



Social Problems

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

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor
University of Houston

May 21, 2018

To: SSSP Board of Directors
Editorial Board and Publications Committee
Associate Editors
From: Pamela Anne Quiroz
Re: 2018 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit my final report as editor of *Social Problems*. This report documents the editorial staff activities at the University of Houston, a summary of my tenure, and the transition to the new editors. I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to those who supported me throughout these four years, particularly my staff members, colleagues, and graduate student board members. I also want to thank the SSSP. It has been a privilege to serve as editor.

Editorial Office

Staff

During my tenure as editor I have had the privilege of working with an excellent staff. At UIC these included Brandi Vigil, Lydia Hou and Deana Lewis. At the University of Houston, I have worked with two exceptional staff members, Maira Alvarez and Devon Jones. Each of these women were excellent colleagues. I believe the editor's relationship with both the assistant and managing editors is crucial to maintaining a journal and I am deeply appreciative for their efforts and their professionalism.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Production Editor, Amy Jo Woodruff, whose efforts provided continuity for the journal and assisted in the transition to a new publisher. Amy has been instrumental for the journal having served during the tenure of at least four editors of *Social Problems*.

Translation of abstracts

With the goal of expanding the reach of the journal, the editorial board provided Spanish translation of the online abstracts of published articles, beginning with Volume 62, Number 2 of *Social Problems*. The incredible work of two board members made this possible, Monica Segovia-Perez and Maria Luna Duarte.

Associate Editors

The associate editors consistently provided substantive and methodological expertise and a commitment to scholarly excellence: Hector Carillo, Sharon Collins, Heather Dalmage, David Embrick, Roberto Gonzalez, Cedric Herring, Moon Kie Jung, Maria Krysan, Rogelio Saenz, and Amanda Baumle & Maria Monserud.

Editorial Board

I would like to thank all of my colleagues who served on the board these past four years for their incredible generosity. They provided expertise in a variety of areas of specialization and methodology significant to *Social*

Problems. Though the formal requirements of editorial board members is to review four manuscripts each year, board members have also been called upon in other instances, such as conducting a third review when one was never returned, or expediting a review. Their commitment to the journal never wavered and it is most appreciated.

Student Advisory Board

Following the initiative of Professor Becky Pettit, we also formed a student advisory board. The student board ranged from 22 students during the first year to 26 students during the third year. Universities from across the country were represented by the student board and at least four of the original student board members remained with the journal throughout my tenure: Maria Luna Duarte, Kasey Henricks, Nicholas Rochin, Kisha Milam Brooks. Bradley Zopf and Herrica Telus remained with the journal for three years. The extraordinary commitment of these students helped maintain the journal's quality.

Social Media Committee

A subset of the student board eventually grew into its own group whose efforts are probably the best noted outcome of this editorship, the Social Media Committee. The Social Media committee was created with the goal of expanding the journal's reach. The results exceeded expectations and went beyond supplementing outreach to increasing the number of awards received by the journal's authors and attention by other media outlets. These members demonstrate what energetic, committed and innovative scholars can achieve. Special thanks to Kasey Henricks and Devon Goss, the co-chairpersons of the committee, and to the incredible efforts of each member.

Editorial User Guide/ Transition

In an attempt to provide transparency to the processes involved during my tenure, and support to future editors, we developed a user guide (what I call "Editors for Dummies"). This 107 page guide presents the culmination of what we learned in the past four years and includes descriptions of each role on the journal, a student orientation (begun by the editorial staff of Becky Pettit), the flow diagram of the editorial process used 2014-2018, the coding scheme used for papers, metrics used to generate the annual report, additional guidelines, notices and reminders to reviewers and authors, and templates of decision letters.

In addition to sending this to the new editors early in the year, my staff provided skype sessions and vodcasts to the incoming editors and staff prior to their two day visit with us at the University of Houston. Finally, we conducted and sent the results of a mini survey of student editorial board members to the incoming editors (this was done anonymously by Devon and I was not part of it). I am exceptionally grateful to Maira and Devon for their management of this process. They provided as comprehensive a transition as I believe possible.

Decisions on manuscripts June 1, 2017-April 30, 2018

Total Submissions

ORIGINAL	REVISED	TOTAL
June 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018		
265	26	291

Total Decisions

MS DECISION	# OF MS	% OF TOTAL DECISIONS
June 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018		
Accept	12	5%
Conditional Accept	6	2%
Revise and Resubmit	18	7%
Deflect	100	41%
Reject	105	44%
Total Decisions	241	

Total MS Under External Review

June 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018
57 manuscripts

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

Budget

The journal is operating within budget at this time.

Summary

Best wishes to the new editors and my very deep gratitude to our colleagues whose commitment to the journal is inspiring!