

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS



2013 ANNUAL MEETING

SURVEY RESULTS

Registrants: 1006
Surveys completed: 262
Participation Rate: 26% (down 5% from 2012)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

9/17/2013

This is a summary report of the 2013 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	54.6%	143
Above Average	22.1%	58
Average	17.9%	47
Below Average	2.7%	7
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	2.7%	7
Comments (please specify)		13
answered question		262
skipped question		0

Comments	
1	It took me a while to download the program as it was quite lengthy.
2	Love that you put the session day and time at the top of each page of the pdf -- makes it much easier to browse. Would be great if you would publicize the keynote/plenary (subject, speaker(s) and time) well in advance of the conference, so I could plan around this ahead of time.
3	It was difficult to search the program on-line
4	It was pretty smooth.
5	The schedule itself was easy to find (in its entirety), but the lack of a searchable online program was a bit disappointing. That said, I did like that I was able to download a PDF of the full schedule. If there is a way to do both (downloadable PDF and searchable online schedule) in concert in the future, that would be ideal.
6	Very easy to access
7	It would be nice if the section sessions were listed separately somewhere; if not in the program itself, at least on the website.
8	Time to move past the PDF and publish a searchable schedule online
9	The web page is not intuitive to me. I often go down many wrong paths before I find what I am looking for.
10	Would be great to have a conference app
11	This is one of my biggest complaints about the SSSPs -- that clunky PDF program that is impossible to "navigate," hard to print, etc. Ugh!
12	It was fine. Didn't really stand out to me one way or the other, so I think it worked well.
13	make it more searchable

Q2. Ease of online annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	62.5%	163
Above Average	20.3%	53
Average	13.0%	34
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	3.4%	9
Comments (please specify)		8
answered question		261
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	did not receive an automatic receipt when registering online.
2	I was able to register quickly without any problems.
3	No big problems, but receipt should specify method of payment. My university requires that for reimbursement.
4	I had a registration waiver
5	I appreciate the timely reminders!
6	There was a problem with me registering and confirming attendance (and the system said I was registered and attending) only to receive an email saying I was not registered and was not attending the conference.
7	Also fine. I registered a while back, and don't remember any problems, but seems fine.
8	keep it simple! Best registration system yet!

Q3. Ease of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	43.2%	112
Above Average	9.7%	25
Average	8.5%	22
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	37.8%	98
Comments (please specify)		13
answered question		259
skipped question		3

Comments	
1	It would be great if member's profile could also have a copy of their receipt for paid dues.
2	The people at the registration desk were friendly and found my registration package without any difficulties. The process was similar to what I have encountered at many other conferences.
3	registration closed pretty early the first night (Thursday).
4	Easy to pick up materials. Preregistered.
5	It wasn't clear where I had to go to register onsite or where my presentaiton was from the online materials. That would have been helpful.

6	They were VERY slow at the desk! One woman was in front of me and there were two workers. I had to leave and come back and they still had not finished helping her!! They need to learn how to multitask.
7	It was quick AND warm!
8	It was a little hard to figure out what floor to first get to.
9	Great folks at reg. desk!
10	Super easy. Easy to find and helpful that they had a place to store luggage during the day.
11	Need hanging placards saying onsite registration, and pick up. It is a bit confusing.
12	it was great once i found it - just needed more signage on the main floors of the hotel so we knew where to go
13	Perhaps a placard in the lobby to notify attendees to go to the 9th floor.

Q4. Location of onsite annual meeting registration

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	40.0%	104
Above Average	21.9%	57
Average	22.7%	59
Below Average	4.6%	12
Not so Good	1.9%	5
N/A	8.8%	23
Comments (please specify)		33
answered question		260
skipped question		2

Comments	
1	I couldn't find a clear sign in the lobby that detailed where the annual meeting registration was
2	San Francisco was better when it was closer to ASA
3	The hotel was easy to find and in a central location. However, I was sometimes frustrated with the elevators and escalators, which were not always functioning properly. If a person had any mobility issues, it might be difficult for them to get around.
4	Was a very long ways from the ASA hotel.
5	Signs would be helpful in the future -- most people ended up lost, having to ask everyone else where registration is
6	I live in NYC
7	Wish there had been a sign in the hotel lobby pointing conference attendees to the ninth floor.
8	A sign in the lobby specifying the floor would have been helpful.
9	The hotel did not provide good signage.
10	What do you mean location? It was on the website.
11	glad that it was opened later than usual
12	There were not a lot of signs in the lobby area, nor elevator advertisements of hotel events and locations. Finding the 9th floor registration was not intuitive, and the hotel did not do much to help find it without asking.
13	It was so far away from the lobby-level meeting rooms. Not very convenient.
14	It took some time for participants to locate the site
15	I simply did not see any inconvenience.
16	Hotel and conference rooms were great! NYC was fun. VERY expensive though. Hard on grad student budget.
17	There were no posters/signs in the lobby area as to where the registration area was located.

18	Concierge and front desk area initially did not know where to direct folks
19	signs in the lobby would've been helpful
20	It was a little difficult to find because some elevators didn't go up to that floor.
21	The registration area was a little difficult to find from the main lobby of the hotel floor.
22	Far from ASA - 20 min walk, liked the hotel
23	No signs in the lobby saying where to go. 9th floor is not obvious.
24	difficult to find without adequate signage in the ground floor or lobby.
25	I never felt any "there" there because the meeting was scattered over so many floors, with only the top floor as a central space.
26	Always prefer being able to take steps or an escalator to a lower floor
27	Although I understand the attraction of staying somewhere evocative of the city in general, I found Times Square to be a less-than-ideal location, simply because it was so busy on and around the street. Since there are so many hotels in the area to choose from, one that was just a little bit off the beaten track and away from the tourist crowds would have been a bit better.
28	No signs pointing to registration location
29	I did not understand why the meeting was being held in that location. It just seemed a little over the top, posh, and unnecessary.
30	There was no indication in the hotel of where to go for registration. I asked hotel employees for help.
31	It was a maze getting there, and it didn't functionally make sense. The place truly felt like a hotel as opposed to a convention center where meetings are commonly held.
32	same as above
33	I did not know to go to the ninth floor of the hotel to register. A sign in the lobby or an email in advance would have been helpful.

Q5. Days you attended the annual meeting (select all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Thursday	32.6%	85
Friday	76.6%	200
Saturday	83.1%	217
Sunday	66.7%	174
answered question		261
skipped question		1

Q6. Clarity of program		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	46.0%	120
Above Average	34.9%	91
Average	16.9%	44
Below Average	0.4%	1
Not so Good	0.8%	2
N/A	1.1%	3
Comments (please specify)		17
answered question		261
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	Perhaps the program should have bolded headers for main topics of interest. For example, On Thursday: Gender and Social Problems.
2	No background information of sessions, just title
3	Might help to have section numbers correspond with days (i.e., have them start with Th, Fr, Sa, Su or with 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-), but not too big of a problem.
4	I didn't attend enough to feel I can judge.
5	It was pretty clear.
6	People who serve on committees, but are not presenting are not listed in the index. It would be nice to be listed for quick reference for yourself, or for others trying to determine if you are attending the meeting.
7	It would have been helpful to not have so many sessions about health scheduled on the same day and at the same time.
8	I had no problem with clarity
9	Because I, too, think that the current condition no longer allows us to spend time and energy in constructivist analysis. Piven's remark "So, it is (after all about) propaganda" was impressive.
10	not sure what you mean.
11	Not sure what "clarity" means
12	Not sure what you mean by clarify of program.
13	I don't know whether categorizing the sessions by subject matter, policy, problem, etc., would help.
14	Perhaps consider putting the floor number with room name in the program, particularly when the conference is at a hotel that makes use of as many floors as this year's did. I know this information appeared on the back of the program (in the form of the map). I'm not sure, though, that the map appears in the online program, which many of us rely on (particularly after we inevitably misplace our hard copies).
15	Need more specification on who is presenting out of multiple-authored papers. My school only funds presenters.
16	There was not as much diversity in the sessions as I was expecting.
17	i found the program quite challenging to navigate due to the sheer volume of sessions being offered. i think it would have been more valuable to divide the program into thematic areas and then have the sessions listed. also - it would have been helpful to clean up the format a bit to make it more obvious as to when the dates changed etc.

Q7. Quality of program		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	37.5%	97
Above Average	39.8%	103
Average	18.1%	47
Below Average	2.3%	6
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	2.3%	6
Comments (please specify)		7
answered question		259
skipped question		3

Comments	
1	It was my first conference, I don't have anything to compare it to yet.
2	Not well attended...at least the sessions I was at
3	there was no information in the program about where to send the finished paper; no contact information about the session organizers. I had to google my session organizer to find her email address. However, when I sent my finished paper to her, she did not respond. She did not show up at the conference, either. I feel the conference was not very organized.
4	The fact that the President used his office as a platform for a personal and misinformed diatribe against a tradition of inquiry chosen or respected by many in SSSP (namely social constructionism) cast a shadow on the entire conference, as did some of the heavy handed and opaque maneuvers of the conference organizer, especially in relation to session organizers and division chairs,
5	Not as broad or critical as in years past (at least for Crim, Law, and Society)
6	I didn't attend enough to feel I can judge.
7	Seemed good.

Q8. Quality of book exhibit		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	8.1%	21
Above Average	13.1%	34
Average	31.9%	83
Below Average	11.5%	30
Not so Good	5.0%	13
N/A	30.4%	79
Comments (please specify)		21
answered question		260
skipped question		2

Comments	
1	I don't think I saw it.
2	too few books; when purchased a book, can't take it right away but had to wait until the last day. it was very inconvenient

3	Last year I bought a book. This year I did not. I would have loved to see some institutional ethnography books displayed.
4	I didn't attend this part of the conference.
5	Always seems kind of small, but I understand that everyone is at ASA.
6	I was surprised to see so few exhibits since many folks cannot go to the ASA exhibit due to cost prohibitions
7	Didn't know where it was without asking someone.
8	There was a lack of diversity in the book selection, though that may have been due to me only attending the meeting on Saturday.
9	I didn't look at it.
10	Pretty boring. Too bad the major publishers don't come. This was not useful for me. I at least hoped I would be able to have a look at new textbooks. This was probably the worst aspect of the conference for me, particularly since I don't go to ASA.
11	Unfortunately, I was not able to spend a lot of time there as I ran between two conferences (SSSP and ASA).
12	Bought a few books and picked another few free back numbers of journals. How about offering literature on the theme of the meeting in addition?
13	It would have been nice to have more publishers present.
14	Much better than last year's--Thanks!
15	Limited exhibit and seemed to be very crowded.
16	The only book exhibit I saw was the one near registration and it did not have much. Is there a way that registrants for the SSSP could have an access pass to the ASA book exhibit?
17	Didn't go.
18	Didn't look at it.
19	Of course you are being compared to the ASA book display.
20	could use more vendors
21	There were only four tables - not much to go on! I suppose most people trek over to the ASA to see the book exhibit there...

Q9. Quality of sessions attended		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	31.0%	81
Above Average	41.4%	108
Average	21.8%	57
Below Average	1.5%	4
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	3.8%	10
Comments (please specify)		23
answered question		261
skipped question		1

Comments	
1	It was disappointing to have sessions when there was a critical dialogue with major scholars also in a different session.
2	I found the institutional ethnography sessions to be quite good and well organized and had very good attendance. Attendance in and organization of other divisional sessions (e.g., labor studies, professional development disappointing with however, some of the other divisional sessions I attended (with labor studies, teaching social problems, and the program committee) were less well attended and less well organized. Sometimes chairs and discussants did not even attend or were quite late.
3	The Critical Dialogue sessions are very hit-or-miss. Sometimes people try to go on with their normal presentations crammed into shorter times, and sometimes the dialogue just isn't very critical or insightful. I think these sessions could be great, but the presider should coordinate presentations and control discussion a bit to encourage the goal of critical dialogue.
4	Attendance was relatively sparse for the session in which I presented. I would guess it was because a lot of the people on the panel were new to SSSP, as was I, and there wasn't an established following for panels on social media or for any of us on the panel as individuals.
5	Very interesting papers.
6	Overall they were very good. I thought changing the format of the awards and Presidential Address was unsuccessful. Audience feedback in the area I was sitting was not positive, and people did not appreciate having to wait to receive their recognition until the President finished his address.
7	Participants were few - only about 15 attended
8	Two were pretty unimpressive.
9	Sessions of my interest were all there, and they were all satisfactory.
10	Loved how much feedback was given by attendees and panel members. Great discussions at all sessions I attended.
11	Some of the papers didn't seem to fit certain sections or roundtables
12	Quality varied, of course, but I found good sessions in general
13	Unfortunately we cannot indicate more than one option. Several of the sessions were quite good but others were below average.
14	Some were excellent, others not so good
15	Regular sessions were well done that I attended, but the attendance was minimal (2 audience members at 1 session I presented at, and 0 at the other).
16	I enjoyed the Critical Dialogues sessions, most times. At some they ran just like a regular paper session, in others I observed a lot of discussion and less paper-reading.
17	But terrible attendance at session, sadly...
18	Didn't have time for sessions, short trip
19	Only attended my session.
20	Some papers did not fit with themes/titles of sessions.
21	I attended 3 sessions over the 3 days that I'd classify as great, 2 of those were critical dialogues. Keep the critical dialogue sessions in the future and make sure speakers understand they are not regular paper sessions. To be clear, I consider an average of one great session a day to be low in comparison to some other large conferences I've attended in the last few years. I don't know if there is anything the conference organizers can do to improve that, but I thought it worth mentioning. I guess one thing that would help would be to encourage more participation of people who are involved in dealing with social problems, broadly defined, in a practical, day-to-day manner.
22	I grew disappointed in the quality of the sessions. Perhaps open submission is NOT the way to go. The Critical Dialogue format also needs some serious revisions. The idea is good, but its execution is not there yet.
23	Low participation

Q10. Effectiveness of meeting space

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	38.6%	100
Above Average	27.8%	72
Average	25.9%	67
Below Average	3.9%	10
Not so Good	1.5%	4
N/A	2.3%	6
Comments (please specify)		25
<i>answered question</i>		259
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Comments	
1	Had very large meeting spaces for some sessions with very few number of attendees -- Not utilizing the full space of the room.
2	the acoustics not too good
3	At times, tables were really crowded.
4	rooms were freezing - way to cold for sitting in sessions for hours without being able to move around; someone should be assigned to monitor the 'comfortableness' of meeting rooms and notify hotel people right away
5	I noticed no problems with rooms, no major problems with elevators, but the unusual distance to ASA was a problem.
6	Very nice hotel!
7	My session was put in a room set up for roundtables but our session was needed a different configuration. I needed to rearrange seats with the attendees helping out.
8	It was confusing to navigate the different floors used by the conference.
9	It would have been nice to have projectors for all of the panel presentations as well as the paper sessions.
10	Too large for the amount of people attending.
11	It was okay.
12	except in one instance where sound from another session bleed into our IE business meeting
13	Very comfortable space
14	Too cold
15	The regular sessions were fine, but there were too many tables in the roundtable rooms
16	tech problems
17	Too cold, which is annoying since it was hot in NYC at the time.
18	Some of the rooms were too dark and cold.
19	Specifically, a round table session I presented at had too many papers per table (6) and the meeting space was very clustered and congested. The room size needs to be much larger with more spaces between tables. It was difficult to hear over the neighboring tables.
20	Some of the rooms were really cold.
21	why Times Square? horrible
22	I think there were too many floors on which the meeting rooms were located.
23	like I said, very little cohesiveness to the meeting. I felt isolated most of the time.

24	Some of the rooms did not appear outfitted with a microphone. Though these rooms were small, I could tell that audience members were struggling to hear presenters at times. Also, some rooms were badly set-up, with projector screens placed so that either the presenter or the podiums were in the way.
25	Every session I attended had some issue, either AV or the type of room not fitting the type of presentation/talk. I'm not sure there's much to be done about this and, really, it wasn't that big of a deal.

Q11. Did you stay at the Westin New York at Times Square? If so, please answer questions 12 and 13 below.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	36.3%	95
No	63.7%	167
If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Westin New York at Times Square.		68
<i>answered question</i>		262
<i>skipped question</i>		0

If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Westin New York at Times Square.	
1	I am from New York.
2	Too expensive
3	Too expensive
4	Got a cheaper room in a better (to me) neighborhood.
5	I live in NYC
6	too expensive
7	The room prices were too expensive. I was not willing to share my room with a roommate and was looking for something a bit more affordable. I stayed at a discount hotel about a block away in order to save about \$50 per night. I did hear from people who were staying at the hotel that the rooms were lovely, spacious, and clean. Afterwards, I had wondered whether I should have spent the extra money to stay onsite.
8	Cost
9	I have family in new jersey that I stayed with.
10	Stayed at the ASA hotel. There weren't consecutive nights available at the Westin.
11	Stayed at another hotel closer to ASA
12	I live in NYC
13	Found a much better deal at another reasonably located hotel
14	Have family in New York City
15	Always try to stay with friends in New York.
16	Could not afford it
17	cost
18	I couldn't get a room for the dates i wanted. Stayed through Monday.
19	Stayed with a friend in Washington Heights for free.
20	I live nearby.
21	Stayed with Friends
22	I roomed with fellow graduate students that were attending ASA so we stayed at their hotel.
23	I wanted to be in a quieter neighbourhood for the sake of sanity.

24	Not a big enough group discount on the cost of the room.
25	Reserved too late to get into block
26	Had lodging with a friend in NY.
27	Cheaper to stay with friends.
28	I had more meetings to attend at the ASA hotel on different days so I decided to stay there instead.
29	found a cheaper boutique hotel in the area
30	I am a graduate student and found the Westin to be too expensive.
31	I could not afford the hotel charges
32	I stayed with a friend.
33	I live close enough to commute in each day.
34	Hotel Penn was less expensive and highly accessible to ASA sessions as well.
35	Stayed with family
36	Escalators did not work and no apparent effort made to fix them.
37	family in the area
38	Stayed at ASA hotel
39	Costly accommodations, costly city...
40	Stayed in Hostel: Price = \$45 a night. For an adjunct, the price was right
41	Stayed with friends
42	The hotel was a bit too pricey for my budget, even when sharing a room. I found something on priceline about \$100 cheaper a night.
43	I stayed at the SSSI hotel and will continue to do so.
44	Too expensive.
45	But it was extremely expensive for what we go in terms of a room.
46	Cost
47	stayed with friends
48	I commuted from home.
49	I live in NYC
50	Had to share expenses. Roommates had more events at the ASA hotel.
51	Live in the area
52	I could only get institutional funding for the day, but should get more next year.
53	This was my first choice, but it was sold out by the time I wished to register, Consequently, since I was also attending the ASA meeting, I ended up staying at the Sheraton.
54	Expense
55	I found accommodations on airbnb.
56	Staying at Sheraton with ASA/Rural Soc.
57	Too many commitments at ASA
58	Stayed at ASA hotel
59	I live in NYC.
60	stayed with friends to visit and save money
61	I don't stay in hotels because of labor issues--hotels, even good ones are simply too exploitative.
62	Family in the area
63	I could not afford the rate as a graduate student
64	Price
65	Stayed at the Sheraton for ASA
66	It was too expensive and too far away from the ASA hotel, where I was also presenting
67	too expensive. stayed with friends.
68	Stayed with friends to save money

Q12. Quality of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Westin New York at Times Square)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.3%	38
Above Average	18.2%	34
Average	9.6%	18
Below Average	1.6%	3
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	49.7%	93
Comments		10
answered question		187
skipped question		75

Comments	
1	Was an upgrade.
2	The rooms were oddly designed, as if they assumed it would be a solo person in the room (even for the double-bed rooms). Also, would have been nice to have had access to the fridge in the room, since it was sitting there (but it was locked; probably because it was holding drinks for purchase).
3	Pretty good sized room and comfortable beds.
4	My room was very comfortable. The first room was larger with a sitting room, unfortunately the bathroom was dirty and the floor was sticky. I had to go back down to the desk to be relocated. the second room was smaller, but clean and comfortable.
5	I live close enough to commute in each day.
6	The wifi connection was very slow and unreliable in the guest rooms.
7	too expensive
8	Pretty ordinary for a supposed four star hotel...
9	Had internet issues.
10	wireless was hardly ever working regularly; smelly sheets

Q13. Cost of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Westin New York at Times Square)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	5.4%	10
Above Average	13.6%	25
Average	15.8%	29
Below Average	5.4%	10
Not so Good	10.3%	19
N/A	49.5%	91
Comments		15
answered question		184
skipped question		78

Comments	
1	conference rate not bad for downtown NYC, still, it is rather exorbitant
2	quite expensive, but it's new york

3	It was very expensive on a graduate student budget.
4	What can I say, New York is too expensive, but given that....
5	Pricey, but expected for NYC prices
6	It's so expensive!
7	i was very grateful for the block rate. really nice rooms and service as well.
8	Seemed average compared with online deals for same area.
9	I live close enough to commute in each day.
10	\$\$\$
11	Expensive, due to NYC
12	But, it is NYC
13	Very expensive but understandable for Times Square
14	Really pricey, but I guess that couldn't be helped
15	way too expensive

Q14. Service by hotel staff		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.9%	53
Above Average	18.5%	41
Average	9.9%	22
Below Average	2.7%	6
Not so Good	2.7%	6
N/A	42.3%	94
Comments (please specify)		13
answered question		222
skipped question		40

Comments	
1	I shared a room with 2 other SSSP members. We were told by a desk clerk that it would be no problem to split the charges across three credit cards. However, at checkout, a different clerk said this would not be possible. The day after I checked out, a hotel clerk applied the charges of my roommates (over \$800.00) to my credit card without my authorization. I was shocked to see the charges on my credit card statement.
2	The staff really went out of their way, approaching me when I looked puzzled to ask if I had a question. They were super-courteous!
3	Good.
4	except for wifi. If SSSP paid for access in guest rooms, this was a problem. never was able to get on in room. When I got on in meeting rooms or lobby, connection was intermittent or slow. Very frustrating
5	I live close enough to commute in each day.
6	Staff was quick to respond to my needs. In particular, I thank the person who helped me find the program books of SSSP and ASA that I had mistakenly left within the hotel.
7	Was misdirected to key meeting areas on several occasions by front desk and concierge desk. Also, found that the concierge staff were abrupt and rude.
8	rude check in agent the first day
9	Twice or three times got directions from a concierge that were NOT correct, ended up getting off at wrong Subway stops, walking, etc.

10	I asked for taxi advice and the response was so-so.
11	Staff would not honor conference rate for one of the nights even though other two nights were at conference rate.
12	Hotel staff was rude.
13	I felt sorry for the coffee guy! He was basically mobbed when he came to refill the urn, and then he had to deal with a lot of disappointed people when they found out he wasn't bringing any more coffee after 10:30 (I think it moved somewhere else?) His patience was commendable.

Q15. Overall experience of Welcoming Reception		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	16.8%	43
Above Average	10.2%	26
Average	7.4%	19
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	64.5%	165
Comments (please specify)		16
answered question		256
skipped question		6

Comments	
1	A little confusing. Where were the signs that said 9th floor.
2	I did not attend.
3	Did not attend
4	my train was late by 2 hours and I missed it :(
5	Did not attend.
6	Good effort, but wider variety of foods desirable.
7	There was a very hard cheese that did not have an appropriate knife for serving, the rest of the cheese platter was gone in 15 minutes. The passed appetizers were good. The President should have welcomed people sooner, about half the membership had left before he decided to speak. The room was very dark.
8	Did not attend. I had a full-day!
9	Could not attend.
10	A larger room and more seating would have been nice.
11	Good food and drink. Companionship was wonderful. But no dessert! Some of those hotel brownies would be good.
12	was not able to attend
13	A smile and quick directions.
14	did not attend
15	too much wait, too few people on reception and in the lobby
16	plane was late--did not attend

Q16. Overall experience of New Member Breakfast

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	7.8%	20
Above Average	5.1%	13
Average	2.4%	6
Below Average	0.4%	1
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	83.9%	214
Comments (please specify)		25
answered question		255
skipped question		7

Comments	
1	I know scheduling is hard, but the new member breakfast was too early. Next year, make it more welcoming by doing it at lunch or cocktail hour!
2	Did not attend
3	I would have enjoyed this but was unable to attend.
4	I joined at a meeting and missed all the "New Member" perks. Is there a way to retrieve them?
5	I did not attend.
6	Food service was appreciated, and I had some nice chats with a few new members, but it was too noisy in the room to have pleasant conversation, and there seemed to be a relatively small number of new members and perhaps not enough hosts to talk with them.
7	Did not attend
8	Did not attend.
9	Did not attend.
10	The room was very nice, there was adequate seating for everyone. New members were very enthusiastic about the breakfast and the opportunity to talk with hosts about the organization and how to get involved. The food was good.
11	The food wasn't as scrumptious as the previous one, but it was New York, so that was understandable. I really enjoy the New Member Breakfast. I've told other possible members about what SSSP does and they were impressed.
12	nothing spectacular but the job was done.
13	My favorite part of the meeting.
14	Could not attend.
15	Although I will say, it wasn't clear to me whether a non-new member should go or not. I assumed no. But then I met someone who said "you should have gone!" To welcome and meet the new members!
16	Good space -- need more food options for folks with allergies.
17	was not able to attend
18	I have a baby and didn't have childcare so couldn't attend.
19	It was very good for a first time. I'd try to maybe have topical tables next time. I think grad students especially were unsure how to meet folks with similar interests. And as a faculty person who hadn't been able to register yet, I didn't have an easily identifiable name tag.
20	Didn't attend.
21	I came in Friday so I missed the new member breakfast. I wish it had been something later in the day.
22	did not attend
23	Very appreciative that there were members/mentors there ready to engage us in conversation. It set the tone for my whole experience at the conference.

24	I didn't know there was one.
25	did not attend

Q17. Overall experience of Division-Sponsored Reception		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	11.5%	29
Above Average	11.5%	29
Average	4.3%	11
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	71.5%	181
Comments (please specify)		16
answered question		253
skipped question		9

Comments	
1	I won an honorable mention of a student paper award but was not invited to that specific division's reception. Not notified or anytime. I don't mind paying it myself, but I couldn't even find whether there is one, or whether I can attend.
2	It was too expensive.
3	Did not attend
4	I did not attend.
5	The turnout and the space seemed to be below average.
6	Did not attend
7	Always a good time!
8	Did not attend.
9	The fajita bar and pad thai were both delicious. It was well attended, and people were feeling very festive. The space was a bit small, a few additional cocktail tables would have been nice. On the other hand, fewer tables did force people to socialize with new people.
10	My hectic schedule did not permit me to attend.
11	Could not attend.
12	Between the SSSP and the ASA I don't remember this!
13	It was really good. The food was excellent and it was nice to have beer and wine included.
14	was not able to attend
15	Didn't attend.
16	great food, but took too long for the band to play

Q18. Overall experience of the Plenary Re-imagining Eradication of Gender-based Violence: Reflections on 20 Years of Struggle since the Vienna Declaration (speakers Charlotte Bunch and Raewyn Connell)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	3.9%	10
Above Average	5.5%	14
Average	2.3%	6
Below Average	1.2%	3
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	87.1%	223
Comments (please specify)		3
answered question		256
skipped question		6

Comments (please specify)	
1	I did not attend.
2	Did not attend
3	I would have liked to attend this event but felt pretty ill while I was in New York.

Q19. Overall experience of Maul Girls Performance

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	3.6%	9
Above Average	3.2%	8
Average	1.2%	3
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	1.2%	3
N/A	90.1%	227
Comments (please specify)		7
answered question		252
skipped question		10

Comments (please specify)	
1	I did not attend.
2	Why is there always a performance? Seems unnecessary.
3	Did not attend
4	It was too late
5	Although i was interested in the act,the setup was very awkward and it seemed weird to have them follow academic speakers. So i opted to skip it.
6	I really, really like the idea of a concert like that. I've just learned I'm not a fan of such concerts personally. But I'm very happy it happened! I think it was both a good cause and a fun spin on usual conference events.
7	Not my cup of tea. They seemed adequate but I would have preferred something jazzier.

Q20. Overall experience of Awards Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	6.7%	17
Above Average	10.3%	26
Average	4.0%	10
Below Average	1.2%	3
Not so Good	0.4%	1
N/A	77.4%	195
Comments (please specify)		14
answered question		252
skipped question		10

Comments	
1	I like the banquet.
2	I didn't go, partly because it was scheduled around a presidential talk which was predictably divisive in nature.
3	Did not attend
4	Did not attend.
5	Food was a good option, considering the evening activities and the change from a dinner. More tables or seating was needed to make it easier to eat pasta.
6	It was scheduled too late (8:45 pm) and the President's talk ran over the time allotted.
7	I had to take the train back home and it was too late for me to attend.
8	Could not attend.
9	Great food but would be better to have places to sit
10	Very crowded and not really able to engage well with members.
11	was not able to attend
12	Didn't attend.
13	Food was terrific!
14	It would have been nice for attendees to have been able to recognize award winners...and maybe buy them a very expensive drink.

Q21. Overall experience of Awards Ceremony

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	2.8%	7
Above Average	5.2%	13
Average	7.1%	18
Below Average	2.4%	6
Not so Good	3.2%	8
N/A	79.4%	200
Comments (please specify)		26
answered question		252
skipped question		10

Comments	
1	After a 1 1/2 hour presidential address which didn't begin til after 8 PM, there was hardly anyone in the audience to see the winners get their awards.
2	I was expecting a sit-down banquet-style reception. I think it should just be clarified in the future whether it's a dinner or a reception (with no food).
3	The SSSP President's remarks were excessively long. After a long day of sessions, meetings, and the rest, this ceremony should be a way to engage with colleagues and celebrate the accomplishments of others. Certainly the President's remarks are a traditional part of this--and a welcome one at that--but they should be limited to no more than 30 minutes (maybe an abbreviated version of what will later be published in Social Problems). Even by the usual standards this President way overshot the mark.
4	Did not attend
5	It was too late
6	The speech of SSSP Chair was too long. I noted that several awardees could not wait and left the room.
7	Worst awards ceremony ever. Scheduled so late with no food that nobody came except people getting awards and a couple supporters. This was a terrible schedule for awards.
8	It was scheduled too late, and the presidential address went over time. The audience was held captive and could not leave because most of them were simply waiting for their awards to be announced. It was clear that very few in attendance will voluntary participants.
9	Did not attend.
10	As stated previously, people were unhappy about having to wait for the president to finish his speech, which ran over by quite a significant amount of time. It was already late at night, and was inconsiderate
11	Could not attend.
12	Too late at night!!
13	I regret that I could not attend the ceremony or reception.
14	I didn't stay for this; had to catch the subway back to Brooklyn before it got dark
15	Poor presentation that ran well over time. It was a shame that award recipients had to wait until past 9 pm to receive their awards. Few people stayed to honor them. Very arrogant to assume that members should give up a Saturday evening for the Presidential Address and awards ceremony in conference cities.
16	Tying it to the president's talk - an especially long talk with little regard for the lateness of the hour, was a bad idea. Not only did the awards seem like an afterthought, but it meant there was not a separate significant thing for them. I crept in at the appointed time for the awards reception and was dismayed at the amount of time the talk ran over. In addition, it was so late at night to begin with! During conferences, I like to be in bed by 9:30 pm - not out waiting for something to start.
17	the president's remarks were entirely too too too too long
18	was not able to attend
19	Didn't attend.
20	did not attend
21	way too late at night, people were just bored and tired after the long speech.
22	I heard it went on way late.
23	It was very unfortunate that so few people attended, so many people left before the awards were given, and so few of the award recipients were present. After the presidential address went over the allotted time, it all seemed rushed and unimportant.
24	This was already asked. Who designed this survey?
25	only stayed for Ricard's talk
26	If you are talking about the student awards, I thought it was not a good idea to have them after the keynote address. People were tired at that time. It is better to have them at a banquet or a reception.

Q22. Use of Accessibility Services at the SSSP hotel only (comfort zone, gender-neutral restroom, fragrance-free soaps, interpreters, guides, guest rooms, etc.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	29.3%	70
No	70.7%	169
<i>answered question</i>		239
<i>skipped question</i>		23

Q23. Quality of Accessibility Services

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	12.7%	30
Above Average	12.7%	30
Average	3.8%	9
Below Average	0.8%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	69.9%	165
<i>answered question</i>		236
<i>skipped question</i>		26

Q24. Comments on Accessibility Services

Answer Options	Response Count
	21
<i>answered question</i>	21
<i>skipped question</i>	241

Comments	
1	NA
2	I liked the comfort room and the fragrance free soap. I hope we are able to keep these things.
3	The gender neutral bathroom needs to be more clearly marked, with coverage of signage that shows the usual male/female markers on doors. Otherwise people who are gender conforming start to self-segregate and make the space less accessible for trans folk.
4	I'm so glad there were some gender neutral restrooms and that there were still gender-specific restrooms.
5	Excellent ASL interpreters - SSSP continues to do a great job providing interpreting access. I appreciate their continued dedication to ensure access for all.

6	I was delighted to see that there was a comfort zone. However, when I felt a migraine coming on and went to use it for the hour before my session, I found three people having a meeting in the room, which was small to begin with. When I came in I tried covering my ears and shutting my eyes, and this led them to change to whispering, which didn't much help. I asked them to stop whispering and suggested some other spaces in which they could meet, and they apologized and left. Though the tone of this brief conversation was courteous on all sides, I felt like a jerk, though that doesn't make sense. On the plus side, it was nice that the room had a washroom of its own too. I should say too that this is the 1st time in 20 years of conference-going that I have used such a space and perhaps my expectations for people's conduct there were out of line.
7	Used the comfort room because was not feeling well on the day that I had to sign out of my room.
8	Five other people used it while I was there. Thanks for providing this space.
9	Love the gender-neutral bathrooms!
10	I really appreciate the fragrance-free soaps! Thanks for making those available!
11	The feedback I heard was very positive. People were very appreciative of all the efforts that the SSSP is making in this area;. There has clearly been a lot of thought and effort put into the planning, financing, fundraising, etc. over the last several years. This reflects well on the type of social justice organization that we are.
12	Very satisfactory
13	There should be a comfort zone that allows some talking/debriefing/decompressing and then another that is in silence
14	Actually, I was a recipient of services, in watching sign interpreters signing for a deaf participant. That was interesting, although I have no idea about the quality of same.
15	Great to have the comfort zone area as well as fragrance-free soaps, etc.
16	It appears that the Westin may not have incorporated fragrance-free soaps into the bathrooms next to the meeting rooms.
17	Only negative was male student worker on Saturday morning. When I came downstairs before 9 a.m. and asked about getting coffee, as urn was empty, was told that it would be handled. I waited around for 15 minutes, only to hear him tell female worker "Big deal, it's not like there's not a Starbucks on every frigging street corner". I am disabled and hiking down the street for something that was ostensibly provided was physically painful and inconvenient for me.
18	I wasn't sure what bathroom was gender neutral.
19	n/a
20	#22 is not asked correctly. I can't answer it.
21	The quiet room was a very small conference room and was already in use when I stopped to use it. I ended up going to one of the restaurants before they opened to have quiet space instead.
22	-----

Q25. 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
	73
<i>answered question</i>	73
<i>skipped question</i>	189

Comments	
1	More critical discussion sessions
2	try not to schedule anything during the ASA, but only before. Few people show up to presentations that compete with the ASA.

	<p>I didn't appreciate President Dello Bouno throwing a loyal contingent of SSPSS scholars under the bus with his gratuitous and intellectually misguided attack on social constructionism. If he had a bad experience with Peter Berger when he was a boy, he should work that out with his Manhattan therapist, not make it into some sort of political diatribe. If RDB wants to make Social Problems into some sort of Latin American radical student newsletter, he'll destroy the SSSP.</p> <p>I'm sure he, like all other presidents, will leave minimal marks and the organization will continue to pursue its traditional course, which may not be perfect, but it is sustainable and effective.</p> <p>I guess I'm now sorry I voted for him</p>
3	Of course I'm over reacting--but it's in the spirit established by RDB.
4	Go back to the "regular" schedule of events.
5	I was in a "critical dialogue" session, and I'm not sure what the point of these sessions is. It seemed pretty much like a regular session but with less time for presenters and no AV for no apparent reason. All of the papers seemed like what you would find in a regular session.
6	It was unfortunate that the meeting was such a distance (20 mins walking) from ASA and that there were so many overlapping days. Because of this I was unable to attend many SSSP sessions.
7	multiple email addresses should be merged in order to avoid confusion and inconvenience. Session organizers should be responsible and responsive. Should indicate when and where to send finished papers.
8	I organized a session. I spent time making sure that all of the papers connected and arranged them. I had contact with all of the authors. When I arrived, I found out a paper had been put into the panel. It did not belong. The addition of the paper shifted the focus of the panel and resulted in confused discussion rather than a productive one. As an organizer, I found the addition to the panel insulting to me and my time. If you wish to add papers, at least contact the organizer or have a poster session for those not accepted to panel. Or just do not use organizers. I am respectfully of time and found this action disrespectful to my judgement and time.
9	make cheaper lodgings available
10	I would have liked to see a question on this survey about the mentorship program. I really appreciated the mentorship program and had an opportunity to meet with my assigned mentor one morning. She was extremely open. We had a great conversation and are hoping to stay in touch. This was a wonderful opportunity for me as a new scholar to broaden my network and connect with a senior scholar who has similar interests. It is my second time participating in the mentorship program and this time was much more positive than last time. Last time, I was paired with a beginning academic and I got the strong sense from that person that they were just looking to add a line on their CV. This time, I felt the senior mentor had a genuine interest and willingness to support new scholars and I appreciated the person's time and level of engagement.
11	No.
12	Soon after my participation at the SSSP meeting I went to the annual meeting of the European Sociological Association. SSSP's organization was much better! Very professional, thank you.
13	This was the first conference I have attended, so I don't have much to compare. That aside, I really enjoyed the conference and will definitely consider sssp if I decide to present at another conference in the future.
14	Thank you are improving, this was excellent
15	I understand that there are certain restrictions that are placed on where the conference can be, especially in tandem with ASA and in a place like NYC, but an attempt to reduce the cost of participation and especially housing would significantly improve the ability of junior faculty like myself to attend on a regular basis.
16	Have a longtime member contact a new member and invite them to breakfast or other sponsored events.

17	We need to have a stronger tradition, through the Executive Office, to rein in Presidents who have an axe to grind against a large portion of the SSSP membership and its scholarly work, and Conference Chairs who run around like a bull in a china shop, not understanding the work they are trying to micromanage or the people they are mistreating.
18	It would be nice if you are attending both ASA and SSSP if there could be a discount. To register for both meetings is over \$300
19	Thank you for the wifi - it was a little spotty, but some was better than none!
20	The location of the conference hotel was very convenient for accessing public transportation and food.
21	President should not have total control over the schedule of events. The Sat. evening speech competed with people's dinner and so was poorly attended. Scheduling the awards ceremony after the speech resulted in the lowest attendance I've seen in 30 years for the ceremony.
22	This was my first experience with SSSP and I was extremely impressed overall. I'm going to try to be back though it was tough to attend both ASA and SSSP at the same time.
23	Program layout could better organized
24	The annual meeting was very informative and a great chance to get familiar with the current themes of research and people in the field. it was my first time attending and it was a pleasant experience. i hope to have the chance to see SSSP's next conference. Thank you for everything and all the very best wishes.
25	great panel, good contacts, good people. thanks!
26	it's a very friendly and welcoming conference.
27	I hate Times Square. There are better locations in NYC.
28	Expense. University travel budgets are way down. NYC is expensive, but I spent more on this trip than my travel last year to Buenos Aires ISA.
29	Excellent sessions, excellent conference!
30	President's presentation much too long and not very accessible for people not interested or knowledgeable in the area.
31	LOC should provide participants with information on cheap hotel accommodation around the conference venue
32	The hotel meeting space was fine, but I wish the hotel had not been located on Times Square because of the higher than usual pedestrian traffic.
33	It was a great conference. Nicely done!
34	None.
35	To me, the annual meeting was a safe haven. I hope its intimate atmosphere, as well as its substantive quality, will be maintained in the future. (Small but important, free coffee was nice to awaken, relax, and save time to get it elsewhere. We could even charge a bit to run the service all the way through. Also, prior notice of its availability is welcome.)
36	Unclear what the difference is between a "Critical Dialogue" and a "papers in the round". Think about the cost of the food in the hotel.
37	I love SSSP. And this year was one of your best, from my vantage point. Do what you did this year, next year.
38	What's the process whereby papers receive division awards? Is there some sort of application, or are they all automatically entered? Could you clarify for the future? Thanks.
39	Sorry to have missed so many of the events, but had other commitments.
40	Do not schedule key sessions in the evenings. Reconsider how/when to hold the awards ceremony.
41	I would have appreciated separate receptions for the sections. As a new graduate student member it was very difficult for me to find other members of the section I was most interested in at the large multi-section reception. The reception was not as useful to me as I had hoped

42	Yes! It would be good to have a plenary session each morning as it offers the best opportunity to meet others at the meeting. I often don't attend evening events. Without a morning plenary, I only saw people who attended the types of sessions I attended.
43	I really enjoyed it and am grateful to be part of this group of scholars. I would encourage more critical dialogues sessions. They provide a better opportunity for discussion than do traditional sessions.
44	The roundtables need to be much better organized. The number of papers per table for the time slot allowed was almost pointless. Secondly, organizers need to do a better job of organizing papers by topic. The papers put in our session were clearly not put together at a table with care.
45	Perhaps the way the entire program was laid out on the web could be reconfigured to see the choices at a glance, when preparing to attend the conference. It seemed easier somehow in reviewing the printed program we received upon arrival. Could just be me. It was difficult for me to try to plan what would be a logical sequence in attending sessions; or - for that matter - to choose one or two out of the sequence because of the topic and presenters. Overall, the graphics and info were just excellent in every way. Thank you.
46	Get rid of male student worker who was working Saturday morning, offensive, discriminatory toward persons with disabilities, unacceptably rude behavior.
47	More signage directing SSSP members to registration and books would have been helpful.
48	The order of the awards reception, presidential address and awards ceremony should be reversed. Having a reception at the beginning didn't work well. Some people left immediately afterward and did not stay for the Address. Of course, that might also have been because of the provocative title (and some folks left during the address because it last so long). Unfortunately for the awardees, their audience was smaller.
49	It would be nice if the future presidents would consider the implications of throwing decades worth of good member/scholars under the bus in order to beef up his/her polemics.
50	A new format was introduced this year. I don't know the specific name, but it entailed a short presentation and then a discussion between presenters, president, and audience. It was excellent.
51	I thought it was great and hope to go again when it is in Chicago. I hope to be able to stay for a few days.
52	Include more participants who are working in their daily lives to create social change.
53	I wish we had more people come to our sessions.
54	My first SSSP conference : I loved it and plan on being there next year! :-)
55	This was an outstanding conference, one of the best I have ever attended. The session were well-run, informative and stimulating.
56	please bring back the banquet
57	I think the Society has done a good job diversify session / panel forms, with the "conversations" format, allowing divisions to have "workshops," etc. Keep it up!
58	I'm concerned that attendance seemed low and the quality of sessions was not as I expected. Hopefully the organization can focus on attracting and retaining new (and younger) members as well as developing more rigorous sessions in the coming years.
59	Two full days of overlap with ASA impair full participation at both conferences. I have considered not attending SSSP for this reason. I am aware of others who have stopped attending SSSP for this reason.
60	no overlap with asa...the conference just seems to die the day asa begins.
61	I was tacked onto a critical dialogues session b/c my paper won a graduate student section award. However I was not informed by the session organizers that critical dialogue sessions are formatted like round tables. I spent a good amount of time preparing slides that were of no use and I had to drastically cut the length of my talk minutes before was to present. Also, my session included papers that were similar to one another but far different from my own. Therefore, most of the discussion was geared towards the other papers and I was unable to obtain useful feedback from those attending the session.

62	I appreciated what seemed like a democratic, open, friendly, and engaging meeting process compared to other conferences I have attended. As a new member and graduate student I also appreciated sponsorship of food and refreshments that helped us keep up with the busy meeting schedule and attend more events.
63	I found the mentoring programme very useful. However, I would like to suggest that volunteers for mentoring purposes should endeavour to be more committed. In addition, there is a need for a mentoring for publication programme. Such that graduate students that present their papers at the annual meeting can be mentored for publication purpose within an agreed framework.
64	It was my first time attending. I was shocked at how poorly attended it was and how divided it seemed. Many of the sessions were empty
65	Nice work Michelle + Team
66	It's very disappointing that ASA and SSSP don't coordinate better. Panelists were forced to leave early to present at panels at ASA because they were double-booked and some panels were completely empty because audience members were attending similar sessions at the other conference. We wouldn't have to compete with each other if overlapping topics were scheduled for different days.
67	I was quite disappointed, compared to years past, of the quality of the program and the diversity of sessions. I do not know if it has to do with the location of the meetings (NYC), or whether there is too much competition between ASA and SSSP, but I was really left wanting based on what was offered. Given the price of travel to NYC and the accommodations, I feel little return on the investment. I am looking forward to the theme of next year's meetings in San Francisco. I just hope the program is organized much better.
68	seemed disconnected; several floors--so only saw people on elevator ; attendance minimal in sessions I attended; some of the back-to-back sessions were difficult if you wanted to eat; weird to be in Time Square for this type of conference---almost ironic.
69	I'm excited to return to SSSP. Your best asset are your members.
70	In the past, I've spent roughly equal amounts of time at SSSP and ASA. However, the conference sites were rather far away from each other this year, so the amount of time I spent at SSSP was quite limited.
71	it seemed that the Saturday sessions were poorly attended and this may be because of the ASA meetings happening on the same day. It was a bit disappointing to be in critical dialogue sessions with so few people. I'm not sure if it's possible to avoid overlap directly with the ASA meeting, but it seems that might be a good idea going forward.
72	The panel session on social construction with many former SSSP presidents should have had its own time slot, as I wanted to go to this but was unable to do so because I had to present at that time.
73	I was very disappointed how much attendance dropped off after ASA started. I would prefer that the conferences not overlap. Also, I found it problematic that there was no lunch break scheduled--this meant that people skipped 12:30pm. sessions. I'm not sure if I would attend again if I were scheduled to present on the last day of the conference because too many people had left and gone to ASA.