

**Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) 2023 Annual Meeting  
Editorial and Publications (E&P) Committee  
Report to the Board of Directors  
Sunday, August 20, 2023**

Presented by Yvonne A. Braun, Chair, E&P Committee (on behalf of E&P committee)

2022-23 & 2023-2024 E&P Committee Members:

Alexis Bender, Marlese Durr, Luis Fernandez, Kasey Henricks, Claire Renzetti, Linda Waldron; Becky Pettit (as BFA Chair); Kristen Budd (as Chair of Justice21 Committee); Annulla Linders, Derrick Brooms, and Earl Wright, II., as the current co-editors of *Social Problems*.

Report Overview and Gratitude

**This report includes detail of the business conducted at the meeting of the Editorial & Publications Committee on Friday, August 18, 2023, and advances an actionable item from the Justice 21 Committee.** The E&P Committee has been an exceptionally collegial and dedicated group, and we benefitted from the support and collegiality of others in SSSP who we would like to mention. As always, Administrative Officer Michele Smith Koontz was essential in supporting the committee's work this term. We worked closely with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, particularly BFA Chair Becky Pettit, who provided helpful guidance and feedback on several issues, and with Executive Officer Elroi Windsor, who is leading the Ad Hoc Publisher Search on which several E&P Committee members serve. The E&P Committee is grateful to Michele, the BFA Committee, Elroi and the Ad Hoc Committee, and to the current editorial team of *Social Problems* for their help and service this year.

Welcomes & Introductions

The committee welcomed new members Marlese Durr and Linda Waldron, and thanked outgoing members, Kasey Henricks and Becky Pettit, for their service.

Editorial & Publisher Reports

The committee received reports from: Mi'Chael Wright, Chair of the SP Social Media Committee (written report only); Sarah Levine and Swapna Padhye, OUP Publisher's Report; Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms, *Social Problems* Co-Editors; Victoria Pittman and Emily Ross, Policy Press Publisher Report; and Kristen Budd, Chair of the Justice 21 Committee. Each report was presented to the committee during the meeting with opportunities for discussion and questions.

The reports from Oxford University Press, the social media committee, and the editorial team for *Social Problems* demonstrated the remarkable work that goes into producing SSSP's flagship journal, and confirmed the strength and value of the journal to the Society. OUP provided a new impact factor which was strong even as it was lower than last year's. It was noted that the decline of the impact factor from last year was expected and is largely a result of a new methodology being used in calculating impact factors. This may take several years to even out as the denominator is temporarily inflated. There was a robust discussion of the issues regarding open access, digital publishing, and AI, and future E&P Committees will need to continue to monitor

these issues in relation to *Social Problems*. This is the last annual meeting with this editorial team, and the E&P recognized their wonderful work over the course of their leadership and thanked them for their commitment to the journal and Society.

The reports from Policy Press and the Justice21 Committee detailed the extraordinary work of the editorial team that produces the Agenda for Social Justice series, the next volume timed to publish with the 2024 SSSP Annual Meeting. The committee also publishes rapid response volumes, such as the recent publication on mass incarceration, *Beyond bars: A path forward from 50 years of mass incarceration in the United States (2023)*, which was a partnership with The Sentencing Project and are above and beyond the expected committee work for the Agenda series. This committee works without a budget or cost to the Society, and their significant efforts and commitment to this work were recognized as highly valuable to SSSP.

### ***Action Item:***

The J21 Committee presented one action item to the E&P Committee. The J21 editorial committee lacks capacity to publicize The Agenda series. They note it would be beneficial to have at minimum one additional committee member dedicated to social media, to coordinate potential publicity events at the conference (e.g., session at the annual meeting, external partnership with a local university or bookstore), to facilitate connections for authors to be on podcasts, blogs, webinars, etc., and other related activities. This additional member dedicated to publicity will provide additional opportunities for visibility of the work of SSSP members and SSSP. There is no expected cost to the Society for this additional position. Marlese made a motion, which was seconded by Kasey, and unanimously approved by the full E&P Committee, to recommend J21's request to the Board:

Per the J21 Chair's report: **we request that the SSSP Board of Directors approve at minimum one additional J21 Committee Member position**, with the flexibility of additional publicity teammates dependent on applicant pool and qualifications, strictly for publicity of The Agenda series. For continuity, we envision the position being a two-year term with the possibility for renewal for another two-year term (which coincides with the publication schedule, every two years). This position would be solicited through an application process and would be ideal for a graduate student. The J21 committee will take on this labor to recruit one or more teammates specializing in publicity.

### **Ad Hoc Publisher Search Update**

The committee heard an update about the work of the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee on which several E&P members have served during the 2022-2023 term (Anna, Alexis, Becky as Chair of BFA, and Yvonne as Chair of E&P). The committee reviewed the revised timeline of the Ad Hoc Committee's work, which includes the E&P Committee in its work. E&P Committee discussion focused on the reasons for the solicitation of bids, which were noted as largely seeking better financial terms through our negotiations with publishers and making sure the value of *Social Problems* is reflected in these terms. It was noted that when the Ad Hoc Committee uses its criteria to narrow the field to 2-3 candidates, the E&P Committee would like to have a detailed understanding of why certain publishers were selected to advance or not

advance, as this will be central to the committee's involvement in the next step in the process. This was discussed as a written memo of several paragraphs or more to contextualize the decisions to the committee which could be written by the E&P Chair or the Ad Hoc Committee Chair and shared with the E&P Committee.

### New E&P Committee Business

#### **1. Annual Evaluation of *Social Problems* Editorial Team:**

The E&P Committee is tasked with conducting an annual evaluation of the editor(s) of *Social Problems*. The editorial team responded in writing to the questions on the self-evaluation form used in prior years and provided by the SSSP Administrative Office. The committee discussed the self-evaluation report with Anna, representing the editorial team, and had an opportunity to ask questions. The editorial team reported smooth working relationships among the administrative office, publishing team, and university relationships. They are working on the transition to the next editorial team already, and noted how May 2024 has been agreed upon as a transition month where both editorial teams will work together on *Social Problems* to ensure an orderly transfer of the journal. Overall, the E&P Committee found no concerns during the evaluation and assessed the work and commitment of the editorial team to be exceptionally strong and a real asset to the Society.

The committee also took the opportunity to recognize and thank the editorial team of Anna, Earl and Derrick for their tremendous work over their two terms of service. In addition, we wanted to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the team to help the editorial search process. The team reasonably recused themselves from the process other than to early on provide feedback on the initial editorial applications to others on the E&P Committee and to meet separately with the finalist applicant team to share their perspectives about the position, work, and budget prior to the start of interviews. This latter meeting with the finalist applicant team was instrumental in advancing understanding of the position and the process itself. The committee is grateful to the editorial team for their dedication and service to *Social Problems* and to SSSP.

#### **2. Electing a New Chair of E&P for the 2023-24 Term:**

The committee discussed electing a new chair of the 2023-24 E&P Committee. Marlese was nominated by Claire, which was then seconded by Kasey. Committee members unanimously voted in favor of Marlese Durr becoming the new chair, effective after the 2023 Annual Meeting. Thank you, Marlese!

### Editorial Search for *Social Problems*

Lastly, it is worth noting here that the 2022-23 Editorial & Publications Committee conducted a successful search for the next editorial team of *Social Problems*. The committee's work on this search completed in July 2023 with a report to the SSSP Board. While this work was wrapped before the annual meeting, and therefore not detailed here, this work represents the focus and efforts of the E&P Committee during this term. We are delighted that this search was successful, and we look forward to working with the new editorial team as they start their term in May 2024 (transition month).