

**Society for The Study of Social Problems
Editorial and Publication (E & P Committee)
Report to the Board of Directors**

August 8-10, 2025

Date: Friday, August 8 | Time: 12:30 PM-2:10 PM (Central Time)

Location: Buckingham Room, 5th floor, Palmer House

Prepared by Marlese Durr, Chair of E & P Committee

2024-2025 E & P Committee Members

Marlese Durr (Chair), Alexis Bender, Luis Alberto Fernandez, Linda M. Waldron, Kristin M. Budd, Jerry Jacobs, Sarah E. Castillo, Annulla Linders, Andrew Fullerton, Michael Long, Rachel M. Schmitz, Kelly Sittner, Ali Meghji, Eric Mykhalovskiy, Anna Maria Santiago

Welcome and Introductions

Before beginning our work, we welcomed the two new Publications Committee members, *Ali Meghji and Eric Mykhalovskiy, along with Anna Maria Santiago*, our new Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair.

Gratitude and Thanks

The E & P Committee wishes to *thank Alexis and Luis for their service on the Editorial and Publications Committee*. Administrative Officer Michele Smith Koontz and Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer, for assisting with the J21 Committee Rule Modifications, as well as for their work with the committee throughout 2024-2025.

New Subscription and Article Processing Fee

We approved the new subscription and Article Processing Charges (APC) prices recommended by OUP for Social Problems for 2026. This new **APC pricing will be advertised from August 1, 2025**, to ensure that authors have visibility of Open Access pricing at the point of submission.

Overview: 2026 Pricing Recommendations & Proposed Subscription Prices

For 2026, we are proposing the following increases:

- a 4% increase on the institutional online subscription price
- a 7% increase on the institutional print, and a combined print and online subscription price
- a 5% increase on the APC

OUP continues to encourage institutional print customers to switch to online-only subscriptions so that they benefit from the greater utility of the online publication. Where budgets are tight, doing so allows customers to save money rather than canceling outright. Along with the shift to digital-first publishing, OUP will focus on transitioning customers from traditional subscriptions to collections. Since collection deals are individually negotiated with customers, the subscription price increases suggested here will only be applied to traditional single-year subscriptions.

The proposed 2026 subscription prices are detailed below alongside the current 2025 prices.

Subscription Type	2025			2026		
	£	\$	€	£	\$	€
Institutional Print	266	507	399	285	543	427
Institutional Online-only	215	408	320	224	425	333
Institutional Print + Online	290	548	432	311	587	463

Proposed Open Access Article Processing Charges (APCs)

OUP expects Open Access (OA) content to continue to grow strongly as we move towards a more open publishing landscape. Given this expectation, OUP wishes to balance APC pricing so that it is financially sustainable for the journal while not outpacing competitors or setting a price that funders and researchers are unwilling to pay. OUP's Read and Publish (R&P) agreements help facilitate OA for authors worldwide. **Authors publishing OA through R&P do not pay APCs at all** – the APC is covered by the relevant consortium or institution for each agreement. For context, 85% of the OA articles published in the journal in 2024 were covered by an R&P agreement. The current journal pricing is outlined in the table below, along with our recommended new price.

Proposed APCs:

	Current	Proposed
List Price APC	\$4,073	\$4,277
SSSP Member APC (20% discount)	\$3,258	\$3,421

Revision to the Operation Manual- Proposed and Accepted Changes

After reviewing the Operations Manual regarding E&P tasks, Michele and Elroi made suggestions for specific language to expedite and clarify processes. By having clear deadlines in place, we can ensure the work of the J21 Committee continues without any issues. For your review, below are highlights from the operation manual that the E&P Committee reviewed. The suggestions were reviewed and accepted by the E&P Committee. Below is a recap of our work and decisions.

Revisions to the Operation Manual

- *Provide oversight responsibilities for the publication of Social Problems. The committee must ensure the quality and timeliness of this publication.*
- *Conduct a yearly evaluation of the Editor(s) of Social Problems. The committee can recommend reappointment for an additional term not to exceed three years.*
- *Review periodically and publish its criteria for the oversight of the Editorial Office and the selection of an Editor. Final decisions regarding the editorial policies of Social Problems are made by the Board of Directors or by the membership by vote or referendum. The Editor(s) remains the final judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscripts and over format within the limits set by the budget.*
- *Provide oversight responsibilities with respect to publication of the Agenda for Social Justice book series. The committee must ensure the quality and timeliness of this publication.*
- *Conduct a bi-yearly evaluation of the Justice 21 Committee's work and offer it as a resource to them. Publish a call for applications and appoint a group to select members of the Justice 21 Committee as needed, at least every other year. The Committee can recommend reappointment of the Justice 21 Committee for a second and final term not to exceed four years.*
- *Review periodically and publish its criteria for the oversight of the Justice 21 Committee, including the selection of its members. Final decisions regarding the editorial policies of the Agenda for Social Justice editorial policies are made by the Editorial and Publications Committee. The Chair of the Justice 21 Committee remains the final judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscripts and format (within the limits set by the budget).*
- *Supervise the preparation and arrangements of publications of the Society other than Social Problems.*

Suggested Revision Approved in March 2025

- *First, we suggest that "Review periodically" be changed to "Review each March," or another specific month, to ensure the review is completed. We also think that specific times/months should be named in the other areas highlighted, where these times are currently vague and unspecified. In places where it makes sense, we can consider using the language "before the annual meeting."*
- *We also recommend adding a sentence such as: "new [Justice 21] committee members must be identified before the Annual Meeting" (or another specific deadline) to ensure new members are identified in a timely manner.*
- *We also want to clarify that "bi-yearly" means "every two years," and would like to make this change in language to avoid confusion. Thus, the evaluation of the J21C would occur every two years.*
- *In addition to these wording suggestions, I'd like to draw your attention to the ways J21C members rotate off the committee. It seems like there's a possibility for members who will rotate off at the same time (unless they re-up for another 2- or 4-year term). To avoid this kind of attrition and to ensure there are enough committee applicants, perhaps you can propose a timeline for the search, or a staggering timeline? Due to people rotating off in 2026, it seems like now is the time to start searching. It also may be good to ask current members if they are planning to rotate off or stay on. That way, you'll have an idea of what needs to happen and when.*

Action Item: Editorial Review of Social Problems Editorial Team

A yearly review of the current Social Problems Editorial Team was completed on August 1, 2025, by the E&P Committee. The Editorial Team thanked us for the opportunity to discuss their first year of editing social problems. Kelly, Mike, Andrew, and Rachel thanked the E & P Committee for the opportunity to talk about our first year editing *Social Problems*. First, they would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Michele and Elroi, the E&P committee, the new OU typesetters Straive, Sarah Levine, and Anna Brown at OUP, and Cindy Carlton-Ford, the copy editor. They expressed their thanks for the assistance of the Individuals above, whom they believe would not be able to do their jobs as editors. ***Using the questions from the Operations Manual, listed below, we went through each question, most of which were grounded in their financial situation.***

Evaluating the Social Problems Editorial Team Questions

The evaluation process will focus on finding out what sorts of challenges are being faced by the Editor(s), how the committee can help deal with these challenges, and what improvements or changes are needed to continue to move the journal forward.

Each year, the Editor(s) will include how the journal has fared over the past year and where it is going looking ahead in the annual report. The Editor(s) will include a section that specifically addresses the tasks of the Editor(s) and provides answers to some combination of the following questions:

- 1) How does the Editor(s) feel the Editorial Office is functioning?*
- 2) Does the Editor(s) have the needed resources to carry out the journal's activities?*
- 3) Has the Editor(s) implemented additional strategies to improve the visibility of the journal?*
3a) If so, elaborate and indicate if that is going well or not?
- 4) What barriers exist to fulfilling the Editor's goals with the journal?*

- 5) Looking forward to the coming year, are there any problems on the horizon that could be addressed before they become a problem?
- 6) Are the working relationships (with other Editors, the host institution, the SSSP Administrative Office, etc.) positive, negative? Note: This question should be removed from the exit interview of the outgoing editors.
- 7) What additional ideas does the Editor(s) have for improving the journal, and what resources would be needed to implement them? Note: This question should be removed from the exit interview of the outgoing editors.

The Team was satisfied with the assistance provided by OUP and the SSSP Editorial Office for questions 1-7. However, there is a problem for the Team, as indicated above and discussed below in a note from them regarding tuition for the Managing Editors of the journal. I asked them to follow up with a note for this report to make sure their concerns were expressed clearly and accurately.

Note from Kelly, Rachel, Mike, and Andrew

When we negotiated our initial 3-year contract with SSSP, the agreement was that the Oklahoma State University (OSU) sociology department would pay for the tuition of the two MEs of *Social Problems*. This is what happened in our first year (which we just completed). Circumstances have recently changed for us. The OSU College of Arts and Sciences has substantially cut department budgets due to a variety of factors, and this has impacted our department's ability to pay for the ME tuition. For the second two years of our term, Mike and Kelley will be forced to pay for the tuition for both MEs out of their own personal external grant accounts – which is approx. \$6,000 per ME, per year, or \$12,000/year. This essentially means that Mike and Kelley's annual editor stipends will go to paying ME tuition. **What this means going forward for us is that if OSU is required to pay for ME tuition, we would have to remove ourselves from consideration of a second term.** As we said at the end of the meeting, we really enjoy editing *Social Problems*, working with SSSP, and we care a lot about the journal. We just want to be upfront about the financial reality.

Best,
Andy, Mike, Rachel, and Kelley

Despite this circumstance, the Team has established a new Social Media Committee, led by three Ph.D.'s, and has added an Instagram Account, Blue Sky, and Ask a Sociologist. We hope that after a review by the Board, BFA funds can be secured for this editorial Team. I asked if they would remain if funding were made available for the ME's Tuition, and the response was positive.

J 21 Editorial Review and Committee Report for 2024-2025-

The Editorial Review of the J21 Committee will be delayed *until August 31, 2025*. This timing issue also supports the need to post a more precise timeline in the Operations Manual. We suggest that the J21 Report be completed within the same time frame as the Social Problems Editorial Review. The J21 Committee Report was sent to me on July 15, 2025, by Outgoing Chair Kristen Budd, whom we thank for her service as the J21 Chair and member of the E & P Committee (See attached Report).

Electing a New Chair of E&P for the 2025-2026 Term

We will need to elect a new Chair of the E & P Committee.

Marlese

Respectfully submitted,