

# Editorial and Publications Committee Report 2013-2014

Submitted by E&P 2013-2014 Chair Nancy C. Jurik

Our committee met August 15, 2014 from 10:30am-1pm. Those present included 2013-2014 voting members Mary Bernstein, Ted Chiricos (voting outgoing editor), David Fasenfest, Nancy Jurik, Paul Luken, Nancy Naples, and Paul Steele (voting ex-officio BFA chair). Also present were current editor Becky Pettit (non-voting), new E&P members Gregory Squires and Corey Dolgon (non-voting this year), incoming BFA chair, Claire Renzetti (non-voting), new editors (non-voting), Nilda Flores-Gonzalez and Pamela Ann Quiroz, as well as Oxford University Press representatives, Laura Bannon and Allison Ferguson (both non-voting). UC Press representatives did not attend the meeting but submitted their report and offered to answer any questions we might have.

## Report from Editor:

Social Problems editor Becky Pettit discussed her report to the Board and our Committee and fielded questions. She discussed the transition to the new editors and expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve as editor and her appreciation to her staff for their fine work on the journal. Submissions to the journal are up and the time to decisions has gone done. The transition to the new editors has proceeded as planned and Social Problems continues to be a highly selective journal publishing approximately 8 percent of original submissions. Becky was enthusiastic about her entire team and was especially pleased with the work of the student editorial team that she assembled. The Committee endorsed this innovation. The Committee indicated interest in reviewing and discussing more information on downloads for Social Problems articles at next year's meeting. The Committee expressed its great appreciation to Becky for the fine job she has done as editor of Social Problems.

## Report from New Editors:

Our new Social Problems editors Pamela Quiroz and Nilda Flores-Gonzalez also reported to the Committee. They thanked Becky Pettit for her work on structuring the transition of the journal. They discussed the report that they submitted to the Board and our Committee which includes an overview of their production team and assemblage of Associate Editors and and Advisory Board. They have developed a team with expertise in an array of areas and methodologies pertinent to our journal submissions. They have also developed a system for tracking the race, ethnicity, gender, and areas of submissions to Social Problems. They have a student advisory board that includes some students who will work with our publisher on social media to publicize the journal and articles in it. They are also translating the abstracts from SP into Spanish thus making our

journal more accessible to scholars in Spanish speaking nations. Pam and Nilda are also attending the Latin American Studies meetings in Puerto Rico and plan to promote SP there through panels that discuss the journal and explain what an SP article typically looks like. The Committee welcomes the new editorial team and thanks them for their work.

#### Report from Oxford University Press:

Laura Bannon and Allison Ferguson of Oxford University Press presented the highlights of their report to the Board and our Committee. In summary, they reported that the transition process for our journal is "progressing nicely," on schedule, and that UC Press has been responsive to their requests. They are transferring Scholar One, analyzing the subscription list and launching a website on the OUP platform. This website will help promote Social Problems to a wider and more international audience. OUP is also marketing SP at international meetings. The cover of the journal has been redesigned and the new editors and executive staff of SSSP have received an orientation at the OUP office. Their report also details the marketing plan for the journal. The Committee welcomes OUP to SSSP.

#### Press Releases and Visibility of SP:

The Committee briefly discussed the importance of getting some press releases out regarding key Social Problems article research findings. Ways that this might be done through social media and opinion/editorial pieces were discussed. These included suggestions that SSSP members conducting research seek to develop more ongoing relationships with featured OP/ED writers.

#### Internationalization of Social Problems:

Per the directive from the Board of Directors, our Committee discussed ways that we might increase the international visibility and content of Social Problems. Drawing on the OUP report as well as the strategies already contained in reports from our current and incoming editors, we endorse the following strategies:

- 1) Publicizing SP at international conferences and on the OUP website. (OUP takes copies of the journal to these conferences and has a booth.) This strategy may include developing a podcast to place on the website that contains information about how to organize papers for submission to SP.
- 2) Our committee recommends that SSSP should become an institutional affiliate of ISA.

- 3) Social media campaigns regarding specific international content areas (new editors already have team of student editors working in this realm and in cooperation with OUP.)
- 4) Thematic groupings of Social Problems articles with international content and locating them in virtual issues via website OUP blogs and/or podcasts. Becky Pettit pointed out that there is considerable international content already in the journal that should be highlighted.
- 5) Special issues with international themes or permanent editors from differing global regions were also discussed, but the committee favored the first four, more flexible strategies instead, due to the difficulty of producing special issues --given the large number of regularly accepted papers in Social Problems. Another suggestion for future consideration included having Spanish speaking editors and reviews in Spanish, and then translating papers that have been accepted into English for publication.

The committee discussed other issues about internationalizing. For example, the committee suggested that there is not currently one member of the SSSP BOD who is from another country. The Committee including Editors (past and present) agreed that there is need for the BOD to issue some directives that apply not only to the journal but also to the entire association about how best to balance serving our existing membership while also expanding to a more international focus and membership.

#### Journal Submission Fees:

The Board asked us to consider whether we should have staggered SP submission fees with lower fees for members. After some discussion, the Committee voted to leave the fee structure as it is. The publication fee of \$100 is already waived for members of SSSP whose articles are accepted. We recommend that the submission fee of \$50 remain the same for members and non-members.

#### Recommendations for Future Editor Searches:

(drawn from last year's report and endorsed by this year's E&P Committee.)

- 1) The BOD should be circumspect about declining University support for journal editorships as they advertise for future editors. This potential budgetary issue should be considered in planning future editor searches.

- 2) The Committee recommends a reduction in the number of reference letters required for editor applicants, or totally eliminating this component entirely as such letters were not used last time.
- 3) Timing of the deadline for applications needs to be weighed (Although January is early, February may be too late given our August meeting deadline for selection).
- 4) Site visits may not be sufficiently important to justify the time and expenses they involve. (There was not time to conduct these last year).
- 5) Specify the number of applications desired in the search and specify a process in advance regarding how to solicit additional applicants if needed.
- 6) Make certain that the BFA representative and the E&P Chair clear all budgetary matters in proposals and revisions with BFA committee. Clarify and confirm communication channels between these 2 committees regarding budgetary matters prior to final selection of a new editor.

#### Future Publisher Search Procedures:

The E&P Committee Proposes these changes to the Operations Manual regarding the Publisher Search Process:

The Ad Hoc Committee to solicit and review applications for publisher will include the following: The Executive Officer, Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee, the current Editor of Social Problems, the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, and one at-large member of the Editorial and Publications Committee. This ad hoc committee will review all bids, provide frequent updates to the E&P Committee, select finalists, and make a recommendation to the Editorial and Publication Committee as a whole. The Editorial and Publications Committee will vote on the recommendation of a new publisher and then forward their recommendation to the Board of Directors. (The Editorial and Publication Committee should also be included in any interviews with publisher finalists conducted at the annual society meetings.)

#### New Chair and Thank You's:

The Chair thanked her committee for their service to the Society this year. She is pleased to announce that Mary Bernstein was elected Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee for 2014-2015. Thank you for the opportunity to serve SSSP in this capacity.