



# *Social Problems*

*The official journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems*

Becky Pettit, Editor  
University of Washington

To: SSSP Board of Directors  
Editorial and Publications Committee  
Associate Editors  
From: Becky Pettit, Editor, *Social Problems*  
Re: 2011-12 Annual Report  
Date: July 16, 2012

This report documents the activities of the editorial offices and staff at the University of Washington from June 1, 2011-June 30, 2012. I want to begin by thanking you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as Editor of *Social Problems*. I am honored and privileged to have been selected for this position. I find my duties as Editor both rewarding and challenging. I thoroughly enjoy thinking about how to engage and advance the range of scholarship submitted to *Social Problems*. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that the next 2 years will bring.

## Editorial Office

Thanks to Ted Chiricos and his excellent staff, the transition of editorial responsibilities to the University of Washington was seamless. The transition of all editorial activities to the University of Washington was completed on November 1, 2011. Since November, all new and revised manuscripts submitted to *Social Problems* are managed by the editorial office at the University of Washington.

I am fortunate to have the excellent assistance of three part-time staff: Erin Powers, the managing editor; Sarah Diefendorf, the editorial assistant; and Amy Jo Woodruff, the production editor. I feel privileged to have such an extraordinary team and I deeply appreciate the support of the SSSP and the University of Washington, which has enabled me to recruit and retain such talented staff.

The editorial office benefits from the expertise of our five associate editors: Kenneth (Andy) Andrews, Alexes Harris, Jennifer Jordan, Ziad Munson, and Abigail Saguy. More than 50 sociologists serve as advisory editors (listed below). Advisory editors review 2-3 papers per year, provide reviews quickly when necessary, and help to resolve discrepancies in reviews. I have also selected 17 student editors (listed below) from the University of Washington, Washington State University, and the University of British Columbia to assist in the editorial process. I meet with student editors approximately every two weeks to discuss incoming manuscripts and reviews. Student editors have been instrumental in helping to select reviewers and summarizing the comments of external reviewers. They are a vital part of the editorial team.

## Budget

The journal is operating within budget at this time.

## Manuscript Submissions and Processing

The editorial office at the University of Washington has been responsible for 3 full issues of *Social Problems* since our tenure began. The editorial office at FSU was responsible for the November 2011 issue, and we produced the February 2012, May 2012, and August 2012 issues. The August issue is currently in production.

The November 2012 issue is in preparation. The six manuscripts that have been accepted for the November issue are in various stages of editing. We anticipate continuing to publish issues on time and within budget.

We are very proud of the issues that we have produced. We believe they represent the finest scholarship on a broad range of social issues. And, it is our hope that they are of interest, and accessible, to the broad and diverse readership of *Social Problems*.

We are an extremely selective journal, publishing approximately 8 percent of original submissions. All submissions to the journal are initially reviewed by two members of the editorial board (an editorial board member and myself). If a paper is determined to be appropriate for peer review, we solicit the advice of three external reviewers.

Between June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012 we received 292 new submissions to *Social Problems*. 169 were submitted in 2011 and 123 were submitted in 2012. Between January 1 – June 30 of 2012, we received 159 submissions (36 in June). This represents a 29.2% increase in submissions over the same period in 2011. We have managed 385 manuscripts in various stages of review.

Of the 292 new manuscripts submitted between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012, we have made 229 initial decisions. Our average time to decision is 112 days. All manuscripts sent out for review have received at least three peer reviews and most manuscripts have been reviewed by at least one advisory or associate editor. I review all of the materials associated with each manuscript and write all of the decision letters. In the rare cases where I have had a conflict of interest, manuscripts and associated materials have been assigned to an associate editor.

We send approximately 70% of all new manuscripts out for peer review. Of the 292 manuscripts submitted between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012, we did not send 78 manuscripts out for peer review. In other words, 26.7% of all new submissions were “deflected” or “desk rejected”. Our average time to decision on manuscripts not sent out for peer review is 39 days.

We extended “revise and resubmit” decisions to 80 manuscripts sent out for peer review, or 34.9% of manuscripts on which decisions have been made. Our average time to decision for R&Rs is 155 days.

We rejected 71 manuscripts sent out for peer review, or 31.0% of manuscripts on which decisions have been made. Our average time to decision for manuscripts that are rejected with peer review is 144 days.

These numbers are similar to our overall numbers which include manuscripts we received at various stages of review from Florida State University as well as manuscripts received since May 31, 2012. We’ve made a total of 252 decisions. That represents 79 deflections (24.1%; 38.7 days); 90 R&Rs (35.7%; 149.4 days); and 83 rejections (32.9%; 138.3 days).

We are excited about our continuing work on *Social Problems*. We look forward to any comments, suggestions, or feedback that you may have on our editorial process.

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**(NM) = Not a member**

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