



Social Problems

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

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor
University of Houston

July 08, 2016

To: SSSP Board of Directors
Editorial Board and Publications Committee
Associate Editors
From: Pamela Anne Quiroz
Re: 2016 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the report of my second year as Editor of *Social Problems*. I want to express my gratitude for the support that I have received as Editor. I also want to thank Laura Bannon and her staff at Oxford University Press for their support.

This report documents the journal's activities from June 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. It also describes the transition of the journal that accompanied the move to the University of Houston along with a few additions to the editorial board.

Editorial Office

The editorial process is truly a collective effort and the smooth transitioning of a journal is exceptionally important. I am grateful for the assistance of such excellent staff members as, Lydia Hou, Deana Lewis, Amy Jo Woodruff, for their efforts to facilitate this transition. I'm equally grateful to Maira Alvarez and Devon Jones for serving as the new Managing Editor and Assistant Editor. They are doing a great work. Production Editor, Amy Jo Woodruff, has continued to provide outstanding support and continuity for the journal. The work of Maria Luna Duarte, a student board member, and Monica Perez-Segovia, an editorial board member, provided Spanish translation of the online abstracts of published articles, beginning with Volume 62, Number 2 of *Social Problems*. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the journal's Social Media Committee (co-chairs Kasey Henricks and Devon Goss).

Associate Editors

In addition to the staff, there were 10 associate editors who provided substantive and methodological expertise: Professors Sharon Collins, Heather Dalmage, David Embrick, Roberto Gonzalez, Cedric Herring, Moon Kie Jung, Rogelio Saenz, Amanda Baumle, Maria Monserud, and Xavia Karner. These Associate Editors also provided quick turnaround reviews (i.e., occasionally needed when a reviewer fails to submit a review) and addressed conflicts of interest and discrepancies in reviews.

Advisory Board

The editorial board included 70 colleagues who provided expertise in a variety of areas of specialization and methodology significant to *Social Problems*. The board also included 11 international scholars. Advisory board members agreed to review four manuscripts per year, recommended potential reviewers, resolved discrepancies in reviews, and promoted *Social Problems* through their social networks.

Four new advisory board members have been added to the board. Two of these members will replace former advisory board members due to changes in personal and professional circumstances and 2 have been added because of submissions in specific areas [health, environment]. For example, Professor Kristen Barkin of the University of New Mexico will provide added assistance to review submissions focused on Health and Medical Sociology. Professor Stefano Longo will help us to address manuscripts on the Environment and Professor Dawn Baunach will provide reviews on Sexual Behavior, Politics and Communities. [Please see the attached list of advisory board members for 2016-2017].

Student Advisory Board

The student advisory board consists of 28 graduate students with 22 students engaged in the review process and a Social Media Committee that consists of 6 graduate students. Kasey Henricks and Devon Goss serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Social Media Committee. The student board now represents 17 universities that include Bowling Green State University, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of Connecticut, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Georgia, University of Illinois-Chicago, Loyola University-Chicago, Michigan State University, University of Nebraska, University of New Mexico, Northeastern University, University of Oklahoma, Rice University, University of Utah, University of Texas-San Antonio, Vanderbilt University and University of Washington. These students summarize the comments of external reviewers and help to recommend potential reviewers for manuscripts.

Summary & Submission Processing

The number of original manuscripts submitted is similar to last year, however, the overall number of manuscripts managed this past year has increased. Notable is the relative consistency of the numbers with a slight increase in time to deflect and the average time to reject. The Impact Factor is 1.291 locating the journal as 42/142 among sociology journals [the 5 year Impact Factor is 2.373, 28/142].

Table 1: Total Manuscript Submission

ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL	ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
Jun 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015			June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016		
388	86	474	389	149	538

Table 2: Total Initial Decisions

MS DECISION	# OF MS	% OF TOTAL DECISIONS	MS DECISION	# OF MS	% OF TOTAL DECISIONS
6/1/14 to 6/30/15			6/1/15 to 6/30/16		
Accept	20	6%	Accept	42	9%
Conditional Accept	24	7%	Conditional Accept	38	8%
Revise and Resubmit	75	21%	Revise and Resubmit	125	26%
Deflect	94	26%	Deflect	77	16%
Reject	149	41%	Reject	191	40%
Total Decisions	362		Total Decisions	473	

Table 3: Total MS Under External Review

June 1, 2014 to June 17, 2015	June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
177 manuscripts	150 manuscripts

Under external review excludes R2 manuscripts and manuscripts that on the day of generating report have had zero reviewers invited.

Table 4: Manuscript Submission Rates by Month

This table presents the number of original and revised manuscripts submitted each month of the 2015-2016 year (blue). The left side of the table presents these numbers for the 2014-2015 year (green).

MONTH	ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL	MONTH	ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
Jun 2014	23	3	26	Jun 2015	30	13	43
Jul 2014	28	2	30	Jul 2015	32	10	42
Aug 2014	30	4	34	Aug 2015	20	5	25
Sep 2014	40	3	43	Sep 2015	33	9	42
Oct 2014	27	4	31	Oct 2015	36	8	44
Nov 2014	22	7	29	Nov 2015	30	12	42
Dec 2014	20	7	27	Dec 2015	26	14	40
Jan 2015	27	4	31	Jan 2016	25	5	30
Feb 2015	34	7	41	Feb 2016	33	8	41
Mar 2015	38	7	45	Mar 2016	26	14	40
Apr 2015	30	16	46	Apr 2016	25	12	37
May 2015	39	9	48	May 2016	35	18	53
June 2015	30	13	43	June 2016	38	21	59
Total	388	86	474	Total	389	149	538

Table 5: Average Time to Deflect

June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
26 days	35 days

Table 6: Average Time to Reject

June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
141 days	163 days

Total Submission by Subject Area, June 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Original submissions were coded by 27 subject areas.

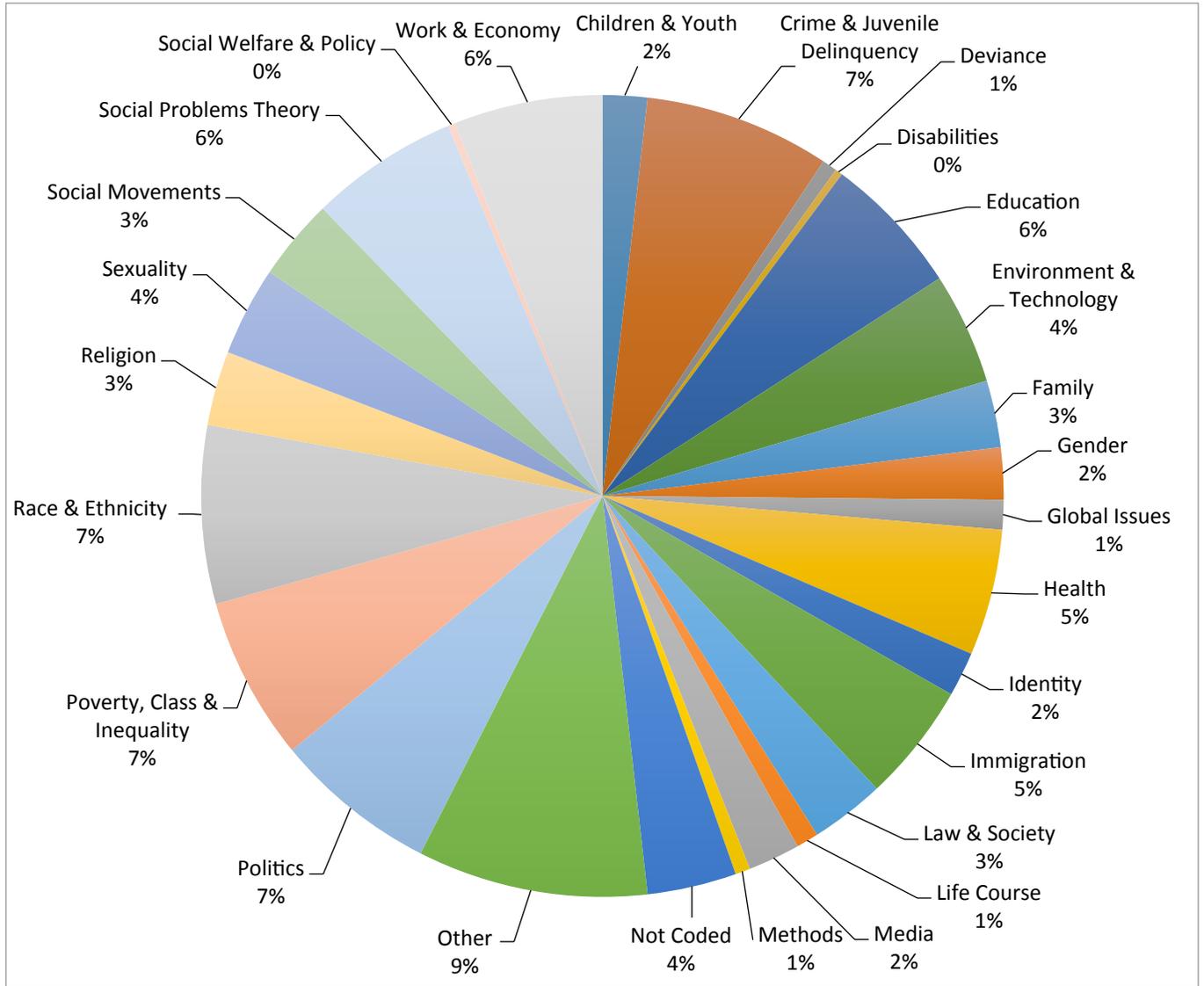


Table 7: Subject Area Code Alphabetized

Subject Area	# of Submissions
Children & Youth	6
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	25
Deviance	2
Disabilities	1
Education	19
Environment & Technology	15
Family	9
Gender	7
Global Issues	4
Health	17
Identity	6
Immigration	16
Law & Society	10
Life Course	3
Media	7
Methods	2
Not Coded	12
Other	31
Politics	22
Poverty, Class & Inequality	22
Race & Ethnicity	24
Religion	10
Sexuality	12
Social Movements	11
Social Problems Theory	20
Social Welfare & Policy	1
Work & Economy	20
Grand Total	334

The total number of submissions reported varies from the total number in other tables due to the fact that some manuscripts were “Unsubmitted” from Social Problems because of author request or errors in submission.

Table 8: Average Number of Reviewer Invitations

June 1, 2014 to June 17, 2015	June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
8 invitations	9 invitations

Average number is the average number to get 3 reviewers to agree to review the manuscript).

Table 9: Average Time to Send for External Review

June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015	June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016
25 days	31 days

Average is calculated based on date of submission to the day the first reviewer agrees. Data only reflects original submissions.

Table 10: Average Length of Time for Review

OCCASIONAL		ADVISORY EDITOR	
June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015		June 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016	
38 days	39 days	34 days	34 days

Average is calculated based on timespan from date reviewer agrees to review to the date the reviewer completes the review.

Table 11: Types of Submissions (as of 06/26/15)

Types of Submissions (as of 05/17/16)

Method	Percentage
Qualitative	55%
Quantitative or Mixed Methods	45%
Total	100%

Method	Percentage
Qualitative	52%
Quantitative or Mixed Methods	48%
Total	100%

Table 12: Submission by Countries

Information based on all manuscripts whose submission date is Between June 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015			
Author Country	Original	Revised	Total
Australia	3	0	3
Belgium	2	0	2
Canada	13	2	15
China	1	0	1
Czech Republic	1	0	1
Denmark	2	0	2
Estonia	1	0	1
Finland	2	0	2
France	2	0	2
Germany	4	2	6
Hong Kong	2	0	2
Hungary	1	1	2
Israel	11	2	13
Italy	2	0	2
Japan	1	0	1
Korea, Republic of	1	0	1
Netherlands	4	0	4
New Zealand	1	1	2
Norway	2	1	3
Poland	2	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1
South Africa	2	0	2
Spain	4	0	4
Sweden	1	0	1
Switzerland	1	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	1
Turkey	1	0	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9	3	12
United States	309	74	383
	1	0	1
Summary	388	86	474

Information based on all manuscripts whose submission date is Between June 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016			
Author Country	Original	Revised	Total
Australia	5	2	7
Belgium	1	0	1
Canada	23	5	28
China	1	0	1
Denmark	4	0	4
Finland	1	0	1
France	1	0	1
Germany	5	1	6
Hong Kong	1	2	3
Hungary	1	0	1
Iceland	1	0	1
India	1	0	1
Iran (the Islamic Republic of)	1	0	1
Israel	9	5	14
Italy	1	0	1
Japan	1	0	1
Jordan	1	0	1
Korea (the Republic of)	1	0	1
Korea, Republic of	1	0	1
Luxembourg	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Netherlands	6	1	7
New Zealand	2	0	2
Portugal	2	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	1
Spain	2	1	3
Sweden	1	0	1
Switzerland	1	1	2
Taiwan	1	0	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10	0	10
United States	300	131	431
Summary	389	149	538

Also noted are the areas of submission as demonstrated by the 27 codes. The coding chart illustrates the distribution of submissions across categories, with Race & Ethnicity, Politics, Poverty, Class and Inequality, Work & Economy, Crime, Social Problems Theory, Education, and Immigration showing the largest numbers of submissions.

Submissions from International authors are similar to last year with the largest submissions coming from Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom. Despite the Spanish translations of published abstracts (online), we do not see an increase in the number of submissions from Central or Latin America.

The Social Media Committee has increased the journal's outreach and has supported authors to receive media attention and professional recognition. A separate annual report has been submitted by the Committee.

Budget

The journal is operating within budget at this time.

Summary

I look forward to next year as Editor. Our exceptional staff and editorial board assures high standards of scholarly excellence in selecting papers for publication that address the pressing issues of our time.

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