

# Editorial and Publications Committee Report 2014-2015

Submitted by E&P 2014-2015 Chair Mary Bernstein

Our committee met August 21, 2015 from 10:30am-2:00pm. Those present included 2014-2015 voting members Mary Bernstein, David Fasenfest, Paul Luken, Nancy Naples, Gregory Squires, Corey Dolgon, Claire M. Renzetti (Voting, Ex-Officio, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair 2014-2015), Pamela Ann Quiroz, Non-Voting, Ex-Officio, Editor of *Social Problems*. Also present were new members (non-voting at 2015 meeting) Valerie Jenness and Anna Maria Santiago as well as Oxford University Press representatives Laura Bannon, Allison Ferguson, and Michael Blong.

## **Report from Oxford University Press:**

Laura Bannon, Michael Blong and Allison Ferguson of Oxford University Press presented the highlights of their report to our Committee. In summary, they reported that significant growth in subscriptions to *Social Problems*, almost triple the number in 2014. This includes an effort to place *Social Problems* in developing countries through the developing country initiatives and participation in various OUP consortia and has expanded the global reach of the journal. Other ideas for increasing the promotion of the journal were also discussed, including working with the communications offices of universities whose authors have published with *Social Problems*. Although the impact factor is an imperfect measure, E&P was nonetheless pleased to see an increase in the impact factor to 1.729 in 2014 making it 15 out of 142 journals compared to 1.360, 27/138 journals in sociology in 2013.

## **Report from Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz:**

*Social Problems* editor Pamela Quiroz discussed her report to the Board and our Committee and fielded questions. She discussed the transition to the University of Houston and the departure of Nilda Flores-Gonzalez and thanked Mary Bernstein, Hector Delgado, Michele Koontz, Miriam Lopez, and Susan Carlson for their assistance with the transition. She also acknowledged the student editorial board for all their work on the journal as well as new deputy editor Samantha Kwan of the University of Houston.

## Social Media Committee

The Social Media Committee has developed a strong media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The committee reports that “Over the past year, the work of *SP* authors and editors was featured in national outlets like *The New York Times*, ‘CNN,’ *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Slate*, in addition to academic outlets like ‘Jstor Daily,’ *The Society Pages*, ‘Left of Black,’ and ‘OrgTheory.net.’ Work covered by these outlets spoke to many social problems, like the events surrounding Freddie Gray in Baltimore, racist Greek life at the University of Oklahoma, global sex work, achievement gaps in education, and segregation in American cities, among others.” Distribution of press releases and “talking points” summaries has helped generate this increased publicity for the journal.

**Action:** E&P requests that the budget of the editor of *Social Problems* be increased by \$5000 per year to institutionalize the media presence and promotion of *Social Problems*. Please note that this request has been submitted to BFA via Claire Renzetti.

**Rationale:** The Board charged E&P with institutionalizing support for social media and other ways to promote *Social Problems*. Currently, Editor Quiroz has given away her own stipend to help defray the expenses associated with the social media and general promotion of the journal. The money requested will allow Professor Quiroz to retain her stipend and to ensure the continued promotion of the journal. This will enable the social media committee to achieve the goals that have been laid out in its report.

Discussion of Operations Manual requirement that E&P:

Current wording:

“Conduct a bi-yearly evaluation of the editor of *Social Problems*. The committee can recommend reappointment to a second term not to exceed three years.”

**Recommendation:** The E&P committee unanimously recommends that the E&P “Conduct an annual evaluation of the editor of *Social Problems* in conjunction with the annual report of the editor.”

**Rationale:** We request that this language replace the current language that is vague and raises questions as to what “bi-yearly” means. In addition, the proposed new language links the evaluation to the annual report and thus provides more guidance to the committee regarding the charge that the editor be evaluated. In addition, the committee feels that an evaluation is important should the editor need to be replaced.

**Recommendation:** The E&P committee recommends that the term of the editor be changed from 3 years to 4 years.

**Rationale:** The E&P committee feels that the learning curve for the editor can be steep and that after the first year, the editor should have more time to conduct the business of the journal. In addition, with a three year term, as is current practice, almost as soon as the new editor is in place, E&P must put out a call for a new editor. We believe that a four-year term will provide better continuity for the journal.

**Recommendation:** The Committee recommends approval of the attached call for editors. Two changes were made over previous versions: We added: “The new editor will be responsible for

editing **and promoting** Volumes...” The number of articles submitted was increased to reflect the recent increase on the number of submissions.

**Rationale:** We believe that by adding “and promoting” that it will be clear that the editor must assemble a team to promote the journal on social media, through press releases, and through other means deemed necessary.

The Chair thanked her committee for their service to the Society this year. She is pleased to announce that David Fasenfest was elected Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee for 2015-2016. Thank you for the opportunity to serve SSSP in this capacity.