



# ***Social Problems***

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

**Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor**  
**University of Houston**

July 20, 2017

To: SSSP Board of Directors  
Editorial Board and Publications Committee  
Associate Editors  
From: Pamela Anne Quiroz  
Re: 2017 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the report of my third 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, 2016-May 31, 2017.

## **Editorial Office**

Heading into my last year as editor and my final editorial report, I want to thank all those who have worked with me on this journal: associate editors, editorial board members, and student editorial board members. I also want to acknowledge the production editor, Amy Jo Woodruff, and the consultant who assisted the social media committee to learn how to write press releases and develop a social media presence, Erika Hobbs. I'm particularly grateful to staff members who have worked so closely with me throughout this time, Maira E. Álvarez (Managing Editor) and Devon E. Jones (Assistant Editor). They have been exceptional. The work of Maria Luna Duarte, a student board member, and Monica Pérez-Segovia, an editorial board member, has 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 incredible work of the journal's Social Media Committee (co-chairs Kasey Henricks and Devon Goss). The collective effort of these members has allowed us to sustain the quality of the journal and I believe we accomplished some good things and hopefully enhanced the journal's outreach to the public.

## Associate Editors

Nine associate editors provided substantive and methodological expertise: Professors Sharon Collins, Heather Dalmage, David Embrick, Roberto Gonzalez, Moon Kie Jung, Rogelio Saenz, Amanda Baumle, and Maria Monserud. 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. In some cases, board members generously provided quick turn-around reviews for papers and I am grateful.

Two new editorial board members have been added to the board, Kasey Henricks and Claudia López. As Kasey begins his tenure track position at the University of Tennessee and Claudia begins her position at California State University-Long Beach, they have transitioned from the student editorial board to the editorial board of the journal.

### Student Advisory Board

The student advisory board consists of 20 graduate students with students who are solely 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 15 universities that include Bowling Green State University, University of California-Santa Cruz, University of Connecticut, George Mason University, University of Georgia, University of Illinois-Chicago, Louisiana State University, Michigan State University, University of Nebraska, University of New Mexico, Northeastern University, University of Oklahoma, Rice University, Vanderbilt University, and University of Utah. 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. Notable is the relative consistency of the numbers with a slight increase in time to deflect and a decrease in the average time to reject. The Impact Factor is 1.684 (up from 1.29) locating the journal as 36/143 among sociology journals [the 5 year Impact Factor is 2.595].

**Table 1: Total Manuscript Submission**

ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
Jun 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016		
350	128	478

ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
Jun 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017		
309	121	430

**Table 2: Total Initial Decisions**

MS DECISION	# OF MS	% OF TOTAL DECISIONS
6/01/15 – 5/31/16		
Accept	37	8%
Conditional Accept	36	8%
Revise & Resubmit	120	27%
Deflect	75	17%
Reject	181	40%
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>100%</b>

MS DECISION	# OF MS	% OF TOTAL DECISIONS
6/01/16 – 5/31/17		
Accept	38	8%
Conditional Accept	20	4%
Revise & Resubmit	46	10%
Deflect	142	30%
Reject	226	48%
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3: Manuscript Submission Rates by Month**

The green table presents the number of original and revised manuscripts submitted each month of the 2016-2017 year. The blue table presents the 2017-2018 year.

MONTH	ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
June 2015	30	13	43
July 2015	32	10	42
Aug 2015	20	5	25
Sep 2015	33	9	42
Oct 2015	36	8	44
Nov 2015	30	12	42
Dec 2015	26	14	40
Jan 2016	24	5	29
Feb 2016	33	8	41
Mar 2016	26	14	40
Apr 2016	25	12	37
May 2016	35	18	53
Total	350	128	478

MONTH	ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
June 2016	38	21	59
July 2016	28	19	47
Aug 2016	26	24	50
Sep 2016	35	11	46
Oct 2016	27	9	36
Nov 2016	18	5	23
Dec 2016	20	9	29
Jan 2017	14	4	18
Feb 2017	32	7	39
Mar 2017	24	3	27
Apr 2017	19	5	24
May 2017	28	4	32
Total	309	121	430

**Table 4: Average Time to Deflect**

Jun 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016
38 days

June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
40 days

**Table 5: Average Time to Reject**

Jun 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016
167 days

June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
144 days

**Table 6: Average Number of Reviewer Invitations**

Jun 1, 2015 to May 13, 2016
10 invitations

June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
9 invitations

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

**Table 7: Average Time to Send for External Review**

June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016
32 days

June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017
34 days

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

**Table 8: Average Length of Time for Review**

OCCASIONAL	ADVISORY EDITOR
June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016	
35 days	36 days

OCCASIONAL	ADVISORY EDITOR
June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017	
36 days	39 days

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

**Table 9: Types of Submission** (as of 5/31/16)

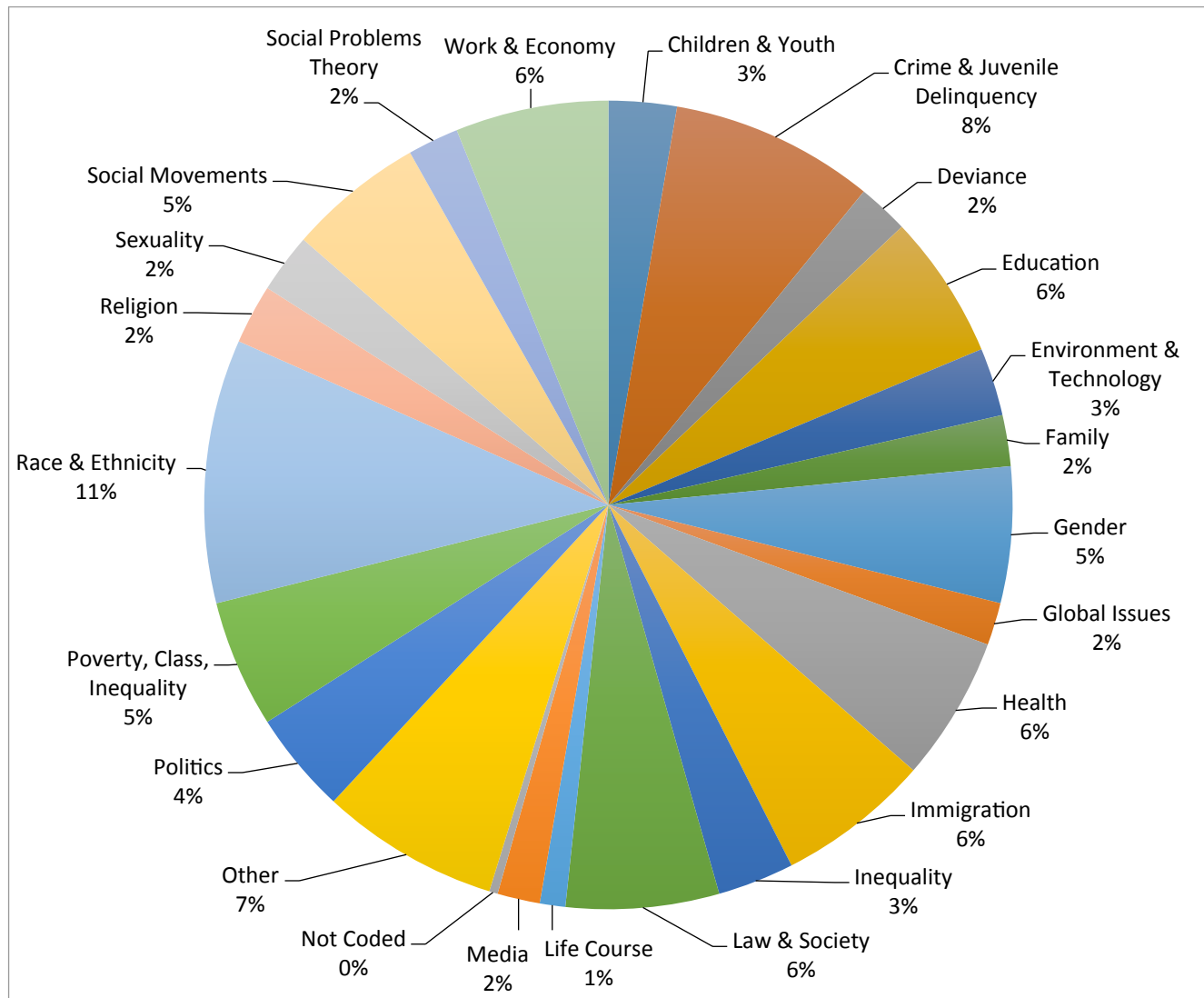
Method	Percentage
Qualitative	52%
Quantitative or Mixed Methods	48%
Total	100%

**Types of Submission** (as of 5/31/17)

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

### Total Submission by Subject Area: June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017

Original submissions were coded by 24 subject areas.



**Table 10: Subject Area Code Alphabetized**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b># of Submissions</b>
Children & Youth	8
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	24
Deviance	6
Education	17
Environment & Technology	8
Family	6
Gender	16
Global Issues	5
Health	17
Immigration	18
Inequality	9
Law & Society	18
Life Course	3
Media	5
Not Coded	1
Other	21
Politics	12
Poverty, Class, Inequality	15
Race & Ethnicity	31
Religion	7
Sexuality	7
Social Movements	16
Social Problems Theory	6
Work & Economy	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>294</b>

*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 11: Submissions by Countries**

Information based on all manuscripts whose submission date is between Jun 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016			
Author Country	Original	Revised	Total
Australia	4	3	7
Belgium	1	0	1
Canada	21	3	24
China	1	0	1
Denmark	3	0	3
Finland	1	0	1
France	1	0	1
Germany	3	1	4
Hong Kong	1	2	3
Hungary	1	0	1
Iceland	1	0	1
Iran	1	0	1
Israel	8	6	14
Italy	1	0	1
Japan	1	0	1
Jordan	1	0	1
Korea	2	0	2
Luxembourg	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Netherlands	5	0	5
New Zealand	2	0	2
Portugal	2	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	1
Spain	2	0	2
Sweden	1	0	1
Switzerland	1	1	2
Taiwan	1	0	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9	0	9
United States	271	112	383
Summary	350	128	478

Information based on all manuscripts whose submission date is between Jun 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017			
Author Country	Original	Revised	Total
Australia	9	2	11
Azerbaijan	1	0	1
Belgium	1	2	3
Canada	7	6	13
Chile	2	0	2
China	1	0	1
Denmark	2	1	3
Ecuador	1	0	1
France	2	1	3
Germany	4	1	5
Hong Kong	2	1	3
India	2	0	2
Ireland	1	0	1
Israel	6	1	7
Italy	2	0	2
Japan	1	0	1
Jordan	1	0	1
Korea	2	0	2
Luxembourg	0	1	1
Mexico	0	1	1
Netherlands	5	1	6
New Zealand	1	0	1
Norway	3	1	4
Pakistan	1	0	1
South Africa	1	0	1
Spain	0	2	2
Sweden	2	0	2
Switzerland	1	1	2
Taiwan	1	0	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10	1	11
United States	237	98	335
Summary	309	121	430

Also noted are the areas of submission as demonstrated by the 24 codes. The coding chart illustrates the distribution of submissions across categories, with Race & Ethnicity (11%) and Crime and Deviance (10%) having the highest submissions, and Health, Immigration, Law & Society, Poverty, Class and Inequality, Work & Economy, and Education showing the largest numbers of submissions (each 6%).

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

### **Social Media Committee**

The Social Media Committee has supported authors to receive media attention and professional recognition. A separate annual report has been submitted by the Committee that provides a detailed explanation of how and why particular metrics are used. In addition, Oxford Publisher is now combining the exceptional vodcasts produced by the Committee with our featured articles. It is our hope that these can be used to support instruction.

### **Budget**

This year a request was made and supported to supplement the May issue to include essays by colleagues on the state of the discipline. Because of a transition in staff and unforeseen delays in the production process, additional funds were requested to expedite production. These delays have now been addressed and the journal is operating within budget at this time.

### **Summary**

I look forward to this next year as Editor. In taking this role my goal was to enhance the breadth of submissions, broaden the outreach of the journal, and promote an editorial board and submission process that reflected the diversity of the field in all of its varied aspects. To achieve these goals, online Spanish abstracts were provided, a social media committee was created and great care was taken to generate a diverse editorial board. Clearly, some efforts were more successful than others.

In addition, an exceptional staff has helped to produce a 100+ pg editorial manual. This manual includes job descriptions of staff, along with a student orientation guide and templates for use or modification by future editors. We hope it is useful.

### ***Social Problems Advisory Board 2017-2018***

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*\*Denotes member of Social Problems Social Media Committee*