

Date: August 04, 2021

To: Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer, and SSSP Board of Directors

From: Kristen M. Budd, Chairperson of the Council of Divisions & Giovanna Follo, Chairperson-Elect of the Council of Divisions

Re: SSSP 2020-2021 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

Below please find a summary of activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2020-2021. The report has been updated after the Council of Divisions' first and second meetings to reflect the discussions at those meetings, and thoughts and concerns of the elected Division Chairs.

1. Appreciation and Thanks

I extend my deepest thanks to Michele Koontz, Kelsey Whitaker, Rachel Cogburn, and Zaina Shams for all their help, advice, and support over this past year.

2. Council of Division Chairs Summary of Activities

To note: In summer of 2021, due to the pandemic, the Council of Chairs met twice virtually via Zoom on 06/22/2021 (Council of Chairs Meeting #1) and on 07/14/21 (Council of Chairs Meeting #2).

Overview

As of the writing of this report, SSSP has 23 divisions organized around specific topics, interests, or subdisciplines.

In 2020-2021, 19 Divisions held elections for Division Chairs, Division Co-Chairs, and/or Vice/Associate Chairs. These Divisions are as follows: *Community Research & Development; Conflict, Social Action, & Change; Crime & Juvenile Delinquency; Disability; Educational Problems, Family; Gender; Global; Health, Health Policy, & Health Services; Institutional Ethnography; Labor Studies; Law & Society; Poverty, Class, & Inequality; Racial & Ethnic Minorities; Society & Mental Health; Sociology & Social Welfare; Sport, Leisure, & the Body; Teaching Social Problems; and Youth, Aging, & the Life Course.* To note, a small number of divisions did hold summer elections. I stressed how important it is to hold elections during the fall or spring as to not 'merge' this election work with annual meeting work.

One application for Division Sponsored Projects was submitted and approved by the BFA and SSSP Board:

- a. Environment & Technology Division. *Food Justice in Practice: Perspectives from Activists and Reckoning with the Role of Scholarship.* Budget requested (\$5,000) and budget approved (\$900).

Along with two Divisions sponsored Division-Sponsored Workshops:

- a. Community Research and Development Division - *Community Based Participatory Action Research Workshop*
- b. Institutional Ethnography Division – *Institutional Ethnography Workshop* [Note: This workshop was canceled. IE leadership stated the logistics of an interactive meeting online

were not optimal for the workshop organizers. They hope to resume their in-person workshop in 2022.]

Completion of Division Tasks

Council of Division Required Meetings (2020 annual meeting):

All Divisions, with the exception of *Family, Social Problems Theory*, and *Society & Mental Health*, attended the two virtual 2020 Council of Division meetings. The divisions listed attended one of the two meetings.

Division Budgets:

All Divisions submitted their annual budgets on time with the exception of *Society & Mental Health*.

Division Mission statements:

In 2020, the majority of divisions updated their mission statement. The following divisions will need to update their statements next year to adhere to division responsibilities – *Institutional Ethnography* (2018) and *Society & Mental Health* (2018). Divisions were reminded to update their mission statement at least every two years as well as when new leadership is elected.

Social Media:

All but six Divisions have a social media presence (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, or both). Divisions without social media presence are: *Conflict, Social Action, & Change*; *Environment & Technology*; *Family*; *Health, Health Policy & Health Services*; *Sexual Behavior, Politics, & Communities*; and *Sociology and Social Welfare*. The recommendation for creating and maintaining Division social networking sites was discussed at our Council meeting as well as continuity with passing those social media sites on to the next generation of leadership.

Newsletters:

All but six Divisions distributed newsletters in 2020-2021 (exceptions: *Drinking & Drugs*; *Health, Health Policy, & Health Services*; *Law & Society*; *Racial & Ethnic Minorities*; *Society & Mental Health*; and *Teaching Social Problems*). At our meeting, I relayed the by-laws dictate at minimum one newsletter per year. I encouraged recruiting newsletter editors (e.g., a graduate student) with a stipend and relayed if a Division does this that SSSP requires there are at minimum two newsletters per year.

It is important to note that some Divisions are communicating “unofficially” with their Divisions via email. However, these activities are not through the Administrative Office and are thus not being counted.

Finally, Division Chairs were reminded to solicit the most updated membership lists from the Administrative Office when disseminating information and soliciting information for Division newsletters and other communications.

Graduate Student Paper Competition / Scholarship Awards

All Divisions participated in the SPC. Four Divisions did not give a paper award.

Division Membership Totals

Information regarding the change over time in Division membership is included in Table 1. This year I included a 5-year and 10-year percent change in addition to the 1-year change.

Table 1. SSSP Division Membership Tallies 2012-2021

Division	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	1-year % Change 2020- 2021	5-year % Change 2017- 2021	10-year % Change 2012- 2021
Community Research & Development	171	174	158	163	152	172	157	160	105	143	36%	-17%	-16%
Conflict, Social Action, & Change	214	237	215	218	226	235	213	210	173	217	25%	-8%	1%
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	183	206	214	179	196	181	188	182	115	168	46%	-7%	-8%
Disabilities	61	70	59	73	50	69	69	63	53	68	28%	-1%	11%
Drinking & Drugs	99	107	111	87	89	105	103	100	72	83	15%	-21%	-16%
Educational Problems	114	120	119	133	106	125	127	133	95	130	37%	4%	14%
Environment & Technology	103	115	101	102	115	111	102	111	90	100	11%	-10%	-3%
Family	129	110	107	118	101	108	96	87	58	76	31%	-30%	-41%
Gender (<i>note: new division in 2019</i>)								147	121	179	48%		
Global	138	138	143	149	188	168	153	156	121	141	17%	-16%	2%
Health, Health Policy, & Health Services	204	221	181	196	191	207	179	182	128	184	44%	-11%	-10%
Institutional Ethnography	134	138	113	104	98	147	89	104	74	125	69%	-15%	-7%
Labor Studies	114	122	107	113	95	103	86	109	82	103	26%	0%	-10%
Law & Society	155	147	142	129	153	156	143	145	99	153	55%	-2%	-1%
Poverty, Class, & Inequality	313	290	327	287	286	309	280	261	183	268	46%	-13%	-14%
Racial & Ethnic Minorities	291	305	330	352	376	375	414	405	311	420	35%	12%	44%
Sexual Behavior, Politics, & Communities	204	194	179	177	172	170	183	152	86	108	26%	-36%	-47%
Social Problems Theory	192	165	148	138	126	150	139	143	98	137	40%	-9%	-29%
Society and Mental Health	118	128	113	110	111	102	105	104	69	102	48%	0%	-14%
Sociology & Social Welfare	100	95	105	111	111	90	102	88	59	91	54%	1%	-9%
Sport, Leisure & the Body	49	51	46	45	42	57	39	45	29	31	7%	-46%	-37%
Teaching Social Problems	150	139	125	116	133	130	112	128	93	113	22%	-13%	-25%
Youth, Aging, & the Life Course	96	82	82	81	83	86	75	82	58	71	22%	-17%	-26%

*Membership tallies are as of July 31st of each year.

3. Election Results, Chairperson of the Council of Divisions (2021-2024)

Giovanna Follo was elected last year by the Council to become the next Chairperson of the Council of Divisions. She will begin her term at the final Board of Director's meeting at the 2021 annual meeting.

PS – Thank you to Giovanna for giving this report on my behalf due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict.

4. Appointed Position for Committee on Social Action

The Council of Division Chairperson is responsible for one committee appointment to the Committee on Social Action (term, 2021-2024).

ACTION ITEM #1 – We move the SSSP Board of Directors please approve Bill Cabin, the current co-Chair for Health, Health Policy, and Health Services, for this position. Bill has prior experience with the resolutions process and would be a great addition to the committee.

5. Action Items and/or Concerns of the Divisions

- (a) Division Chairs report they have seen bolstered membership attendance with their online virtual divisional business meetings. They would like an option to continue to hold a virtual business meeting prior to the annual conference whether the SSSP annual conference be in person, hybrid, or fully virtual.

ACTION ITEM #2 – We move that the SSSP Board of Directors approve an option for Divisions to hold their divisional business meetings virtually prior to the annual meeting. If a Division decides to hold a virtual divisional business meeting prior to the SSSP annual meeting, said Division leadership will be required to notify SSSP’s administrative office so that the administrative office can then plan in-person meeting space accordingly. Additionally, Division leadership will be solely responsible for scheduling and altering their membership to the virtual business meeting as well as virtually hosting the meeting (e.g., Zoom, Webex). Post-virtual divisional business meeting, Division leadership will be responsible for submitting to SSSP their attendance and divisional business meeting minutes.

Note: If approved, this action item will need to be added to the Roles and Responsibilities of Division Chairs.

- (b) The Council of Divisions discussed the blog proposal from the Membership and Outreach Committee.

CONCERNS/QUESTIONS –

- Given this workload will fall on divisions, the Council of Divisions requested time to bring this idea back to their divisional membership to gather input.
 - There was concern smaller divisions would have more difficulty participating due to person-power compared to larger divisions.
- Divisions want more information on the structure of the blog (e.g., where will it be published, how visible will it be online).
- Requested terminology/language changes:
 - Item #7 (current language) – “The blog writers need to avoid posting on issues disputed by science or based on assumption but not empirical research, conspiracy theories of any kind or other controversial not scientifically proven issues, or hostile to SSSP or any of its section values. More information about blog writing could be found at <https://thomodernnonprofit.com/best-practices-nonprofit-blog/>”
 - Remove word “proven” and replace with supported
 - They also noted that science can be and is disputed and controversial, but said disputes/controversies should be based on rigorous empirical research. Hence, language changes are also requested in this regard.

- There was confusion on the failure to submit clause (clarity), particularly given the current proposal reads as if Division blogs are voluntary.

STRAW VOTE (n=27) –

- 22% - support blog initiative
- 19% - do not support blog initiative
- 59% - need more information and/or want the opportunity to bring this to their membership for input and discussion

ACTION ITEM #3 – **We move** that the SSSP Board of Directors task the Membership and Outreach Committee to continue to work on the blog proposal and once they have solidified firm plans for the blog (see concerns/questions above), the Council of Division Chairs would like to review it again to provide feedback prior to BOD vote to implement/not implement.