

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS



2012 ANNUAL MEETING

SURVEY RESULTS

Registrants: 718
Surveys completed: 221
Participation Rate: 31% (down 6% from 2011)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

9/24/2012

This is a summary report of the 2012 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	53.2%	117
Above Average	25.9%	57
Average	15.0%	33
Below Average	0.9%	2
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	4.5%	10
Comments		11
answered question		220
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	ASA does a lot better -- its cumbersome to "scroll through" a pdf file...
2	As a first-timer user and registrant it was all sort of confusing.
3	hotel was a good choice
4	I don't remember
5	Did not use.
6	I did not try
7	It was confusing to find sessions, and I had better luck searching by last name.
8	It would be really helpful to have a direct link on the front page in the couple months prior to the meeting
9	Took me awhile to locate the program/s. I was looking for a link that would take me to a full program of everything (events/sessions/banquet, etc.) rather than having to navigate multiple links for different categories of events.
10	thanks for being so effective!
11	Something more interactive and easily searchable/browse-able than a pdf would be useful.

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

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	64.5%	142
Above Average	19.5%	43
Average	10.9%	24
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	4.1%	9
Comments		3
answered question		220
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	I couldn't figure it out at all and had to register at the conference.
2	registered on site.
3	No problems. Very easy and efficient.

Q3. Ease of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	43.2%	95
Above Average	11.4%	25
Average	4.1%	9
Below Average	1.4%	3
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	39.5%	87
Comments		11
answered question		220
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	They were very helpful and made it easy.
2	I couldn't find the registration table as it looked like it was part of the book sales. Had to ask someone where it was.
3	Was not stated on the website where the registration would be. Was directed to wrong set of meeting rooms by hotel staff.
4	Hotel didn't clearly mark where it was.
5	Friendly people at registration was a real plus!!
6	it was difficult finding the registration table.
7	I used both because I need to buy banquet tickets.
8	I wish registration had gone later on Wednesday. We did not arrive till halfway through the reception, and would have loved to register then to have our badges for the reception.
9	the staff are always so welcoming and helpful!
10	Had to ask hotel official where registration. Would have liked more signage (or I just missed the obvious signage and you can disregard this!)
11	I couldn't figure out where it was even when I was in the same room

Q4. Location of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	49.5%	109
Above Average	23.2%	51
Average	15.9%	35
Below Average	3.2%	7
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	7.3%	16
Comments		25
answered question		220
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	much better general space than say last year in Las Vegas.
2	I got lost because there weren't enough signs to tell me where the registration area was... I ended up asking people, but a few more signs on ground level would have been helpful.
3	A bit difficult to locate, particularly challenging going between the different buildings

4	Signage on the registration table could have been helpful.
5	It was hard to find because it was visually behind the book table.
6	As above
7	Hotel was a bit expensive
8	It was difficult to find the registration area, and the split between the two buildings was confusing. I think this could have been fixed very simply with more signs pointing the way.
9	Denver is very accessible; no hills, well kept sidewalks
10	Perhaps some more signs directing people to the registration table would be helpful in the case that registration is not on the main floor of entry into the building
11	hidden.
12	It was difficult to find - hidden behind the book exhibit with inadequate signage.
13	Was not stated on the website where the registration would be. Was directed to wrong set of meeting rooms by hotel staff.
14	I was escorted by someone who already knew the location.
15	I would like us to branch out and meet in different cities/areas. I feel like we keep returning to the same places - LA, Chicago, NY, San Francisco, etc. There are many other cities which have cultural and social venues we should experience.
16	Somewhat difficult to find, had to rely on word-of-mouth instructions from other members as signage was unclear.
17	A little tricky to find.
18	Hotel didn't clearly mark where it was
19	Perhaps registration and the book fair could be a little more central to all the meeting rooms--although this is difficult when meetings are on more than one floor.
20	The hotel staff guided me to it, as I missed signs in the lobby
21	Great choice
22	Liked the location but the walk from there to the ASA hotel was too much for a disabled colleague; she had to pay for a cab each time she traveled from one hotel to the other. I'd like to see SSSP and ASA better address the needs of those who have walking limitations.
23	Having the conference activities, including registration, spread out over two places (one inside the hotel, the other next door) was confusing. The signs directing people to the registration location were especially misleading.
24	Hard to walk back & forth to ASA
25	Honestly, given the overlap between ASA and SSSP participants, I would love to see them closer. This was a problem, but a more understandable one, in Vegas as well.

Q5. Clarity of program

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	53.9%	117
Above Average	27.6%	60
Average	14.7%	32
Below Average	2.3%	5
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	0.9%	2
Comments		11
answered question		217
skipped question		4

Comments	
1	Perhaps make the dates bolder at the top of the page to make finding the panels of specific days easier.

2	a bit confusing at first with the two buildings, but once I knew which 2nd floor to go to, everything went smoothly
3	some maps were unclear, as was route to get to other adjacent hotel for meeting locations (at first, before i figured it out on my own)
4	Would it be possible to post abstracts of the various papers online?
5	It can be hard to find information in the actual program. The information about sessions is clear, but the other information--about the hotel and city, about the administration and theme, about child care and accessibility--is dense, crowded, and unclear. Simple graphics and a clear outline of where to find information would be helpful.
6	It was slightly confusing be spit between two buildings
7	Dates/Times not stated clearly on each page, which left me frustrated while flipping between pages...
8	Again, the .pdf version of the program has really improved over the last few years. I sometimes find it a bit confusing to navigate the online program though.
9	Provide formal breaks rather than expecting participants to miss sessions for lunch, etc.
10	these things are always a little complicated
11	A note at the top of each page indicating the day and time of that section would be ever so helpful.
12	I would have also suggested the conference schedule could have been formatted in a word document but given the quantity of sessions, it would take some consulting to figure out the best way to read it and make choices. For me, knowing what sessions are occurring at each time slot and then making my choices, seems to work moderately well.

Q6. Quality of book exhibit

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	11.5%	25
Above Average	18.4%	40
Average	30.9%	67
Below Average	12.4%	27
Not so Good	4.1%	9
N/A	22.6%	49
Comments		23
answered question		217
skipped question		4

Comments	
1	It would be great if it were a bit bigger.
2	small you might include older books and let authors pay the fee and place them there
3	Did not check it out
4	It's really small, but I was impressed this year with the much larger proportion of titles I was interested in.
5	I think the book exhibit is rather sad each year.
6	Didn't stop by the book exhibit
7	There was almost nothing there! I bought a guest pass to the ASA just to go to their book fair.
8	Not much selection, maybe not worth doing since you're always competing with ASA
9	Didn't really check it out
10	SSSP has to find a way to get more exhibitors that specialize in texts about social justice, social problems, and social policy to set up exhibits at SSSP. That, in turn requires a major effort at re-building membership.
11	I thought the placement was good; everyone walked near it. I wish it were a little bigger so that we had more options. I do like that you featured SSSP members.

12	The book exhibit seemed bigger this year, which is good. It's very hard to do the book exhibit because publishers go to ASA.
13	As has happening increasingly over the last few years, this one was very small.
14	I didnt look.
15	I didn't have time to look at it. The program's use of time was almost continuous. too bad there can't be some breaks.
16	It was small, and could there be an area or table that is open for presenters to place their recent books or flyers of their books - not publisher specific but open to all presenters who have published a book with the past 2-3 years.
17	More offerings would be great, and the ability to take with us the book we buy at the time we buy it.
18	Seemed kind of small.
19	But understandable
20	Too few books
21	I'm pleased that we have continued to offer a book exhibit and our exhibitor seems to be enthusiastic about attending our meeting. I hope that the breadth of books to be dsplayed will continue to expand.
22	ASA does the books. Not sure exactly what 'identifies' what we are doing. The C Wright Mills award books ought to be there, and a focus on books by our members?
23	Many wonderful resources but not in particular to my field of research.

Q7. Quality of sessions attended

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	31.2%	69
Above Average	41.6%	92
Average	21.3%	47
Below Average	2.7%	6
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	2.3%	5
Comments		27
answered question		221
skipped question		0

Comments	
1	Ofentimes one or more of the presenters did not attend. The audience members were not made aware of absent speakers ahead of time. I find this problematic.
2	SSSP sessions offers diverse levels of scholarship and topics and ofeten cutting edge topics.
3	I particularly enjoyed the roundtable discussions of activism and research.
4	I have not been to a conference, training or meeting where so little attention is given to the quality of the presentations. Some presenters were engaging and interesting and others very flat and frankly, boring. All rooms should be miked and people required to use them as you never know who has difficulty hearing. Some of the sessions were very hard to hear. The annual business meeting was atrocious in both of these categories--impossible to hear and incredibly dull.
5	I am no longer interested in listening to people report what they hope to do or find. I want completed research.
6	Low attendance in many sessions.
7	Really high quality research - much of it presented by graduate students.
8	This varied -- some sessions were excellent; others were average
9	I went to one session only, a workshop on getting tenure. It was excellent, but there were few other sessions that addressed topics of interest to me.
10	ASA seems to have taken some of the sessions that would have previously been held at SSSP. We need

	more special sessions and plenary sessions that compete effectively with ASA. This year, for example, the ASA program participants were not very interesting, and SSSP could have benefitted from more interesting plenaries.
11	I wish people had more time to speak!
12	Institutional Ethnography
13	All the panels I attended this year were very interesting.
14	The only negative aspect of the sessions was that there were many no-shows. I am not sure how to prevent that other than have the deadline for submissions and the printing of the program occur closer to the time of the meeting.
15	-5 papers presented per session seems to be excessive, has it been considered to offer 3 per session
16	The attendance at the sessions could have been higher although the papers were good.
17	I suggest showing more movies! I went to two of them and they were AWESOME! Show movies on Friday and Saturday!
18	I only was able to attend two sessions, but both were fantastic.
19	Sessions were not well developed, and many were by graduate students. We want to encourage graduate student participation, however, so perhaps sessions that have a preponderance of graduate student presentations might be better held as roundtables, similar to what is done at the ASA.
20	There are always some presentations that shouldn't have been accepted. This included in my own division, IE
21	sessions were smaller than I had
22	SSSP frankly has gone downhill steadily in last 20 yrs. It has become like all other conferences an exercise in grad students doing papers and non-tenured people
23	Small, but those in attendance were v engaged in the issue and that enabled great discussions, great contacts, great support in the specific areas of interest.
24	I find it very useful when the session organizer gives some opening comments, comments after the presentations about how the papers are linked, and then facilitates the Q&A. This only happened at half the sessions I was at.
25	The session presentations were excellent. However, the sessions were not well attended.
26	Was hoping for more on Social Justice issues,,,,,many sessions on IE.... too many
27	One was excellent - the other was not so good

Q8. Effectiveness of meeting space

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	42.0%	92
Above Average	33.3%	73
Average	21.5%	47
Below Average	0.9%	2
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	1.8%	4
Comments		16
answered question		219
skipped question		2

Comments	
1	Round tables needed to be more spread out
2	See above comments.
3	Lots of outlets available to charge laptops
4	Probably the finest I have ever experienced one of our meetings.
5	The Grand Hyatt in Denver was an exceptionally nice convention hotel.

6	Initially confusing with the two buildings,
7	The meeting rooms this year were very nice -- quiet and comfortable.
8	the two buildings were confusing
9	2 different buildings made it hard to know where the meeting rooms were at first.
10	The need to use two sites is always less effective than one site --I refer in this case to the AT and the main hotel building.
11	I wish the SSSP would take less costly venues and detach itself from the ASA.
12	3 roundtables in one room? really? it just devolved into a contest to see who could talk the loudest to be heard over the noise.
13	Great to have so many tech assistants around to help set up powerpoints!
14	A bit confusing at first with some of the sessions held in the tower.
15	the average is high quality, so we're in great shape!
16	The technology support for sessions was excellent.

Q9. Did you stay at the Grand Hyatt Denver? If so, please answer questions 10 and 11 below.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.4%	95
No	56.6%	124
Comments		57
answered question		219
skipped question		2

If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Grand Hyatt Denver.	
1	I had a pre-purchased package to stay somewhere else; next time, I will stay in the hotel you recommend.
2	Sold out of conference rate -- rather early, too.
3	Too expensive
4	Money. Cheaper to stay with a friend in Denver.
5	Too expensive for graduate students.
6	My department selected the hotel.
7	presenting at other conferences as well and found a more cost efficient option
8	Too expensive
9	Staying with friend elsewhere
10	I stayed at the ASA hotel.
11	price
12	Cheaper roommate situation elsewhere
13	Price, I'm a poor student
14	Cost too high for allotted travel budget at my University
15	Too expensive
16	Cost and full
17	too expensive
18	stayed w/a friend who lives in area
19	I got a less expansive package deal (airfare and hotel) that included a different hotel.
20	Was in Denver for other business, preferred to stay at a hotel that was convenient for both endeavors.
21	Stayed with friends
22	Made arrangements with colleagues who were staying elsewhere, and just let them sort it out.
23	I had limited budget and choice a less expense option.
24	I have a fellowship that paid for me to stay the Hyatt Regency

25	I'm a Denver native, so I stayed with my family
26	My partner had responsibilities at ASA so we stayed there, but next year, if I attend, I will DEFINITELY stay at the SSSP hotel.
27	Spent 9 days in Denver, was located away from downtown
28	Stayed at ASA hotel since I had more scheduled time there.
29	expense
30	Too expensive (limited travel budget)
31	Expense.
32	I had a relative who offered free lodging!
33	Too expensive.
34	Cheaper to stay at the Sheraton down the street.
35	Too Expensive (even with discounted rate). Stayed a few miles away for much cheaper.
36	Stayed at ASA hotel
37	It was too expensive for my travel stipend
38	Stayed at Crowne (ASA) cheaper.
39	too expensive
40	Stayed with family members who live in Denver
41	Found a less expensive room elsewhere using priceline.
42	Too expensive.
43	I think they were booked by the time I tried to find a place
44	Was also presenting at ASA and also found cheaper hotel--sorry:(
45	i live hin the denver area.
46	Only participated in SSSP 1 day and ASA for 5, and it's too much hassle to swap hotels
47	wanted to try something different and cheaper
48	Cost of hotel was higher than my allotted University hotel budget for Denver, CO.
49	Too expensive for an individual, and my work place reimbursements cover only a part of each conference.
50	My roommate for the Denver meetings is not a member of SSSP so she wanted to stay at the ASA hotel.
51	Less expensive rooms elsewhere
52	ASA hotel
53	Price
54	Live locally
55	I stayed at the other Hyatt with a friend.
56	Conference hotels are always too expensive.
57	Could not afford the room rate.

Q10. Quality of guest rooms (if you stayed at Grand Hyatt Denver)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	34.8%	56
Above Average	18.0%	29
Average	4.3%	7
Below Average	2.5%	4
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	40.4%	65
Comments		9
answered question		161
skipped question		60

Comments	
1	my "allergy free" room made me and my roommate sick. We were symptom free when visiting other rooms. :-)
2	Bathroom tub was constantly clogged
3	They never cleaned my room my entire stay at the hotel. I was very disappointed.
4	A little high on the cost side
5	Dirty and smelly.
6	Air conditioning dried out the room to much. Otherwise, everything else was fine
7	Pricy!
8	Very comfortable and had great amenities -- loved having a Kinko's right there to print my slides out before my presentations. Also so nice to be so close to the 16th street mall.
9	I was given a room that must have been smoking room at one time and then covered up with perfume. I complained and then was upgraded, so all turned out well, but Hyatt needs to clean up some of those formerly smoking rooms.

Q11. Cost of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Grand Hyatt Denver)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	10.5%	17
Above Average	12.3%	20
Average	23.5%	38
Below Average	9.3%	15
Not so Good	5.6%	9
N/A	38.9%	63
Comments		13
<i>answered question</i>		162
<i>skipped question</i>		59

Comments	
1	\$210 a night (with taxes) is serious deterrent for attending.
2	expensive!
3	I thought it was expensive.
4	a bit expensive
5	I'm glad my department's paying for my rooms.
6	Was a bit pricey. I roomed with 3 others in order to bring cost down
7	I am not sure what you can do about this. I think \$150 would have been a good price considering ASA was going on at the same time.
8	Expensive. My husband who does meeting planning got this hotel for about \$40 less than what we paid. However, getting the internet for free was a good compromise.
9	Too expensive.
10	My response means that I think the cost was probably as good as can be expected for the quality of service, comfort, etc.
11	see above
12	A very expensive hotel!
13	Terribly expensive. We were able to book a room through the hotel website that was significantly lower than the conference rate. This suggests poor business (on their part, not SSSP). I understand that we are in partnership of sorts with ASA, however the costs of the hotels/cities that they decide are becoming increasingly inaccessible. I am fearful of NY!!

Q12. Service by hotel staff

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	39.6%	76
Above Average	20.3%	39
Average	7.8%	15
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	31.8%	61
Comments		8
answered question		192
skipped question		29

Comments	
1	All the hotel staff were incredibly friendly and helpful. I was very impressed.
2	All staff from front desk and maid service, to bar staff and meeting space service providers were all very helpful and friendly.
3	Dion, in particular, was amazing with his kindness and professionalism!
4	It was very nice that fresh drinking water and glasses were available in each of the session rooms.
5	Staff was very nice and helpful!
6	Very friendly!
7	Help with Audio-visual logistics was excellent
8	Tech people very attentive and helpful.

Q13. Overall experience of Welcoming Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.7%	51
Above Average	13.0%	28
Average	3.3%	7
Below Average	0.0%	0
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	59.5%	128
Comments		19
answered question		215
skipped question		6

Comments	
1	This was nicely done!
2	Came after reception
3	Food was excellent. Drinks were generous for the price.
4	sadly, I missed it! (boo, Delta!)
5	Didn't attend
6	The food was much better than usual at all of the events.
7	Did not attend
8	I didn't attend.
9	Did not attend.

10	Reception was excellent! Appreciated open bar and food was good. Great opportunity to meet with old and new colleagues and friends.
11	I could not make the reception.
12	Everyone was really friendly. I met the President, Wendy at this reception and she was welcoming and showed genuine interest in my work.
13	i missed it.
14	While some people went out of their way to include newcomers, others were cliquish.
15	Didn't attend
16	Name tags would have been nice, for those of us who missed registration. Also the snacks seemed crowded in one corner and were hard to reach.
17	encountered only one unfriendly receptionist, others were great
18	it's always hard when you don't know people - it might be nice if there was more emphasis for organizers to greet unfamiliar faces
19	Did not attend

Q14. Overall experience of New Member Breakfast

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	12.7%	27
Above Average	6.1%	13
Average	2.8%	6
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	77.9%	166
Comments		18
answered question		213
skipped question		8

Comments	
1	I didn't arrive in time!
2	The room was difficult to find so early in the morning. I did not yet have my program with the map of the different rooms so more signs would help.
3	Arrived after breakfast
4	food was good, but choice were very limited. If you don't eat eggs you really only had the option of yogurt.
5	Too early for me
6	Didn't attend
7	Why does breakfast have to come in the morning?;
8	Did not attend
9	Being a new member, i expected to meet and be introduced to a large number of SSSP members, however, as all of us were sitting in round tables, the interaction was difficult. We couldnot intermingle with large number of participants and a good networking opportunity was lost. Next time , I would suggest to have a 'standing' arrangement so that people can move around and meet each other.
10	I had a wonderful time talking with people! I couldn't believe how friendly people were! I LOVE SSSP!
11	Didn't attend.
12	Did not attend.
13	I was not in town yet.
14	I met a lot of new and longtime members at this breakfast, including scholars that have similar research interests as my own.

15	The food was excellent. The interaction was a bit awkward. It's very hard to reach out to some people -- it almost seems like they don't want to be welcomed as a new member!
16	I am so glad this is going well.
17	Didn't attend
18	seating made it awkward as people came in to mingle.

Q15. Overall experience of Division-Sponsored Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	16.4%	35
Above Average	14.0%	30
Average	6.1%	13
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	62.1%	133
Comments		20
answered question		214
skipped question		7

Comments	
1	Really felt welcomed... terrific... especially in the Labor section, but also in the Disability section.
2	Good food and enjoyed the company
3	fabulous and surprising that there was an open bar!
4	Food was very good, everyone remarked on open bar. In fact, people were shocked to find that there was an open bar. Given how much we subsidize that reception we may need to rethink the extent of that service.
5	nice space with great food!!!
6	room a bit small for reception
7	I couldn't attend
8	Didn't attend
9	a bit crowded
10	Did not know they were being held.
11	Didn't attend.
12	Did not attend.
13	Grad student happy hour was great.
14	i met many new people.
15	Too many tables -- everyone was sitting which prohibited mingling.
16	Didn't attend
17	I'm sorry I was not able to attend.
18	Established great contacts.
19	food ran out fast - I left immediately after arriving (1/2 way through event)
20	Table seating created a static environment with little mingling beyond one's table. Need more open space to allow for brief visits. Consider tall tables with no chairs to allow space for eating/placing drinks but still promote socializing.

Q16. Overall experience of Reception honoring Michele Koontz and our Past Presidents

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.7%	45
Above Average	9.7%	21
Average	5.5%	12
Below Average	1.4%	3
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	61.8%	134
Comments		28
answered question		217
skipped question		4

Comments	
1	It was a bit difficult to find the servers. Sometimes there were 8 people between you and the food and you just could not get to them. The event itself was very nice, and it was good for people to get a chance to publicly express their gratitude to Michele.
2	GREAT atmosphere and people, but the location of the food (right by the stairs) made it very difficult to mingle and nibble.
3	again the room was a bit small for # in attendance
4	what a pleasure to hear the testimonials about how important Michele Koontz is to this organization!
5	Maybe I'm being harsh. But there were so many people and no mics. I didn't here a word that anyone said.
6	Didn't attend
7	The space was very cramped. Otherwise it was fine.
8	This was good practice for Michele's 50th anniversary.
9	Very moving
10	It was touchy and heartening to see that Michele is dearest to all of us!
11	unfortunately did not attend.
12	Best part of the conference
13	Didn't attend.
14	Did not attend.
15	tight space.
16	But not enough to show Michele how much we appreciate and love her. Could it ever be enough?
17	a little crowded; couldn't hear speakers' remarks.
18	i could not attend
19	It seems that the same hors d'oeuvres were served at the different receptions.
20	Didn't attend
21	food in short supply, long line for what there was. My friends and I gave up and talked to each other, which was fine....but some even gave up on getting to the drinks.
22	Michele has done such an excellent job!
23	Was very sorry to miss honoring Michele.
24	I'm sorry I was not able to attend.
25	Michele should be honored every year
26	a cash bar would have been appropriate for this reception. At times, it was difficult to get food as servers missed some areas and stuck to specific areas that were crowded.
27	The circular staircase blocked off views for 1/2 the room, but otherwise good. Might want to use a mic too at events like that so all could hear better.
28	I was honoured to celebrate Michele! That being said in comparison to the previous receptions, this particular event offered minimal snacks (only important if you were not attending the banquet) and the drinks were very pricey!

Q17. Overall experience of Awards Banquet

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	18.8%	40
Above Average	5.6%	12
Average	4.2%	9
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.9%	2
N/A	70.0%	149
Comments		28
answered question		213
skipped question		8

Comments	
1	Really moving; terrific; made me want to be more involved!
2	The food was good.
3	It was too late for someone like me: who is in bed by 10
4	The turnout was very good. Overall the food was better than most banquets. People commented about enjoying the evening and appreciating being recognized.
5	The nature of the event is good, but some of the acceptance speeches tested the patience, especially in the context of so many prizes.
6	I didn't like the food and the remarks seemed a little long.
7	Didn't attend
8	I don't attend anymore because it is too costly
9	It's expensive so those of us on a budget economize by not attending this.
10	Inspirational. Why SSSP is so special.
11	Great time! Excellent food!
12	Banquet starts late and runs 2 hours.
13	Didn't attend.
14	The food this time was amazing!
15	The cost was high, considering that it was a buffet and that no alcohol was included.
16	Didn't attend
17	A very poor deal for the price. This was perhaps the worst meal I have had at an Awards Banquet. I won't go to the awards banquet again.
18	Overly long this yr.
19	Too expensive to attend
20	The food was great!
21	Completely unaffordable for some people!!
22	So many speeches run for longer than necessary. Important moment for the individuals, to be sure, but the cumulative effect for the audience detracts from experience. Also, consider a large (perhaps projected) list of winners and titles. This would streamline by allowing speaker to just call names, have them stand, and audience can read their titles on the large projection.
23	Time was well managed -- good going to Michele and President
24	food was great. But it's boring to be in a hotel.
25	Could not attend
26	The speeches seemed really long.
27	it was enjoyable but L O N G
28	The food was fantastic--plenty of options for vegetarians like me

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

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Wednesday	35.0%	77
Thursday	76.8%	169
Friday	84.1%	185
Saturday	79.5%	175
answered question		220
skipped question		1

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 accessibility difficulties or if you noted something that could be a problem for others, please share that information here. If you wish to inform us of some accommodation or access that worked particularly well, we would welcome that feedback as well. Also, please feel free to contact the Chair of the SSSP's Accessibility Committee with your concerns.

Answer Options	Response Count
	18
answered question	18
skipped question	203

Comments	
1	Need to work harder on having presenters provide in an accessible way. Good physical access. Appreciated the scent free soaps.
2	I got dizzy at one stage (I have seizures) and didn't know if there was a quiet room where I could have gone... I suspected there mightn't be, but I didn't want a lot of fuss (the stress of which can cause me seizures) so I toughed it out myself. If there had been a first aid/quiet room advertised in the brochure I would have gone there. But organizing it myself, as I started to feel worse, would have been too hard. I left and went back to my hotel to have a seizure.
3	I had a stroke in June, and the round tables were hard for me to concenerate because they were very close together.
4	None
5	Sound, sound, sound! You must make the event accessible to those with hearing impairments. It doesn't just mean availability of interpreters who sign. Lots of people don't sign but can hear just fine if attention is given to audio in the meeting rooms.
6	so glad there are gender-neutral bathrooms available, however the one that was there was often dirty and lacked supplies (soap, towels). needed 1 in each building.
7	It was nice to have the comfort room back. I do, however, realize that it is hard to have it and accommodate every other request for space. I think maybe sometimes other people should be told no, or have less convenience meeting times (very early or much later), in order for the comfort room/quiet zone to be available during the bulk of the day.
8	thanks for having the gender neutral bathroom!
9	THANK YOU for the fragrance-free soap and lotion in the restrooms!
10	Presenters did not make their presentations accessible to a person with a visual disability; a new member who is blind had difficulty making out what was going on at times because presenters showed images and power point slides containing content and did not narrate the slides, making those presentations largely unaccessible to her. We need a cultural shift on these issues if we truly believe in producing social justice

	as an organization.
11	-----
12	I attended one of the disability session, and it was accessible by all means!
13	I'm 75 years old and had no difficulty shuttling back and forth between sessions, including the ASA and SSSP on foot.
14	I have a number of comments. First, I think the members of the Accessibility Committee should be thanked for their efforts in ensuring that a blind attendee was accompanied by Committee members who served as sight guides for three full days of conferencing. Secondly, while I am glad that an accessible, gender-neutral bathroom was available in the Tower facility, I believe the SSSP should write to the Hyatt to urge them to make such a facility available in the main hotel. Navigation to the Tower can be quite difficult for a person with a disability, which presented a problem at the meetings, because sight guides who were not female could not accompany the blind attendee into the bathrooms, which were large, double-doored facilities. I know this proved awkward for her. Thirdly, the ASL interpreters seemed to provide excellent service. I was also glad to see that a comfort zone was available for the entire conference. And finally, an important barrier to access that persists is that few presenters seem to take notice of the accommodation requirements--they do not bring a large-print copy of their presentation with them, they fail to describe charts and images in their PowerPoint presentations for those who have difficulty seeing them, and they turn their back to the audience at times.
15	I appreciate having a gender neutral restroom.
16	the door that was most accessible if coming from the ASA hotel required going up stairs, which isn't great
17	Sessions I attended and presented at were weakly attended (less than 10 people besides presenters) and presentations were very uneven
18	Please see my comments on item four (Basically, that I liked the SSSP hotel but the walk from there to the ASA hotel was too much for a disabled colleague; she had to pay for a cab each time she traveled from one hotel to the other. I'd like to see SSSP and ASA better address the needs of those who have walking limitations.)

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
	53
<i>answered question</i>	53
<i>skipped question</i>	168

Comments	
1	I loved the conference, and I am so glad to have connected with this organization. I wish I'd known about it sooner!
2	I am very supportive of the SSSP in that allows opportunities for presentation of new ideas. I appreciate its democracy and openness.
3	I have twice (Denver and San Francisco) come to give a presentation and was booked on the last day towards the end. In Denver one person came, in San Fran about 4. is this the experience of others booked against the first day of the ASA?
4	While I wore my new member tag, not one person, including the president (who I was in several sessions with) bothered to say hello to me. The exception was a past president at that reception.
5	critical dialogue format is probably great if one requests it. but i was on a panel of eight presenters, all of whom had proposed scholarly presentations and therefore were unwilling or unable to dialogue. don't put presenters on a dialogue panel.

6	I think the staff does a very good job of trying to proactively meet the needs of Society members while keeping the costs to members low. Unfortunately, I think that there are people who always want more, but do not want to experience an increase in fees to accommodate those services. I would like to see Michele, Sharon, and Lisa have some free time during the meetings to enjoy the city, or to socialize with members (if they have any desire to do that).
7	I though the condrence was one of the best I attended; the room were a bet expensive or Denver
8	Organization of the program needs to be improved.
9	My primary concern from year to year is the very low attendance at sessions. It is a serious, endemic problem that likely impacts other aspects of conference experiences, membership, etc. Another serious problem is the high rate of absenteeism or cancellations by session participants, and more generally the unnecessary difficulties of organizing colleagues who have asked or agreed to participate. I haven't noticed meaningful efforts to increase session attendance, decrease absenteeism, or facilitate the filling of holes in the schedule in the months leading up to the conference. The latter could have some relatively easy procedural fixes (as I suggested in Chairs' meeting), but the former problems suggest a need to try to cultivate a culture of SSSP participation, so more people think of SSSP session commitments as real commitments, and attendance as rewarding or at least normal, even when one isn't directly related to session organizing or a session participant.
10	Need to reconsider the number of sessions being held. Too many sessions have tended to dilute the number of session attendees. Also, need to strike a balance in # of papers. Five is too many and less than three is not enough.
11	It was my first meeting and I was very impressed with the quality of the presentations and welcoming feel among attendees.
12	Perhaps the Presdent could have been less inflammatory and dismissive in selecting next year's theme. There are better ways of saying "Let's start something new!" than by implicilty denigrating the best identified and most enduring scholarly theme of the SSSP.
13	I really appreciate the roommate matching service, but I wonder if there's a way to make it a little more efficient (and therefore useful). Rather than simply posting a list of those who said they wanted to participate, can we set up an online forum (perhaps in *conjunction* with the list of names?) to help people out? I contacted several people who said "oh, I already found someone else before the list came out" before I finally found someone interested in splitting a room. (But again, I really do appreciate the matching service!)
14	Substantively, I would, again (I say this every year!), I would like to see some sessions devoted to sociological theory--not just social problems theory. (It's not necessary to contact me about this--I simply wanted to get it into those planning the future Programs)
15	Seems like attendance is down and therefore there is not great discussion at every session.
16	I profoundly appreciate the vibe of the SSSP conference. People are friendly and genuine; that is refreshing and keeps me coming back!
17	Plenaries that are well advertised. A strategy for building membership, especially targeting graduate students and Asst. Prof. through some sort of mentoring program.
18	The conference was wonderful and welcoming for a first-timer. I would love to get involved with SSSP when I finish my classes. It really feels like home.
19	It was great! Wish I could have stayed longer!
20	I had a blast! Great conference! Thank you!
21	Can there be more separation between the ASA and SSSP meetings?
22	I am extremely satisfied with SSSP and their annual meetings, the facilities etc. I have no complaints.
23	Is there a way to increase attendance at some of these sessions? I present my work with hopes of getting feedback. Perhaps some sessions should consider having a discussant.
24	I miss the old fundraiser parties. I also think that new members should receive a little packet about the SSSP that urges them to attend Division meetings, making it clear that grad students can get valuable experience volunteering to organize conference panels, serve as newsletter editors, and then even chair a Division.
25	I really enjoyed it.

26	I would love to see more workshops where we can get hands on training, or popular education style teaching/learning. Other than that, I attended some great sessions this year!
27	This was my first year for this conference and only attended the sessions. Perhaps next year I will be better at navigating and understanding the format of the annual meeting and incorporate attending other functions. I did find the sessions long.
28	Offer more movies!
29	I will be attending in the future! This was a great conference and I really enjoyed presenting my paper.
30	I thought the meeting space and hotel this year were far superior to last year. Also, the location of the hotel in such close proximity to ASA and the convention center was a real plus in terms of convenience.
31	More Silly Ribbons!
32	The registration bags were amazing-really quite unique. The art table was fantastic at registration!! Maybe you could make this a tradition even though it was theme related. SSSP is a very friendly and supportive conference-Thanks!!
33	wat to many meetings on sat. at the same time.it resulted in very small audiance attendence.
34	I was very dismayed at the registration when I was told that my wife, who had paid for a guest registration, would not be allowed in to any of the presentations. This is very unfriendly and perhaps even bad marketing, since now my wife will not consider becoming a member herself. I suggest you think about adopting the ASA policy of allowing guest registrations in to all presentations. (The ASA even allows non-registrants into their sessions, but I'm not recommending that policy.)
35	I thought the issues offered for vote by the SSSP were interesting and important but that the action steps (attacking property tax and education where the issue was mass incarceration and expressing concern about global warming when the issue was damage caused by brush fires) just insulted the intelligence. Where mass incarceration is concerned, there are real issues like mandatory sentencing and racism that could have been a target of SSSP action in a way that would have been appropriate for the history and values orientation of the organization. It just seemed like someone did not do their homework to find the correct focus of action. Brush fires is much tougher since I think the main problem is lenient zoning regulations and that's not exactly a SSSP "thing".
36	I understand the attempt to use conference time efficiently, but I was so sorry to miss the city walking tour. I also missed having lunch several days, as I didn't want to miss sessions. It makes for very tiring days. Could we possibly schedule a break for lunch?
37	It really bothers me that the incoming President chose "Beyond Constructionism" as the theme for the conference in New York city. He is not an expert in the area and largely misunderstands the work that has gone on in constructionism. I do not have a problem with his research, but he should not have attempted to divide scholars in already divisive times.
38	I thought the theme was excellent. It is a topic that does not get enough attention in sociology. The presidential speech was also superb.
39	as above I would like to see SSSP detach itself from its slavish linkage to ASA, and also return to having some vision of leftwing politics
40	The topic for next year is rude to many of us.
41	Some presenters prepared presentations using Prezi or were accessing web files for their presentation. Access to wifi or internet in session rooms is important.
42	Perhaps fewer sessions per time period to increase attendance at each.
43	The food at this year's meetings were excellent - both in the hotel restaurant and throughout the receptions and events. Also, have free access to wi-fi, the work-out room, and the track on the roof were really great benefits! I thought this was an excellent meeting space.
44	This year it was great that the banquet did not conflict with the SSSI banquet. Two years ago this was not the case. Please continue to ensure that there is no banquet conflict. Thank you.
45	The panels have too many presenters so there's no time for questions. 5 presenters it too many - it's really not worth traveling to the conference to give a talk when there's no time for comments. I would suggest 4 presenters, maximum.
46	make it affordable with accommodation; provide breaks, and other areas as noted above.

47	I would like to see the conference become more environmentally friendly. Although SSSP is already better than ASA in this regard, I think one way to reduce our impact is to stop automatically printing programs and giving out bags to each person. Rather, this could be an opt-in choice when you register. I know from my conversations with numerous people that many would choose to not receive the bag or program (if the program is made available electronically as an app). I'm sure there are other ways to improve as well, and if there is a way to form a committee dedicated to this issue that meets at the next meeting, I know people (including myself) would be interested in joining.
48	Thanks so much for another terrific year! Our Exectuive Office is the best I've ever seen!!
49	I love SSSP but the cost is becoming a problem. This is only increased with the influx of registration costs - although I also understand that this is a necessary measure in order to continue to have SSSP.
50	Mainly, I wish the awards part of the banquet was streamlined a bit.
51	the sessions were too short! Each presenter only had about 12 minutes- I much prefer longer sessions.
52	Screen who is allowed to host a session to make sure they're high quality sessions
53	The hotel was great, but it was too expensive!