

To: SSSP Board of Directors and the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee  
Cc: Alison Griffith, Hector Delgado, Richard Dello Buono, Javier Trevino, and Paul Luken  
From: John Dale, Chair, SSSP Transnational Initiatives Committee  
Date: July 27, 2012

**Re: Report from the Ad Hoc Transnational Initiatives Committee**

On August 19, 2011, at the SSSP Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Alison Griffith, Hector Delgado, Richard Dello Buono, Javier Trevino, Paul Luken\*, and John Dale met to discuss a vision, for and the feasibility of, initiating an effort to attract broader participation in the SSSP from scholars and activists living and working outside the United States. There was general agreement that this might be a fruitful endeavor for our association. Toward this end, our Ad Hoc Committee brainstormed some ideas for gradually fostering, with limited resources, opportunities for strengthening relations with existing SSSP members from countries outside the United States. The aim was to try to implement a series of small initiatives prior to our Annual Meeting scheduled for 2013 in New York.

This report describes the initiatives that are underway, as well as some of the initiatives that we are planning to launch in the coming weeks.

- (1) The Transnational Initiatives Committee will be reaching out to existing international members participating in the 2012 Annual Meeting, asking this year's Division Chairs to provide us with a list of all panelists, organizers, or moderators who contributed to sessions that they sponsored. John Dale will be creating a database of these international members, to be maintained by the Committee in subsequent years, that will enable us to contact them and encourage their future participation – including their involvement in co-organizing panels around topics of transnational interest, serving on award committees, attending the SSSP's annual Award Banquet, and contributing to the SSSP newsletter. We would also like to have *at least* one such member serving on the Transnational Initiatives Committee.
- (2) We also discussed using Facebook on the SSSP website (along with Spanish translations) to maintain contact with these members, and to potentially enhance more widespread interaction within the SSSP between international and non-international members. At this time, however, Facebook traffic in general on the SSSP website appears to be rather limited.
- (3) The Transnational Initiatives Committee determined that it would like to organize for the 2013 Annual Meeting in New York a special one-day Symposium on Human Rights Practice, with an international panel and participants, UN Speaker and presenter, and a local NGO, like the Center for Constitutional Rights, that has been actively engaged in creative and effective human rights campaigns. John Dale and Richard Dello Buono agreed to organize this symposium. We also agreed to talk with the Editor of *Social Problems* about the possibility of their devoting a subsequent special issue of the Journal that would highlight high-quality papers from the Symposium. Such a plan would require a guest co-editor to organize the process of developing the symposium papers into

publishable quality papers that meet the high standards of *Social Problems*. We hope to build on the relations forged with these international participants, as well as expected attendees from the ASA Meeting, to further expand the SSSP's international membership and identity as an organization that is engaged in addressing transnational concerns.

- (4) Beginning 2013, the Transnational Initiatives Committee plans to contribute regularly to the SSSP newsletter. The idea is to provide one article per issue in an international section called "Transnational Engagement." Three articles are already in preparation: the first focuses on Burma/Myanmar in the wake of "Pragmatic Engagement" (following up on an SSSP Resolution in 2010 that endorsed a UN Commission of Inquiry into allegations of human rights violations in that country); and a second on an international university Consortium for Global Problem-Solving that is focusing on the challenge of providing human rights education through collaborative learning in "transnational classrooms"; and a third that focuses on the current state of the UN Treaty Body on Corporate Social Responsibility: An interview with John Ruggie (timed for release for next year's Symposium on Human Rights Practice).
- (5) The Transnational Initiatives Committee has been working with the current Chair of SSSP Global Division Tony Samara to develop a Thematic Session on Human Rights Practice for the 2013 Annual Meeting; and to help contribute news items for the Transnational Engagement section of the Newsletter.

The Transnational Initiatives Committee currently operates without a budget. The initiatives that we are pursuing are dependent on the resources of our volunteers. However, one of these initiatives, the Symposium on Human Rights Practice, may require resources beyond the means of our volunteers. We ask the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee to consider allocating to the Transnational Initiatives Committee a 2013 budget of \$1265.00 to cover the following anticipated expenses:

- (1) A full page ad in the May issue of *Social Problems* advertising the Symposium on Human Rights Practice that we will be organizing in conjunction with the SSSP 2013 Annual Meeting in New York. [\$385]
- (2) Up to four SSSP Award Banquet tickets for international panelists participating in the Symposium. We think that Awards Banquet is an excellent venue for showing new and potential members this association's rich culture, and extending to them (while providing ourselves with) opportunities to help us integrate transnational ways of perceiving our efforts to address social problems. [\$95 x 4 = \$380]
- (3) Conference Administration Fee for the Symposium on Human Rights Practice [\$500]. We will be working to find a co-sponsor (Sociologists without Borders) to cover catering costs.

\* Note: Paul Luken stepped down this past Spring, and is no longer serving on the Transnational Initiatives Committee. We thank him for his service and the insight that he provided our Ad Hoc Committee over the past two years.