
6	I stayed at host hotel for ASA because of my roommate's preference.
7	Too costly I am a student
8	I live in Las Vegas
9	Too late to get in discounted rooms
10	Looked for non-gaming, non-smoking hotel.
11	Other hotels were less expensive.
12	Shared a room at Caesar's with someone attending ASA
13	I dont gamble and didnt want to be bothered by the "youngin's" having a great time. i prefer to stay in a standard hotel with desks, business center, and a quiet room at night
14	Rooms filled up so I had no choice but to go somewhere else.It all worked out fine, though.
15	Wanted to be at the ASA conference facility since I had to do 4 days of ASA meetings
16	I shared a room with others at Caesar's Palace. The rates were comparable, but CP's is a nicer hotel.
17	Stayed at ceaser's.
18	The Las Vegas strip is horrific, I stayed at the Hard Rock a few minutes away with fewer smokers and better ammenities.
19	Stayed for one day with a friend.
20	Too expensive. Stayed at Imperial Palace.
21	I don't like the casino--too hard to navigate and get in and out of from the strip.
22	I stayed at the ASA hotel.
23	I stayed at Caesar's because I also attended ASA.
24	had a place to crash in town
25	At Ceasar's Palace fpr CBSM ASA pre-conference meetings on social movements.
26	Friends made reservations for us to share a suite at The Carriage House.
27	stayed at asa hotel
28	I had a room provided to me for free elsewhere. I generally stay at the conference hotel but when provided free housing, I cannot pass that up. :)
29	Also registered for ASA meetings and stayed at that hotel.
30	Since I was traveling with my husband and son, we wanted a hotel that provided more in-room amenities (i.e., microwave, refrigerator). We were able to secure lodging at a neighboring resort which cost less per night than Harrah's and provided numerous amenities. Also, Harrah's did charge extra per night for a third person on the weekends.
31	Stayed at Ceasar's with the ASA rate. Seemed like a better deal for the money.
32	I stayed at Caesars with the ASA rate.
33	I wish I didn't stay there.
34	Imperial Palace next door was cheaper.
35	Stayed at the ASA hotel (Caesars Palace)
36	Just do not like Harrahs

37	Do the limited finance.
38	I found a more economical place.
39	Cost—I chose a far less expensive hotel that was also closer to the ASA's conference space than is Harrah's.

Q10. Quality of guest rooms (if you stayed at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	16.6%	35
Above Average	27.5%	58
Average	29.4%	62
Below Average	5.7%	12
Not so Good	6.2%	13
N/A	14.7%	31
Comments		36
<i>answered question</i>		211
<i>skipped question</i>		54

Comments	
1	Have had better experiences at other hotels.
2	internet was very difficult to set up in room. no wifi anywhere in the hotel? fee for gym?
3	Rooms were fine. I did experience some challenges with insect infestations in the room and requested to be moved.
4	Nice size but again Las Vegas was awful and too hot
5	Eventually above average but only after hassle because three sets of keys did not work to my originally scheduled room and front desk was not helpful until I got security guard involved--he was very helpful and eventually got upgraded
6	The internet jack was not working and they were not able to fix it although they did confirm that it was not working. The desk was too small to be functional. The bathroom was substandard and the toilet seemed to have a problem filling after a flush. I reported this but nothing was done. Wish I had stayed elsewhere.
7	Loud music until 5 am outside my balcony door.
8	I spent 3 hours the first night I checked in to the hotel trying to get access to the internet. Since I had a presentation first thing the next morning, it was imperative that I accessed the internet to get info pertaining to my presentation. It turned out that the phone jack that the ethernet cord was plugged in to did not work and the engineering guy just plugged it in to a different jack. however, this was not resolved until after I had spent over two hours with the 1-800 help number and another 45 min waiting for the maintenance. I was not the only person who had problems with internet access.
9	Rooms needed more lighting. They were pretty dark.
10	room keys failed repeatedly, modem had to be replaced at midnight, furniture in room inadequate, tv did not work; the whole place smelled like an ashtray.
11	This was a really bad idea. Harrah's is not a conference hotel. It is a party hotel. This came to light to me when the floor we were on became a series of really bad situations over and over.
12	It was an average stay for the price. There are no complaints
13	There was no desk in the room. Whatever was supposed to be over my bed was missing, but the hooks were still there. The furniture was pretty beat. And the internet didn't work. The hotel staff was not at all helpful -- or nice -- in fixing it.
14	There were some technical problems (such as a broken phone and slow drain) that the hotel did not fix despite my requests at the front desk.
15	But I think Harrah's Las Vegas should be able to provide free internet connection for thier guests. Or this should be a point to be considered in choosing venue for subsequent meetings
16	Very comfortable. My partner and I stayed for a few days vacation after the meeting, and the room was certainly adequate even for a longer stay (9 days total)
17	small, but adequate. Tables in room not very assessible
18	No coffee maker. Even though I was supposed to be in a nonsmoking area, I could smell smoke most nights. Too much smoking in the air in the common areas. No cheap but good places to get good food and coffee. Starbucks does not make good coffee. No free internet.

19	Not so clean. Tub didn't seem clean. Tub also clogged (they did clear it quickly.) Some one's clipped toenails on carpet.
20	Surpar
21	Guest rooms were wonderful, as was the housekeeping service. Just great. The location in a hotel with slot machines, smoking, noise on ground floor was absolutely surreal !
22	No complimentary Internet service was inconvenient.
23	There were no desks in the rooms, and many of them faced the pool area, which had loud music until 2AM.
24	I wish I hadn't stayed at the hotel. It was not very clean, not very nice, lots of things didn't work well - I won't stay there again.
25	Terrible and expensive. \$12 for internet, 25 to go to the gym! Loud at night
26	Guest room quality -- average. Overall hotel ambiance and public areas (lobbies and restaurants) -- terrible. Crass and noisy, which extended to the rooms, as I had loud partying neighbours.
27	Not having wireless was a real pain. My experience of connecting to the LAN was very frustrating. First on the phone to the techie people and then the engineer with a cable. The room was dusty behind the furniture (really really grotty) when I was being directed on the phone to look for the cables.
28	As stated earlier, the music blasting from the club next door and the drunk people in the halls making noise all hours of the night was extremely problematic. I got in at 1:30 AM from Newark and was anxious to get to my hotel room to sleep, only to be kept up for the next few hours until the club music stopped at 3:30. I had a 9:30 am meeting and was jet-lagged and also exhausted as a result of being kept awake. I was able to get another room for the rest of the nights which was also a hassle and almost didn't matter because of all the noise in the hall in the middle of the night.
29	The rooms were okay. The noise was intolerable and overall the hotel was terrible. This is not SSSP's fault, obviously.
30	no wifi, smelled like smoke - disgusting
31	The room was OK, the services were not -- access to internet did not work, no coffee machines, staff did not know about internet...
32	Carpet not very clean, leak in tub. Tired rooms.
33	Room was fine, but if your room had a window over the pool, the outdoor nightclub kept you up until 4 AM. Not pleasant.
34	A lot of problems with Internet access. Very frustrating.
35	There was no water pressure in the shower and the walls were paper thin.
36	The room was pretty disgusting. The smell in it was awful. And when I opened the window, all I got was the smell and noise of a generator. I have a high tolerance for gross places and this room was one of the worst.

Q11. Cost of guest rooms (if you stayed at Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	42.7%	90
Above Average	16.1%	34
Average	17.5%	37
Below Average	5.2%	11
Not so Good	2.8%	6
N/A	15.6%	33
Comments		26
<i>answered question</i>		211
<i>skipped question</i>		54

Comments	
1	Las Vegas hotels are certainly more reasonably priced than those in our usual locations.
2	The cheapest hotel by far in my history of attending SSSP conferences. However, food was expensive in LV
3	room rate was excellent. associated costs were terrible.
4	Cheap, but I guess you get what you pay for.

5	It would have been helpful if SSSP notified members that additional fees would be added to the hotel. The reason I stayed at Harrah's was the "affordable" price. unfortunately, I did not realize that many amenities were not included. If I knew I would have to pay \$12 a day for internet, \$25 a day for the work out facilities, etc I would have stayed at another hotel. And given the design of the strip, it was not ideal to walk/ run outside the hotel, so this meant guests would either pay an additional \$100 or not get any physical activity during their stay.
6	The cost was very reasonable.
7	Reasonable once split with other attendees.
8	I want to pay more.
9	The rooms were very inexpensive, but the cost of everything else at the hotel -- and in other hotels -- was very high.
10	The Society should consider we from 3rd or less developed world
11	The only thing in Las Vegas that we found inexpensive. The meeting hotel rate was more than reasonable.
12	The best rate ever particularly as university cut back on travel
13	Did not appreciate the extra charges for the gym and internet
14	really good deal
15	Fantastic price!!!!
16	I don't think I've ever stayed so cheaply at this conference...or many others! That said, the cost of food was a bit much and not great quality (though I also recognize that this is entirely a function of the city we were in). [On the other hand, food at receptions was STELLAR.]
17	I heard the cost was excellent.
18	Would have been willing to pay more for better quality - and rooms at Ceasar's for ASA were not much more expensive, but were MUCH nicer.
19	Cost seemed cheap until you have all the add ons - internet, gym ect. Room is not available on check in (I was jet lagged) and had to wait from noon to almost 5 to get a room.
20	great rate!
21	Below average here means cost below average. For a room cost more similar to other years, could we have stayed in a more pleasant hotel?
22	Room cost was very good. However, the food in that hotel was ridiculously overpriced and there weren't a lot of options available.
23	Casino rooms are overpriced and hard to believe that they gave the group any discounts at all
24	I know a lot of people will complain about staying in Las Vegas, but sociologists need to get over themselves and realize that Las Vegas was one of the only cities in the world that could have handled a conference like this on such short notice.
25	Not sure this response set works. The cost was reasonable, making it good for that reason..
26	No free internet. Long lines at registration desk. Outrageous fees to print airline boarding pass. \$5.00 coke in restaurant.

Q12. Service by hotel staff

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.0%	55
Above Average	20.9%	50
Average	24.7%	59
Below Average	7.9%	19
Not so Good	5.9%	14
N/A	17.6%	42
Comments		26
<i>answered question</i>		239
<i>skipped question</i>		26

Comments (please specify)	
1	THERE WAS NO COFFEE AT ANYTIME! I love a good conference, but if you don't have coffee stocked, for any business occasion anywhere, people become very cranky!
2	Security guard and maintance excellent--front desk information person--terrible

3	Hotel staff overall were friendly. The employee who checked me was friendly and helpful. However, I waited about 30 minutes in line to just check in at the hotel. While they had over a dozen computers, they only had 3 people at the desk. Room service did not always come in until later in the afternoon. This may be good for people who are in Vegas on vacation, but was not conducive to someone on business.
4	Constant problems and poor service.
5	And I quote, "We are not responsible for the behavior of other guests." Read off a card.
6	I had limited contact with the hotel staff, but the person who checked me in was not very pleasant and when I sought help twice from the front desk for various things, they were also unpleasant and unhelpful.
7	To begin with we were given a room overlooking a bar that started its loud music at 9.30pm and finished it at 3.45am. When I approached the hotel staff, we were moved and in 30 minutes were settled in a quiet room.
8	they were fantastic actually. helped me every time i got lost :-)
9	I got a huge run around about trying to get the internet running. Those who cleaned the rooms did an excellent job. The computer technicians were excellent. I loved how they were there as I was setting up and knew how to make my computer talk to the projector!!!
10	Women's restroom did not have any soap on two occasions during midday during conference. Two of us thought that was disgusting in such a posh hotel.
11	Staff was hard to find and not very helpful
12	Responsiveness to requests was poor; technology issues with internet access, television; lobby desk was almost always understaffed.
13	Lobby staff (front desk, concierge, bag check) were offputting and unhelpful. Housekeeping was fantastic, though.
14	Did not stay there.
15	They did not seem interested in helping you - even if it just was to get directions.
16	Rude to out of country guests and those who do not gamble and have a "special high rollers card"
17	registration was a nightmare but my internet was messed up and my room messed up and they did everything to fix it.
18	Just little things, like not removing dirty coffee mugs and replacing coffee. Not a big deal, but most hotels provide more comprehensive room care.
19	Most of the time, at the front desk, there were only one or two people working which made for long lines and wait times. Also, the people at the front desk had bad attitudes and didn't seem to be in any real hurry to accommodate guests.
20	My room was left uncleaned, and they came very late
21	Long wait to check in to hotel-only 2 people on duty and huge lines.
22	Asst manager was very good (moved room for me) but other staff impolite and were seemingly unaware that there was such a thing as internet, and gave incorrect information
23	No wireless Internet access. Made you pay to print boarding passes.
24	Very helpful in changing my room from a noisy to a quiet location.
25	The cleaning service was great, but the front desk was considerable below average.
26	Not good about making small changes to room service menu (blending a soup) -- they always refused.

Q13. Overall Experience of Welcoming Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	16.2%	42
Above Average	12.7%	33
Average	10.0%	26
Below Average	1.5%	4
Not so Good	1.9%	5
N/A	57.5%	149
Comments		25
<i>answered question</i>		259
<i>skipped question</i>		6

Comments	
1	Did not attend
2	The reception didn't seem "put together" rather "thrown" together.
3	good until I had a problem--see above
4	Food was decent. Service was good.
5	I did not attend the welcoming reception.
6	Too early
7	I arrived too late.
8	not enough people on hand to help out
9	Was not welcomed
10	We were surprised that there were no all inclusive introductory and summary sessions for the whole conference group.
11	luckily the bar stayed open but if there is still food and people coming I don't see why it has to be put away.
12	the woman who checked me in called me three times to give me some hot tips on what's going on which i asked her to do...she was really friendly, engaging and interested in our conference.
13	I was unable to make it due to my flight arrival.
14	Not a good room for this.
15	Did not attend
16	Didn't attend.
17	I was not able to attend.
18	Good food
19	Desk was closed on first night reception when we got there.
20	Nice food this year.
21	Could not attend
22	The food was delicious!
23	Slow; once I got to the clerk, it all went well.
24	lines far too long
25	didn't attend

Q14. Overall Experience of New Member Breakfast

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	10.2%	26
Above Average	4.3%	11
Average	1.6%	4
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	83.9%	214
Comments		20
<i>answered question</i>		255
<i>skipped question</i>		10

Comments	
1	Made some very good mentors.
2	Did not attend.
3	I wasn't able to attend the new member breakfast.
4	Without real connections
5	I arrived too late.
6	did not attend
7	This was a great idea! The turnout was terrific and there was a lot of interaction.
8	I liked the fact that faculty and graduate students mingled and faculty reached out to graduate students. I'm a new member and a graduate student so I appreciated that.
9	It was wonderful! I met some great people and felt very welcome at SSSP. I'll definitely be coming to future meetings and renewing my membership!

10	did not attend
11	Did not attend - it was too early in the morning for me, especially after traveling.
12	I was not expecting such a large turnout. It was great!!
13	Wish there was one when I started
14	Didn't attend.
15	I am not a new member.
16	Great attendance, nice event. Definitely a keeper.
17	Could not attend
18	I did not attend the new member breakfast because I did not arrive in Las Vegas in time for it.
19	didnt have it
20	didn't attend

Q15. Overall Experience of Division-Sponsored Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.6%	52
Above Average	10.3%	26
Average	6.7%	17
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.8%	2
N/A	60.9%	154
Comments		26
<i>answered question</i>		253
<i>skipped question</i>		12

Comments	
1	The joint receptions results in better food it seems and so long as there is a large enough space and tables, it allows division members to hang out together. The space was substantially larger than last years space if I remember correctly.
2	did not attend
3	I would actually like to discuss my experience in my divisional meeting. The elder members (2) that attended the sexualities divisional meeting, ONE member in particular, told me I would not garner any respect at this conference due to my undergraduate status. I felt so frustrated and embarrassed as a new member trying to get involved, that I opted to NOT ATTEND the rest of the conference for fear that I would be berated wherever I went. My paper was about educational reform from an undergrad perspective, and all these "sociologists" complain that their students don't get involved. I came, I got involved, and the new members WERE NOT RECEPTIVE TO ME!!!! I WILL be re-editing my paper and re-presenting at a conference where I will be welcomed genuinely with respect and openmindedness.
4	My session competed with this.
5	This was really nice. Food was great. Liked that it was not a cash bar.
6	I did not attend.
7	Not relevant to Teaching SP
8	wonderful to make contacts!
9	in a hotel lounge -- too noisy to even talk
10	did not attend
11	Did not get to go because I was moving to another hotel.
12	Excellent food and drink
13	The co-sponsored reception is a good idea
14	There was really nothing about the schedule or the room layout which facilitated meeting new people, nothing to identify people by their divisions, no round of introductions, something like this would be helpful.
15	Didn't appreciate the "uniforms" worn by the servers at Toby Keith's (grad student social). Ass-less chaps don't exactly match my feminist ideals.
16	This was the first time that I attended the division reception and a division meeting. I met a chair of a division last year who has become a wonderful mentor who has gotten me more involved in the organization. I will definitely do this again!

17	Did not attend.
18	Ran between three different conferences. Couldn't attend everything I would have liked.
19	The highlight of the conference
20	I liked that there were tables so people could sit and talk (and eat) comfortably -- which is not always the case.
21	Didn't attend.
22	I did not attend.
23	very nice to meet people, perhaps complaining that there was not enough food (it was mostly gone early on) is silly, but that is what happened
24	Very good food.
25	I did not attend this reception
26	Terrific food. Great job.

Q16. Overall Experience of Reception honoring our Past Presidents

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	8.4%	21
Above Average	8.4%	21
Average	5.2%	13
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	78.0%	195
Comments		15
<i>answered question</i>		250
<i>skipped question</i>		15

Comments	
1	Did not attend.
2	did not attend
3	Did not attend
4	I did not attend.
5	did not attend
6	The food was great, and the service excellent. A really good opportunity to meet and talk with people outside the formal sessions.
7	That strikes me as a boring reception so I did not attend.
8	I like that it is open to all now.
9	did not attend
10	Did not attend. Many of these events you are asking about happened at the same time as SSSI or ASA events.
11	Didn't attend.
12	I did not attend.
13	I did not attend this reception.
14	didnt attend
15	didn't attend

Q17. Overall Experience of Awards Banquet

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	15.8%	40
Above Average	7.5%	19
Average	3.6%	9
Below Average	1.2%	3
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	71.9%	182
Comments		27
<i>answered question</i>		253
<i>skipped question</i>		12

Comments	
1	I thought the food was ho hum compared to last year's. Our table was not served tea or coffee nor were we made aware whether there was any. Overall disappointing but our division members occupied 2 or more tables.
2	I did NOT attend awards banquet because other members had given me a very very rude welcoming. I am strongly discouraged to NOT continue my membership with SSSP because I do not wish to be associated with an organization that does not honor its mission towards accepting new research.
3	Food was less good than Atlanta. Nice that speeches were kept short. Keep going in that direction. We didn't get any coffee at our table. :(
4	Did not attend.
5	It was a great opportunity to meet other SSSP members, and to hear about all the award recipients as well. The food was great!
6	Very special evening for me.
7	I essentially only attended the Past President's reception and awards banquet and found both of these up to SSSP's general high standards.
8	did not attend
9	Food was average.
10	Thank you for catering so well for vegetarians. The selection and quality of food was excellent
11	Wish I could have gone!
12	The awards banquet was SPECTACULAR!! I found it to be very inspiring and rejuvenating!!
13	It was great seeing a local SWOP receive the social action award
14	did not attend
15	I attended this banquet last year because I had a free ticket. I could not afford to pay \$60 to attend this year. I think for students, that is a very expensive price and the organization should consider offering a reduced price.
16	First time, but...WOW! Just incredible! Will make a point of attending whenever possible from now on!
17	Did not attend - attended SSSI Awards Banquet
18	Very good food. Nice atmosphere.
19	During grad student awards, students were not visible, so I don't feel they were adequately recognized, which is a major part of the banquet. I know they were all asked to stand at the end, but then one could not recognize the division they were being honored for.
20	Didn't attend.
21	I did not attend.
22	terrible food and expensive drinks
23	I usually don't attend SSSP Awards Banquets because I cannot afford a ticket.
24	I did not attend this banquet.
25	didnt attend
26	didn't attend
27	It would be great if the award recipients (especially students) could also get an opportunity to be seen. Maybe, have one student representative to give a thank you speech for their presence to be more visible.

Q18. Days you attended the annual meeting (select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Thursday	41.4%	108
Friday	83.5%	218
Saturday	85.1%	222
Sunday	61.3%	160
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Q19. The SSSP strives to ensure that meeting facilities are accessible to all, including people with disabilities, health challenges, or other differences. If you had any difficulty at the conference due to such an issue, or if you noted something that could be a problem for others, please share that information here. You may also wish to inform us of some accommodation or access that worked particularly well. If you wish to share more about your concerns with the Chair of the SSSP's Accessibility Committee, we would welcome hearing from you.

Answer Options	Response Count
	39
<i>answered question</i>	39
<i>skipped question</i>	226

Response Text	
1	There was no gender-neutral bathroom. I was unhappy that when the SSSP President-Elect sought to remedy this by simply putting a sign on one bathroom designating it gender-neutral, Harrah's demanded that the sign be removed. It's odd that in a hotel otherwise seeming to accommodate people fairly well, there was no single-stall, wheelchair accessible, gender neutral bathroom.
2	Noise--too much.
3	I was suffering from bronchitis which was worsened by Harrah's. Vegas is an absolutely awful place for a sociology conference of any sort for a variety of reasons. It was silly for us to move out of Chicago because of labor concerns to go to a place that exploited immigrants and women.
4	At other conferences I attended, we had local "liasons" to help out of towners find local resoruces to help with their stay. Like, we would walk them physically around a conference property (especially in Las Vegas it can be confusing), and also we made resource lists for people who have special health issues/addiction/rehab issues, et cetera.
5	There was no gender neutral bathroom.
6	Encourage large - print copies of papers?
7	Although it is not a "disability", I did find the smoking within the hotel's casino areas to be somewhat uncomfortable. Other hotels with bigger areas did not seem to have this issue (Cesar's for example). Although I did not spend any time in the hotel casino, just walking through the casino to get outside meant that my clothes and hair smelled like smoke. For those with asthma or other health issues, I imagine this would present a challenge.
8	None
9	None.
10	None
11	The comment is directed at the conference site. I understand if was beyond your control but Vegas is not the place for a conference especially SSSP. I believe it affected the intimacy of the conference and networking that goes along with SSSP
12	None
13	We did not meet people with intellectual disability at the conference which seems odd given that our work should be inclusive.

14	Michele and Hector did an outstanding job, as usual. The problems with the hotel that I experienced were not their fault. They did great, given the constraints in which they worked to find an alternate site once Chicago was cancelled. I just hope we never return to Las Vegas again. What a depressing place -- incredible human exploitation and totally unsustainable environmentally.
15	Going through smoke-filled areas were problematic for me since I have asthma.
16	let's hope we never have to go to vegas again...
17	See comment above about the excellent catering for vegetarians. As we moved around Las Vegas outside the meeting, we found that special diets were not generally well catered for. This realization made the excellent provision within the SSSP meeting events even more impressive.
18	There was too much smoke in the air. It affected my breathing.
19	No soap in women's bathrooms on two occasions. That is not acceptable in such any place.
20	I think Vegas in general is a tough place for people with limited mobility, lung/breathing difficulties. It is not meant for people who need direct, easy routes from one place to another, or for those who like to breathe fresh air.
21	n/a
22	The smoke in the atmosphere on ground floor gave me a nose bleed. The noise of the machines was very disconcerting. The presence of so much alcohol being carried around could be a problem for members in early recovery from alcoholism, or perhaps other addictions. Also, the climate in August in NV could be incredibly bad for folks with bad hearts. Though I do not have a serious arrhythmia, I did notice that it kicked up when I went outside.
23	I was not a fan of the meetings taking place in a smoke environment.
24	As someone with some mobility issues (bad knees) the venue was sometimes difficult to manage, i.e. the distance to the actual meeting area from rooms and taxis.
25	I resented walking through smokey loud Casinos to go any place.
26	A type of access problem: no WiFi in the hotel! I use an iPad, and can only connect to the Internet with WiFi. I and many of my colleagues all had to troop over to McDonald's next door to check email.
27	I have breathing concerns and Las Vegas is not a hospitable place for those who have issues with smoking. That being said, the conference area was adequately ventilated. It was only walking through the casino that was problematic.
28	The only issue that I had, which I found is common in hotel casinos in Las Vegas, is the prevalence of cigarette smoke in the downstairs area around the casino.
29	n/a
30	Smoking was disgusting, the smoke permeated the carpeting and smelled.
31	No gender neutral bathroom was an issue
32	It seemed difficult to weave through the casino to find an elevator to get upstairs, although I do not have any accessibility issues but I imagine for someone with physical accessibility concerns it would have been a challenge.
33	Being around cigarette smoke was a constant complaint among many of the attendees that I talked to, noting a person with an allergy to smoke, and several people with asthma. Even though the rooms were non-smoking, all of my clothes in my suitcase were filled with a smoky smell. Being around all of the smoke was the only negative about the conference.
34	Some concerns that occurred to me but which might not have affected me: smokiness in much of the hotel/casino. However, I very much liked that the speakers platform at the dinner was accessible, though a ramp would have been fine; the lift saves space, I suppose.
35	Noise from the nightclub outside is very disturbing at 3 AM.
36	N/A
37	Too smoky; couldn't exit hotel onto the strip without breathing in second-hand smoke
38	They worked well re: getting me an accessible room, which was very nice. Thank you.
39	n/a

Q20. 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
	91
<i>answered question</i>	91
<i>skipped question</i>	174

Comments	
1	more vegan options
2	As I'm sure many have noted, Las Vegas makes for an odd conference experience. The conference itself was fine, but everyone seemed a bit overwhelmed. Something I've noticed since the replacement of the more dance-party style AIDS benefits with the \$50-donation-to-attend style benefits is that some of the sense of fun and camaraderie of the meetings has been lost. I know the old parties were a hassle to arrange, but the tradition of having the president run the auction was always entertaining, and the year we had karaoke went over particularly well. The \$50-per-person benefits have been small and sedate. Perhaps there's a middle option--some sort of contest (karaoke, silly talent, fake research proposal) plus a more modest auction?
3	You did a great job in securing space on short notice but I do hope we are able to get better quarters in the future. Maybe ASA has to do a better job of pre-screening its hotels for contract issues.
4	I think that this was an outstanding venue and sincerely hope that you consider Las Vegas for future conferences.
5	Try to work with the conference site for better technology. Avoid places that objectify women and exploit vulnerable populations.
6	Yes, please tell your senior members not to berate, belittle, criticize, turn attitude towards, or to get angry with the undergraduate students who presented. It was EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING being one of the youngest new members there, and to have the academic community, which I aspire to be a part of one day, to totally disregard by research. If this sort of situation happens again, I will be doing a new study into a new phenomenon: educators really don't care about students and their accomplishments, and how undergraduates can gain respect. I had not felt so disrespected by any academic group UNTIL I attended the SSSP conference this year. I have now redefined by career path, and do NOT want to be part of the academic institution or groups affiliated with academic research that do not honor their mission statements. I was extremely hurt, frustrated, and at a loss for communication to compromise with such critical individuals. I guess this was my wake up call about how the academic community's politics work. Please contact me for any follow-up questions, as I feel my opinion MUST be taken into consideration for next year.
7	More coffee services would have been nice.
8	SSSP does a good job. Major problems are low session attendance and ties to ASA. Las Vegas was an awful place to meet. I won't attend if there in future.
9	Las Vegas is not the best place for a scholarly conference, in my opinion.
10	For one of the sessions I presented at, neither the organizer nor the presider showed up. None of the presenters had a laptop, so we had to borrow one from an audience member. It worked fine, but obviously was not ideal. I wonder if organizers can be encouraged to communicate with the panelists if they are unable to attend? I expect they are already encouraged to, but perhaps the message needs to be more forceful?
11	Pick a hotel that's less creepy.
12	Offer free coffee/tea
13	I would prefer non smoking hotels for our conferences.
14	One improvement would be to NEVER have the conference in Las Vegas strip again. I understand SSSP is somewhat constrained by where they have conferences, and the unique circumstances. One of the main reasons I submitted a paper to SSSP was the location in Chicago. The Chicago hotel workers have been on strike for years, and I would imagine ASA/SSSP would have been aware of this well in advance so that alternative plans could have been made to find a nicer conference location than the strip. I know the numbers were up this year at the conference, but attendance in the actual sessions were low (at least at the sessions I attended) and at the business meetings. I wonder if most people use the

	<p>conference as an opportunity to present and go on vacation. Or perhaps the low numbers in sessions has to do with the conference being held at the same time as ASA. I think it would be useful to find out how many people attend both ASA and SSSP and what sessions they attend. Since SSSP does not require a full paper, it would seem that people present their paper at SSSP (and get support from their institutions to attend the conference) but then actually attend sessions at ASA. Perhaps requiring a full paper would be something to consider. Graduate students/ undergraduate students could submit abstracts to special "student" oriented sessions if that is of a concern. I have attended SSSP in the past and in the early 2000s it seemed that the attendance was better, sessions were more dynamic. Some of this may be because ASA has become a bit more welcoming to more "progressive" oriented sessions and now people are moving to ASA. It seems that there is a competitive relationship, rather than cooperative relationship between the organizations. Most of my colleagues from graduate school (who do very progressive, social justice oriented work) no longer attend SSSP and only attend ASA. When I asked why they did not attend SSSP, the responses ranged from not having time to attend both conferences, not having money to pay for 2 conference registration fees, or they are able to find sessions at ASA to submit their papers, and in some cases their departments encouraged them to attend ASA. It was quite discouraging to present at a conference where there were only 2 people in the audience. It seemed like a waste of time and resources, in that respect. If that is the experience of many other conference attendees, I can see why people would chose to attend and present at ASA over SSSP. The organization should work more to integrate with ASA rather than exist separately from ASA so that people do not feel the need to chose between the two. Or, as it happens now, people present at SSSP but attend ASA. The timing of the conference was also not ideal. For those who work for campuses whose semester began on that Monday, having the conference the weekend before the semester starts presents a challenge. In the future, having the conference earlier in August is ideal.</p>
15	Michele K. and Javier T did a wonderful job with this year's annual meeting.!!
16	I really wish we could have been in Chicago, but understand why the change occurred.
17	I had two ASL interpreters and they both were outstanding!!! Truly appreciate SSSP's services and Michelle Koontz. She has done a great job to ensure that the interpreting agency and SSSP were
18	Oh, please, stay away from Las Vegas.
19	Vegas wasn't an ideal venue for an academic conference. Transport is difficult, access to basic services like printing/accessing a phone shop to resolve a problem with my cell phone/ buying an extra flashdrive all proved onerous and detracted from my experience. I spent more time figuring that out than actually attending sessions etc Also the fact that Harrah's did not offer free internet was problematic.
20	1. Go beyond Sociology, towards Social Sciences. 2. Work more internationally then Locally. 3. Combine research and teaching.
21	never, ever, book again in Las Vegas.
22	Wondered why we didn't have a gender-neutral bathroom like ASA did.
23	Please do not expose me to a hotel like this in the future. I am aware of the constraints the society faced due to the Chicago move. However I do not want snking hotel with children next to gambling parents and other guests who are basically there to lose control. Again this was not a conference hotel. No water in sessions. Very little support from hotel staff and the opposite of what the society strives for.
24	I am of the opinion that the hotel used for this year's conference was unsuitable as there were too many distractions - noise, casino, etc, etc.
25	I believe in other years more group activities were planned and perhaps this is a result of the conference site. I would like to see more events that get researchers knowing each other
26	As always SSSP was a very interesting, well-organized and informative conference. I wish the conference site would have been a non-casino hotel (nothing against casinos) that would have allowed for more informal gatherings without the crowds and constant noise of the slot machines.
27	We would like to get involved in our group which was disability and think we could be supportive but we are based in UK so don't really know how we can do that. we were really impressed overall with the conference and would like to become more involved and involve our partners with intellectual disability here from Manchester, UK.
28	I would prefer not to have the SSSP meeting in Las Vegas again.
29	I might be a *little* bit biased, but I think that the meeting this year was the best yet.
30	Need to hold fewer paper sessions. The sessions I attended (except 1) were poorly attended.
31	Coffee service in the afternoons would be nice.

32	SSSP is often more welcoming than ASA so that is good. I guess harrah's was a deal relative to Caesar's but we decided to cancel the harrha's reservation b/c we use things like Internet for job stuff and as grad students can't afford \$15/day/computer. perhaps once the regualkr room block is sold out, other hotels or different types of options can be listed on the site. we statted in lovely condos for 1/3 price. If there is ever another emeergency situation like what happened with CHicago, please try to make ASA only consider places that are not over 100 degrees in August. Or at least are cheaper. Atlanta was hot but had so many cheap accessible options and relatively more dining options. but it certainly was an experience!
33	can we have a conference call to talk about this
34	I love that the meeting was in Las Vegas this year. I hope to see future meetings in the same location! Definitely one of the more affordable and accessible SSSP meetings I have attended.
35	presiders need to be clear in advance about the length of presentations and hold to that.
36	I attended the pre-meeting workshop run by the IE Division. If there is an opportunity to attach similar events to future meetings (either as pre- or post-meeting) then I encourage the meeting organizers to support those. It was an excellent opportunity to maximize the conversations and research related work for those who have to travel to attend.
37	Although some people complained about LV (gambling, city sites, cig smoking, etc.) I thought these meeting were well attended and LV was interesting in terms of the impact of the financial crisis. I have no complaints and these meetings were excellent. The executive office does a very fine job each year
38	common problem is sessions running consecutively with others that peek my interest. thats a common theme for most conferences, so nothing major. i will say the conference shouldnt be scheduled in vegas... ever...again. seriously...ever...evvver again.
39	Have computer technicians at the ready as the ones in LV were. Make space for the Institutional Ethnography workshop to be before the conference, not after.
40	I would love it if we could hold conference in a more progressive location.
41	Bad location
42	I did not like the large hotel environment. It was difficut to get from place to place. I also did not like LV; no city, all hotel.
43	n/a
44	Please, please never have a conference in Las Vegas ever again. While the mass exploitation of the place makes for something interesting to think about, I didn't enjoy being a part of it.
45	As always, I enjoyed the portions of the annual meeting I attended and found colleagues receptive and supportive.
46	Do not return to Las Vegas....
47	Encourage the site team to chose a locale closer to other sociological conferences and that is a newer/better space.
48	Meeting was fabulous. Networking great. Sessions high quality. Particularly enjoyed the video screenings. Food good. Just please, don't go to Las Vegas again. Larger atmosphere very bizarre. However, I guess social problems-oriented sociologist benefit from seeing the environmental devastation up close.
49	Thank-you. Job well done again.
50	Wireless Internet at a conference should be mandatory.
51	Especially in las Vegas, it is important to have rooms with small refrigerators and microwaves. Buying food at the conference was prohibitively expensive (especially for a graduate student), and it pained me in more ways than one to have to throw away leftovers before leaving a restaurant. In the future, hotel rooms with refrigerators would be fantastic, and microwaves a bonus. Additionally, it would be great to have rooms with a desk in them, rather than a small round table that made it difficult to work on a laptop.
52	Unfortunately the sessions were so poorly attended that I could not justify the time and expense of attending again. Also, while it is essential to get PhD students presenting, the number of quality academic papers was very limited. In this sense I did not find the conference as stimulating or academically engaged as I would have hoped.
53	I know there are a lot of disgruntled Sociologists in regards to the meeting location. I had a great time in Vegas. The hotel staff was extremely friendly, courteous and helpful. The room prices were completely affordable for my grad student budget. The Las Vegas strip has its issues but I don't think we should over look the kindness and hospitality Las Vegas offered us....
54	Just a HUGE HUGE thank you to Javier for his excellent vision and work!

55	Perhaps next year, there could be a sociological discussion or a panel or something on the meetings taking place in Vegas. I saw two articles on the topic: one posted on Higher Ed and the other in the Vegas paper. It would be interesting to have some scholars talk about the exploitation, consumerism, etc that both sides talked about.
56	An hour and forty minutes is too long for a session. It is a huge commitment, especially if you are only interested in one of the talks. Then you don't want to leave if you are the only audience member, so you might not attend at all because it is such a long commitment
57	Don't go back to Las Vegas.
58	I think the meeting is always done in such a way that you really look forward to attending the following year. I even recruited potential new members while at the ASA meetings.
59	Information for new members and encouragement on what to attend as a new member would have helped me to choose to attend more receptions, etc.
60	given my experience this year, I don't think I will attend
61	I love the support and encouragement from the SSSP, but I am often discouraged by the lack of attendance by non-presenters in many of the sessions I attend. Also when I present, there is an overall lack of critical feedback that helps me advance my thinking/work. I am not looking for negative criticism, of course, but I wish the audience would offer more in guidance to advance my work.
62	Never never in Vegas . . . we could have been in Chicago, wow.
63	DO NOT go to Las Vegas or use Harrah's again. It would have been much better to stay in Chicago per the original plan, esp. since there was no labor problem with SSSP hotel there.
64	Las Vegas is not a good setting for a serious conference. Sociologically fascinating, but I hope we don't meet there again. As one who researches addiction issues, I wonder about the environment for colleagues who may be in recovery. Also, it was hard to get good meals in the time available, what with casinos everywhere between us and wherever we wanted to go. Still, I appreciate that SSSP honored the labor union in Chicago and I understand that Vegas was not the first choice.
65	We need to reduce the overlap with ASA meeting. Our sessions attendance is reduced by the overlap.
66	Please don't go back to Vegas again. If Vegas has to be used, please book a different hotel.
67	Continue discussions which prompt conversations between academics/social workers/community activists, etc. Continue focus on both international and "U.S.-based" research. Workshops on methodology/public sociology/service sociology geared towards graduate students who are both pre- and "during" the dissertation phase of their respective programs. I greatly enjoyed the meeting and look forward to attending again in the future! Thank you to all who worked so hard to put it together. Your efforts were greatly appreciated!
68	better organization of the program
69	The low turnout at sessions continues to be a problem.
70	I really like SSSP. It is very welcoming and open to graduate students. There needs to be more space for people to hang out and connect. Harrah's was awful. There was little space to hang out.
71	Honestly, I will never go back to Las Vegas
72	Never hold meetings in summer when average temp is 105.
73	never hold meetings again in Las Vegas. I understand the emergency need this year but it was an awful location
74	Really need to be sure we have decent and free wifi negotiated. Many people are only using iPads or similar devices at conferences now.
75	* This was the hotel from hell, and ruined totally the experience of the meetings for me * Sessions were poorly attended, in several more persons in front than in the audience, which is a downward spiral for the organization -- I will reevaluate if I want to attend in the future * are topics and sessions going in the right direction? Has the organization lost focus? This is related to above, but goes further, several of the topics are ingroup and inbred and will not attract larger audience (no one from ASA seemed to attend, even with overlap in meeting days)
76	It was a probably a bad idea to move the conference to Vegas because of a labor dispute. Labor is not great in Vegas. Vegas, I feel, also proved to be a great distraction for attendees. Sessions I attended were primarily also attended only by presenters and their friends. If SSSP is serious, they should think about moving to an online conference. Save the jet fuel and additional costs. People can prepare 15-minute YouTube-style presentations, post them on a

	secure website with a comments section under each video. People could then view sessions that normally occur whenever they choose, post considered comments, etc. Presentations would be preserved in perpetuity. The tech now makes it easy, all you need is a Flip cam. What you'd lose in quantity of discussion you would gain in quality. It would also allow people who can't afford to travel to participate. I know I would like to be able to access presentations that occurred simultaneously this year or that I missed last year. I know I'd rather give my money to Heifer than Harrah's. I don't know if I'll attend again. Thanks.
77	I really enjoy the SSSP conference as audience members are generally interested to hear presentations and provide valuable feedback in ways I do not see at ASA. Nice job with the annual meeting.
78	I wouldn't mind having the conference in Las Vegas again. Given how many conferences there are in the United States, we probably would need to invent a place like Las Vegas to keep tourists interested.
79	Given the circumstances, these meetings were superbly managed. I probably would never go to Las Vegas on my own, but if meetings were held here in the future and organized in a similar fashion, with close proximity to ASA and low cost, I would definitely attend. Thank you Michele, Hector and everyone else!
80	Not at this point.
81	Of course, Vegas was a backup plan. There's a reason (actually, several) there has never really been any conferences there.
82	Let's try to avoid Las Vegas, Also, can we have free coffee or tea near the sessions?
83	Attendance in the sessions I attended was low.
84	More/better signs in the physical space.
85	Better coordination with ASA and other groups
86	Moving from Chicago to Las Vegas was a horrible decision.
87	The presider of our session did not show up. We waited for some time and had to organize ourselves. It happened last year, too.
88	N/A
89	This program seemed thin and a bit weak. My suggestion is to try and get back to SSSP's roots. Discourage "public health" and "social work" papers masquerading as sociology. Also, I think the theme of the conference - "Service Sociology" was really terrible. This only encouraged uncritical sociology; I assumed SSSP was where the critical thinking happened but I'm beginning to think not.
90	Please stop overlapping with ASA for 2 whole days. It was much better when we only overlapped 1 day. Too many people have stopped coming to SSSP because of the inconvenience, and I am leaning in that direction myself.
91	most of my comments are related to the meeting being in Vegas which won't apply to conference next year.