

Society for the Study of Social Problems
Editorial and Publications Committee Report

Anna Maria Santiago, Chair, 2017-2018

August 11, 2018 FINAL

Attendees: Loretta Bass, Jackie Krasas, Valerie Jenness, Valerie Leiter, Annulla Linders (Incoming Editor), Pamela Anne Quiroz (Outgoing Editor), Rogelio Saenz, Anna Maria Santiago (Chair), A. Javier Treviño, Earl Wright II (Incoming Editor)

The E & P Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on August 10, 2018. Rogelio Saenz and A. Javier Treviño were introduced as the newly elected members of the E & P Committee. Becky Pettit and Valerie Jenness were thanked for their service on this Committee.

Summary of 2017-2018 E & P Committee Activities

During 2017-2018, the Committee engaged in extensive follow-up work with Oxford University Press (via Brittany Hobson and Laura Bannon) in response to Committee concerns with the proposed 2018 Marketing Plan for *Social Problems*. Extensive email communication among Committee members led to the development of a series of additional questions and suggested revisions in the plan around OUP's five primary marketing goals: (1) driving usage; (2) increasing traffic to marketing touchpoints; (3) encouraging citations; (4) supporting editorial objectives; and (5) supporting SSSP objectives. OUP prepared a revised marketing plan in January 2018. Over the course of our written communications with OUP, the E & P Committee stressed the need for regular and timely consultation and decision-making between OUP, the Editors of *Social Problems*, and the Social Media Committee.

Two members of the E & P Committee (Leiter and Santiago) served as members of the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee as that committee deliberated about the potential for a publisher search in 2018-2019. In March 2018, the E & P Committee reviewed and endorsed the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee to renegotiate and extend the current contract between the Society and OUP. This recommendation was forwarded to the Board of Directors for their review and approval in March 2018.

In April 2018, the Committee reviewed and made recommendations to the Board of Directors about several financial models that were presented by OUP as part of the contract renegotiation.

Report from Pamela Anne Quiroz, Outgoing *Social Problems* Editor

The Committee received the report from outgoing *Social Problems* Editor, Pamela Anne Quiroz and expressed appreciation for her work and the work of her Editorial Team. Their work was recognized formally through a resolution at the Society's Business Meeting on August 11, 2018.

Our conversation with Pamela led to a thoughtful discussion about the increasing demands and rising expectations placed upon the Editorial Team of *Social Problems* – e.g., increased volume of submissions, changes in the publishing world, and the use of social media and technology.

We were particularly concerned about how these rising expectations have and might continue to dissuade potential candidates for Editor. As the Committee develops language for the Call for Editor of *Social Problems* in 2018-2019, it might be helpful to distinguish core responsibilities from activities that might be considered as optional enhancements. Additionally, future calls might consider encouraging the use of teams of editors in order to parse out editorial responsibilities.

Report from Annulla Linders and Earl Wright II, Incoming *Social Problems* Editors

The Committee received the report from Editors Annulla Linders and Earl Wright II who began their editorship in May 2018. They reported that the transition between the two Editorial Teams and with OUP has been smooth. They identified several first year goals: (1) shorten the time to decision; (2) reduce the time to receive high-quality reviews; (3) shorten and develop more consistent branding and quality of Author's Attic videos.

Report from Social Media Committee

The Committee received the report from the Social Media Committee and expressed appreciation for their work and especially the work of Kasey Hendricks and Devon Goss, the outgoing chairs. Their work was recognized formally through a resolution at the Society's Business Meeting on August 11, 2018. Our conversation with Kasey about the variety of social media used to promote the journal and the Society led to a thoughtful discussion about exposure vs. impact/utilization of the knowledge published in the journal. Right now, existing metrics focus primarily on volume or exposure.

Report from Laura Bannon, Brittany Hobson and Michael Blong of Oxford University Press

The Committee received the report from the team from Oxford University Press. Michael Blong was introduced to the Committee as the OUP Publisher who will assume the role as the OUP primary contact person for *Social Problems*. To date, all of the 2018 performance goals for the journal either have been met or are projected to be met. The journal's impact factor was 2.071 – the highest it has been in the last 7 years.

We also engaged in a fruitful conversation with the OUP Team regarding exposure vs. impact of the knowledge published in the journal as well as the need for some comparative indicators of performance. Brittany Hobson noted that the current Altmetric score for *Social Problems* was 10 – considerably higher than the average Altmetric score for other similar OUP journals (6.05). We expressed interest in having comparative data for some of the metrics that OUP collects and reports about the journal. These kind of data would be helpful to put any journal performance indicators in perspective – not only about annual changes occurring for *Social Problems* but in terms of the performance of *Social Problems vis a vis* other comparable journals.

The OUP Team asked the Committee to identify 2019 marketing goals. Preliminary goals discussed included: (1) engaging the SSSP membership in developing virtual issues on timely topics (e.g. immigration); (2) targeting and disseminating SP content/compilations to other

outlets; and (3) identifying mechanisms by which data could be collected on utilization of knowledge generated by publications in *Social Problems*. There was considerable enthusiasm among Committee members about the idea of virtual issues how these might nimbly address these timely topics.

Revision of *Social Problems* Publishing Fee Policy

The Committee was asked by the Executive and Administrative Officers to review and suggest revised language for the journal's Publishing Fee Policy because of confusion as to how to interpret the fee waiver for articles with multiple authors – some who might be members and others non-members.

The current language in the Society's Operations Manual is:

Papers accepted for publication are subject to a fee of \$100, which is waived for members of SSSP. The publication fee is also waived for graduate students or unemployed persons who are sole authors of accepted papers.

Proposed language is:

Social Problems welcomes manuscript submissions from SSSP members as well as non-members. Papers accepted for publication are subject to a fee of \$100. The publication fee is waived if at least one author of the manuscript is a current member of SSSP. The publication fee is also waived for sole authors who are graduate students or unemployed persons at the time of paper acceptance.

We would encourage that information about this publication fee is included in the acceptance letter and that authors have the ability to identify their SSSP membership, graduate student status, or employment status at the time of paper acceptance (potentially as part of the copyright agreement).

This discussion led the Committee to question whether a publication fee was necessary at this time. *Does continuing to have a publication fee serve the purpose for which the policy was originally intended?* It also prompted a discussion about the purpose of and need for the current article submission fee.

Election of New E & P Committee Chair

Rogelio Saenz was selected to serve as the new Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee for 2018-2019.

Expected work tasks for the Committee during the upcoming year include reviewing and approving the 2019 Marketing Plan for the journal and drafting the language for the Call for the Editor of *Social Problems*.

The meeting was adjourned as 2:00 p.m.