

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

A. Javier Treviño, Chair, 2020-2021

August 1, 2021

The annual meeting of the Editorial & Publications (E&P) Committee was called to order at 11:03am (EST) on July 27, 2021

Attendees:

Tracy Vargas; Sanjay Tewari; Annulla Linders (Co-editor) Earl Wright II (Co-editor); Derrick Brooms (Co-editor); Trenton Haltom and Mi'Chael Wright (*Social Problems* Committee on Social Media); Mireille Yanow (OUP); Glenn Muschert (Justice-21); Paul Joosse; Louis Edgar Esparza; David J. Luke (BFA Chair).

New members are Yvonne A. Braun and Claire Renzetti. Outgoing members are Rogelio Saenz, David G. Embrick, Jean-Pierre Reed, and A. Javier Treviño.

Summary of 2020-2021 E&P Committee Activities

During 2020-2021, the Committee was engaged in the following activities:

1. Two members and a former Chair of the E&P Committee met, via Zoom, with three members of the Justice 21 Group to discuss plans for J-21's integration as an editorial group, under the purview of E&P. It was decided that the restructuring of J-21 will begin in 2022.
2. The Committee voted unanimously to place the Justice-21 Group under the organizational structure of the E&P Committee.
3. The E&P Committee approved the request made by Justice 21 to put out the 2022 issue of *Agenda for Social Justice* as an e-book.
4. The Committee reviewed the 2021 Marketing Plan for *Social Problems*.
5. The Committee met, via Zoom, with the co-editors of *Social Problems* and approved their request to reallocate the budget and reconfigure the student editorial board before taking the proposal to the Board of Directors for final approval.
6. The Committee approved the request by Justice 21 to translate into Arabic the forthcoming volume - *Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19: Volume 2 - Global Perspectives*. Approval is

under the condition that copyright and other intellectual property issues are cleared by the publisher, Policy Press.

7. The Committee received the annual self-evaluation of the editors of *Social Problems*.

Report from Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms *Social Problems* Co-Editors.

The E&P Committee had previously received the *Social Problems Annual Report* and Annulla gave highlights at the meeting. She noted that the editorial team has increased the number of submissions and significantly reduced the time from submission to decision; that a special issue on W.E.B Du Bois co-edited by Earl Wright II and ASA president, Aldon Morris, was published in May; and that a forthcoming special issue on the lives of Black children will be guest-edited by Derrick Brooms and Marcelle Medford. She also noted that the journal will be publishing about 5 additional articles per issue and that there are plenty of papers in the pipeline to meet this increase. Anna gave some important information on manuscript submissions by author's world region (Africa, Asia, Europe, etc.), explaining that the North America region has the largest submissions.

It was pointed out that due to the editorial teams' efforts, the journals' 2020 Impact Factor was 3.115, up from 2.345 the previous year! The Committee expressed appreciation for the editors' hard and diligent work and that of their Editorial Team.

Report from Mireille Yanow, Sarah Rushworth, and Mary Pelosi of Oxford University Press.

The Committee had previously received the *Social Problems Publisher's Report* from Oxford University Press and Mireille gave highlights at the meeting.

She stated that the top viewed articles in *Social Problems* are 5 or more years old, which indicates their continued relevance. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought" by Patricia Hill Collins remains the most downloaded article. Mireille stated that the journal's 2020 Impact Factor had jumped to 3.115. The journal is now ranked 31/149 putting it in the top Quartile. Journal subscriptions continue to grow, particularly outside of North America. To ensure the journal's continued success OUP has developed a marketing plan focused on increasing readership and usage of journal content, raising the journal's visibility worldwide, and increasing the journal's Altmetric Scores and Impact Factor.

Report from Trenton Haltom, Chair of the Social Media Committee

The Committee had previously received the *Committee on Social Media Annual Report: Social Media Metrics that Matter* from Trenton Haltom, the Committee chair, who gave highlights at the meeting.

Trenton noted that *Social Problems* now has greater prominence on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, with traffic growing on the latter two social media platforms. Author Attic interviews have greatly improved now that the Committee provides guidelines for the authors to follow. Recent interviews, which appear on YouTube, are with Maryann Erigha on “Racial Valuation: Cultural Gatekeepers, Race, Risk, and Institutional Expectations of Success and Failure” and with Sandra Barnes on “Becoming a Man: A Duboisian Examination of the Experiences of Black Men Who Have Sex with Men.” The Author Attic interviews are available to everyone on YouTube and can be used for classroom instructional purposes.

The Committee gave special thanks to Trenton Haltom for his years of service as Chair of the Social Media Committee. We gave a hearty welcome to Mi’Chael Wright who will be taking over chairing duties from Trenton.

New Business

1. Glenn Muschert, Chair of the Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee, provided the E&P Committee with a rationale and other pertinent information regarding plans for the restructuring of the Justice 21 Committee and for the editorial process concerning the *Agenda for Social Justice* volumes. It was agreed that, before the end of the week, Glenn would articulate a proposal for changes to the SSSP By-Laws intended to bring the Justice 21 editorial group under the oversight of the E&P Committee. On submission of the proposal and providing supporting documentation, the E&P Committee would then vote to approve or not approve the proposal to restructure Justice 21.

2. The Committee and the co-editors of *Social Problems* discussed issues previously raised to Javier Treviño as Chair of E&P Committee over the course of several email exchanges by Professor Jerry Jacobs of the University of Pennsylvania. Prof. Jacobs proposed that *Social Problems* consider (1) having greater international representation, orientation, and scope and (2) making publicly available information about journal review times and other related metrics in an author-friendly website.

The Committee charged Javier with relaying the following information to Prof. Jacobs. First, that the Committee plays no role in influencing journal content and perspective; those matters are left to the discretion of the editors. Second, that journal statistics can be found online in the SSSP website in the annual “Reports from the Editor of *Social Problems*” under the heading of “Committee Reports” and available to the SSSP membership. On July 28, Javier sent Prof. Jacobs an email message providing this information.

3. Election of New E&P Committee Chair

The Committee discussed selection of the new Chair of the E&P Committee for 2021-2022. Louis Edgar Esparza graciously volunteered to serve in this regard. Yvonne A. Braun supported Louis’ self-nomination. The Committee unanimously voted in favor of Louis serving as Chair.

The meeting was adjourned as 1:06pm (EST).

Post-meeting business

On August 1, 2021 all voting members of the E&P Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the SSSP By-Laws intended to bring the Justice 21 editorial group under the oversight of the E&P Committee.