

Social Problems Annual Report

July 10, 2026



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The Official Journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems



Social Problems

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Andrew S. Fullerton Co-Editor
Michael A. Long, Co-Editor
Rachel M. Schmitz, Co-Editor
Kelley J. Sittner, Co-Editor

July 10, 2026

To: SSSP Board of Directors, Publications Committee, Associate Editors, Editorial Board
From: Andrew S. Fullerton, Michael A. Long, Rachel M. Schmitz, and Kelley J. Sittner, Co-Editors
Re: *Social Problems* Annual Report, 2026

Our work, including this report, would not be possible without the help from many others, including our graduate assistants Kamala Shrestha, Syeda Barkha, and Israt Jahan Juie. At SSSP, we greatly appreciate and rely on the expertise of Michele Koontz and Elroi Windsor. At OUP, we have been supported by Nathan Gamache and his team in production and marketing, and Cindy Carlton-Ford and the OUP copy-editing team.

We extend a special thank you to the Social Media Committee, which has been chaired by Carlos Gonzales with support from members Kajal Patel, Abbie Mendham, and Jenny Rakoto (outgoing 2026). We also express our appreciation for the work done by our Associate Editors and Advisory Board members. We could not do this work without you!

We are forever grateful to the many authors who submit their work to us and the many reviewers who tirelessly provide feedback on papers. Without you, there would be no journal!

The Report

This report provides a detailed overview of submissions, decisions, and the review process. We continue the practice of framing our work from a historical perspective (going back about 10 years when feasible). Appendix 2 includes more details about the global regions from which we receive papers. The (comparative) data we present in the tables cover calendar years whereas team-related updates cover academic years.

The Team

The editorial team includes Co-Editors Andrew S. Fullerton, Michael A. Long, Rachel M. Schmitz, and Kelley J. Sittner from the Sociology Department at Oklahoma State University (OSU). OSU Sociology department graduate students Kamala Shrestha, Syeda Barkha, and Israt Jahan Juie serve as Managing Editors. See Appendix 1 for a listing of the current Editorial Advisory Board.

The editorial team continued collaborating with the Social Media Committee headed by Carlos Gonzales, a PhD graduate student at Pennsylvania State University, along with members Kajal Patel and Jenny Rakoto (outgoing 2026), both PhD graduate students at Loyola University, along with new member Abbie Mendham, a PhD graduate student at OSU.

News

The editorial team published many high-quality and innovative papers that are widely cited (also within the narrow 2-year window of the Impact Factor). Please see OUP's report for more details.

- 2025 Impact Factor: 2.5
- 2024 Impact Factor: 2.9
- 2023 Impact Factor: 3.0
- 2022 Impact Factor: 3.2
- 2021 Impact Factor: 5.397
- 2020 Impact Factor: 3.115
- 2019 Impact Factor: 2.345
- 2018 Impact Factor: 2.789

Work During the Year

The editorial team has become well-versed in navigating the Manuscript Central system and streamlining their workflow using Microsoft Teams for shared and secure data storage and submission management documentation.

We continue to work on the goal of shortening the time from submission to decision. More details about this work can be found in the reports provided by OUP.

The Social Media Committee produced three new [Authors' Attic videos](#) over the past year, featuring videos from *Social Problems'* published authors Dr. Faith M. Deckard, Dr. Laura DeMarco, and Dr. Jan Doering. These videos highlight timely and innovative research in engaging and accessible formats, spanning the topics of police violence, neighborhood disadvantage, and racial discrimination. More information can be found in the Social Media Committee's report. Additionally, the Social Media Committee has been actively promoting newly published research on Twitter/X, Bluesky, and Instagram through engaging and informative posts.

The editorial team has been coordinating a special issue to be published in Spring 2027 entitled, "Social Problems and the Environment." This special issue will feature scholarship from top researchers working in the field of environmental sociology to foster empirical and theoretical innovations. The issue aims to advance interdisciplinary dialogue and highlight the pressing social dimensions of environmental crises for both academic and policy audiences.

In honor of SSSP's 75th Anniversary, the editorial team compiled a [virtual issue](#) entitled, "SSSP at 75: Presidential Reflections and Enduring Contributions" featuring past SSSP presidents' published works in *Social Problems* to highlight the Society's innovation in leadership and scholarship. We also paired this virtual issue with a [memorial tribute](#) to Dr. Kai Erikson to honor his significant contributions to both SSSP and to the discipline of sociology.

Submissions

The editorial team saw an increase in submissions, from 289 in 2018 to 356 in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic did not initially slow the pace of submissions, but once most universities began switching back to in-person teaching in Fall 2021, the number of submissions began to drop. This slower pace continued into 2022 (except for the special issue on Racism of Omission, which attracted many additional submissions) but stabilized in 2023 and 2024. In 2025 we saw a major increase in submissions under our leadership (from 323 in 2024 to 394 in 2025) and expect the number of submissions to

continue to rise through 2026. Based on the first six months, we expect to receive approximately 450 new submissions in 2026. See [Table 1](#).

Table 1: Total Submissions by Year, 2010-2026 ¹			
	New Submissions	Revised Submissions ²	Total Submissions
2010	287	70	357
2011	262	58	320
2012	329	113	442
2013	327	101	428
2014	323	63	386
2015	375	114	489
2016	335	155	490
2017	295	43	338
2018	289	58	349
2019	344	142	516
2020	356	104	460
2021	324	75	399
2022	362	85	447
2023	345	80	425
2024	323	143	466
2025	394	163	557
2026 ³	225	70	295

¹ Papers include regular and special-issue submissions (beginning in 2023).

² Revised submissions include revised manuscripts (.R1s) and conditional accepts (.R2s)

³ Data captures the period from January 1st to June 30th

Decisions

[Table 2](#) provides an overview of the distribution of final decisions on **original** manuscripts submitted since 2010.

Table 2: Final Decisions on Original Manuscripts by Year First Submitted, 2010-2026 ¹					
	MS without Decisions ²	Desk Reject	Reject	Accept	Total
2010	10	53 (53%)	102 (36%)	22 (7.7%)	287
2011	3	101 (38%)	125 (48%)	33 (12.6%)	262
2012	1	88 (27%)	211 (64%)	29 (8.8%)	329
2013	3	105 (32%)	203 (62%)	17 (5.2%)	327
2014	7	93 (29%)	180 (56%)	43 (13.3%)	323
2015	8	80 (21%)	232 (62%)	55 (15%)	375
2016	2	120 (36%)	197 (59%)	18 (5%)	335
2017	0	120 (41%)	150 (51%)	25 (8%)	295
2018	1	110 (38%)	109 (38%)	69 (24%) ³	289

2019	4	111 (32%)	169 (50%)	60 (18%)	344
2020	3	125 (35%)	162 (45.5%)	66 (18.5%)	356
2021	19	103 (32%)	158 (49%)	43 (13%)	324
2022	1	127 (35%)	182 (50%)	52 (14%)	362
2023	1	84 (24%)	198 (57%)	62 (18%)	345
2024	2	101(31%)	144 (45%)	76 (24%)	323
2025 ⁵	20	176 (45%)	129 (33%)	69 (18%)	394
2026 ^{4,5}	76	115 (51%)	33 (15%)	1 (0%)	225

¹ Counts all MS decisions by year they were originally submitted, regardless of the year a final decision was made on the manuscript. Papers include both regular and special-issue submissions.

² Manuscripts without a decision include MS that are still under review, received Revise & Resubmit decisions but were never resubmitted, were unsubmitted and never resubmitted, or did not complete the review process for another reason.

³ The spike in the number of accepted manuscripts in 2018 is linked in various ways to the transition of editors.

⁴ 2026 includes manuscripts submitted between January 1 and June 30.

⁵ Data for these years are preliminary as a number of manuscripts are still in process or under review.

Overall, Table 2 shows that the acceptance rate, while fluctuating from year to year, has remained stable over time and ranges from 5% to 18%, with an average of about 10-15%. Both the desk rejection and rejection rates vary over time and likely capture variations in editorial preferences rather than the quality of papers submitted.

Looking at the final disposition of **revised** manuscripts, Table 3 shows extensive variation regarding the final decision, with both reject and accept decisions ranging from about 30% to 90%.

Table 3: Final Decisions on R&R MS by Year Originally Submitted, 2010-2026

	MS without Decisions ¹	Reject	Accept	Total ²
2010	0	15 (42%)	21 (58%)	36
2011	0	51 (61%)	32 (39%)	83
2012	0	54 (65%)	29 (35%)	83
2013	1	17 (49%)	17 (49%)	35
2014	0	25 (37%)	43 (63%)	68
2015	1	71 (56%)	55 (43%)	127
2016	0	29 (62%)	18 (38%)	47
2017	1	10 (28%)	25 (69%)	36
2018	1	10 (13%)	69 (86%)	80
2019	2	9 (12%)	65 (86%)	76
2020	0	6 (8%)	66 (92%)	72
2021	11	2 (4%)	41 (76%)	54
2022	1	6 (10%)	51 (88%)	58
2023	1	7 (10%)	61 (88%)	69
2024	2	6 (7%)	76 (90%)	84

2025	8	3 (4%)	69 (86%)	80
2026 ³	28	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	29

¹ Manuscripts without decision primarily include papers that are still under review.

² Revised (.R1s) and conditionally accepted (.R2s) manuscripts are only included once, so manuscripts are not double counted.

³ Data covers the period from January 1st to June 30th.

Time from Submission to Decision

One of the Journal's main goals is to continue decreasing the time from submission to decision for manuscripts we send out for review. The initial sharp drop in the time from submission to decision of **original** manuscripts was accomplished by simplifying the submission management process. See [Table 4](#).

Table 4: Average Time from Original Submission to First Decision (in Days), 2015-2026¹			
	Desk Reject	Reject	Revise & Resubmit
2015	29 days	164 days	168 days
2016	43 days	160 days	164 days
2017	51 days	185 days	183 days
2018	36 days	137 days	141 days
2019	28 days	122 days	127 days
2020	20 days	112 days	119 days
2021	22 days	114 days	110 days
2022	31 days	129 days	139 days
2023	25 days	121 days	129 days
2024	10 days	79 days	89 days
2025	8 days	82 days	83 days
2026 ²	9 days	74 days	79 days

¹ Almost no manuscripts are accepted after the first round of reviews (except the Presidential Address), so accept decisions are not included here.

² Data covers the period from January 1st to June 30th.

A similar pattern emerged related to time from submission to decision of **revised** papers. See [Table 5](#).

Table 5: Average Time from R&R Submission to Final Decision (in Days), 2015-2026¹			
	Reject	Conditional Accept or Minor/Major Revision	Accept
2015	142 days	159 days	113 days
2016	139 days	137 days	99 days
2017	140 days	190 days	122 days

2018	105 days	104 days	57 days
2019	88 days	84 days	44 days
2020	96 days	75 days	46 days
2021	137 days	76 days	48 days
2022	166 days	110 days	61 days
2023	147 days	80 days	62 days
2024	82 days	67 days	22 days
2025	66 days	67 days	17 days
2026 ²	66 days	66 days	27 days

¹ As editors have used the second Revise & Resubmit decision (.R2s) in different ways, we only include data for the years during which editors have used it as a conditional accept decision.

² Data covers the period from January 1st to June 30th.

Special Issues

The following special issues were led by the previous editorial team: “The Lives (and Futures) of Black Children and Youth,” guest-edited by Derrick R. Brooms and Marcelle Medford, published in February 2025; and “Racism of Omission,” guest-edited by Victor Ray, Rory Kramer, and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, published in May 2025.

Award-Winning Papers

The editorial team works with OUP and the Social Media Committee to identify all award-winning papers and keep the [Award-Winning Articles page](#) up to date. Approximately 5-10 of the papers published each year receive awards, but not always in the year they were published. More details can be found in the Social Media Committee report.

Content Attention and Marketing

The Editorial Team has effectively collaborated with the student-run Social Media Committee to promote the journal through various social media outlets. The Social Media Committee and OUP reports will have more information on social media engagement.

Other Issues of Note

The *Social Problems* Editorial Team is required to organize a session during the annual SSSP meeting. In 2025, the editorial team hosted a panel on publishing that was well-received by engaged attendees, and plans to do the same for 2026. We are happy to share these experiences with anyone who is interested in publishing, whether in Social Problems or elsewhere.

Thinking About the Future

The editorial team is honored to continue the important work of facilitating the dissemination of innovative research and discipline-defining scholarship through their service to *Social Problems* and SSSP.

Thank you!

Appendix 1: *Social Problems* Advisory Board, 2025-2026***Co-Editors***

Andrew S. Fullerton, Oklahoma State University
Michael A. Long, Oklahoma State University
Rachel M. Schmitz, Oklahoma State University
Kelley J. Sittner, Oklahoma State University

Managing Editors

Syeda Barkha, Oklahoma State University
Kamala Shrestha, Oklahoma State University

Associate Editors

Regina S. Baker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Shawn Bauldry, Purdue University
Annette Lareau, University of Pennsylvania
Omar Lizardo, University of California, Los Angeles
Brea L. Perry, Indiana University
Paul Stretesky, University of Lincoln
Jennifer Tabler, University of Wyoming

Editorial Advisory Board

Elijah Anderson, Yale University
Kathryn Freeman Anderson, University of Houston
Loretta Bass, University of Oklahoma
Charles Bell, Illinois State University
Joel Best, University of Delaware
Japonica Brown-Saracino, Boston University
Simon Cheng, University of Connecticut
Brett Clark, University of Utah
Rob Clark, University of California, Riverside
Georgiann Davis, University of New Mexico
Matthew Desmond, Princeton University
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Christopher Dum, Kent State University
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Janice McCabe, Dartmouth College
Laura McKinney, Tulane University
Joya Misra, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Tamara Mix, Oklahoma State University
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Anthony Peguero, Arizona State University
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Victor Ray, University of Iowa
Vincent Roscigno, Ohio State University
Adam Roth, Oklahoma State University
J. Michael Ryan, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
Arthur Sakamoto, Hong Kong Baptist University
Matthew Sanderson, Kansas State University
Josh Seim, Boston College
Tara Shelley, Tarleton State University
stef shuster, Michigan State University

Michael J. Stern, Michigan State University
Jenny Stuber, University of North Florida
Xia Wang, Arizona State University
Laurel Westbrook, Grand Valley State University
Meredith Worthen, University of Oklahoma
Alford Young, Jr., University of Michigan

Social Media Committee

Carlos Gonzales, Pennsylvania State University (Chair)
Jenny Rakoto, Loyola University
Kajal Patel, Loyola University

Appendix 2: Additional Information About Authors

Table 6: MS Submissions by Author's Region and Country, 2017-2026 ^{1,2}									
Region/ Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Africa	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Egypt	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya							1	0	0
Nigeria	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia	18	30	16	20	26	24	15	33	41
Azerbaijan	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
China	2	2	2	1	5	3	4	4	9
Hong Kong	4	2	2	1	5	3	3	4	4
India	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	3
Indonesia	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	3
Iran	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	7	12	2	6	7	5	3	10	13
Japan	0	3	0	2	1	1	1	2	1
Jordan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kazakhstan						1	0	0	0
Kuwait	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Macau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Malaysia							1	1	0
Pakistan	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Qatar	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

South Korea	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	3
Taiwan	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	3	1
Thailand					1	0	0	0	1
Turkey	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	2
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
Australia & Oceania	9	2	5	9	5	5	3	5	5
Australia	9	2	4	9	5	5	3	5	4
Fiji	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Europe	33	25	41	32	43	18	18	43	56
Austria	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Belgium	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Czech Republic	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Denmark	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	5
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
France	1	3	1	3	4	0	0	1	3
Germany	6	1	4	5	11	5	2	8	7
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Iceland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Italy	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	4	3
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	4	3	1	2	2	0	3	6	3
Norway	1	4	3	0	1	1	1	1	1
Poland	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	3	1
Portugal	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	3	3	8	5	5	3	2	3	3

Sweden	4	0	6	2	2	1	3	2	1
Switzerland	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	3	6
United Kingdom	7	4	7	3	9	5	1	5	13
North America	225	309	290	290	285	179	116	249	352
Canada	10	12	15	15	16	13	5	22	27
Mexico	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
United States of America	213	296	275	275	269	166	110	225	325
Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barbados	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
South America	1	1	2	3	3	0	0	1	3
Argentina	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Brazil	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Chile	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Columbia	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown Country	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Author's country refers to the submitting author's listed country of residence on Manuscript Central.

² Beginning in 2025, data are based on the period covering the annual report (from July 1st in the previous year through June 30th in the current year).

³ Data for 2023 and 2024 are from January 1st through June 30th.