



2019

# Annual Meeting Survey Results



# SSSP 2019 Annual Meeting Survey Results Released

October 7, 2019

With **1,006 attendees registered** and **193 total responses**, we're happy to release the results of the 2019 Annual Meeting Survey on behalf of the SSSP Administrative Office. Thank you for taking time to participate in our survey. Your responses are vital in helping SSSP to provide a valuable conference experience and to continue our mission as a social justice organization.

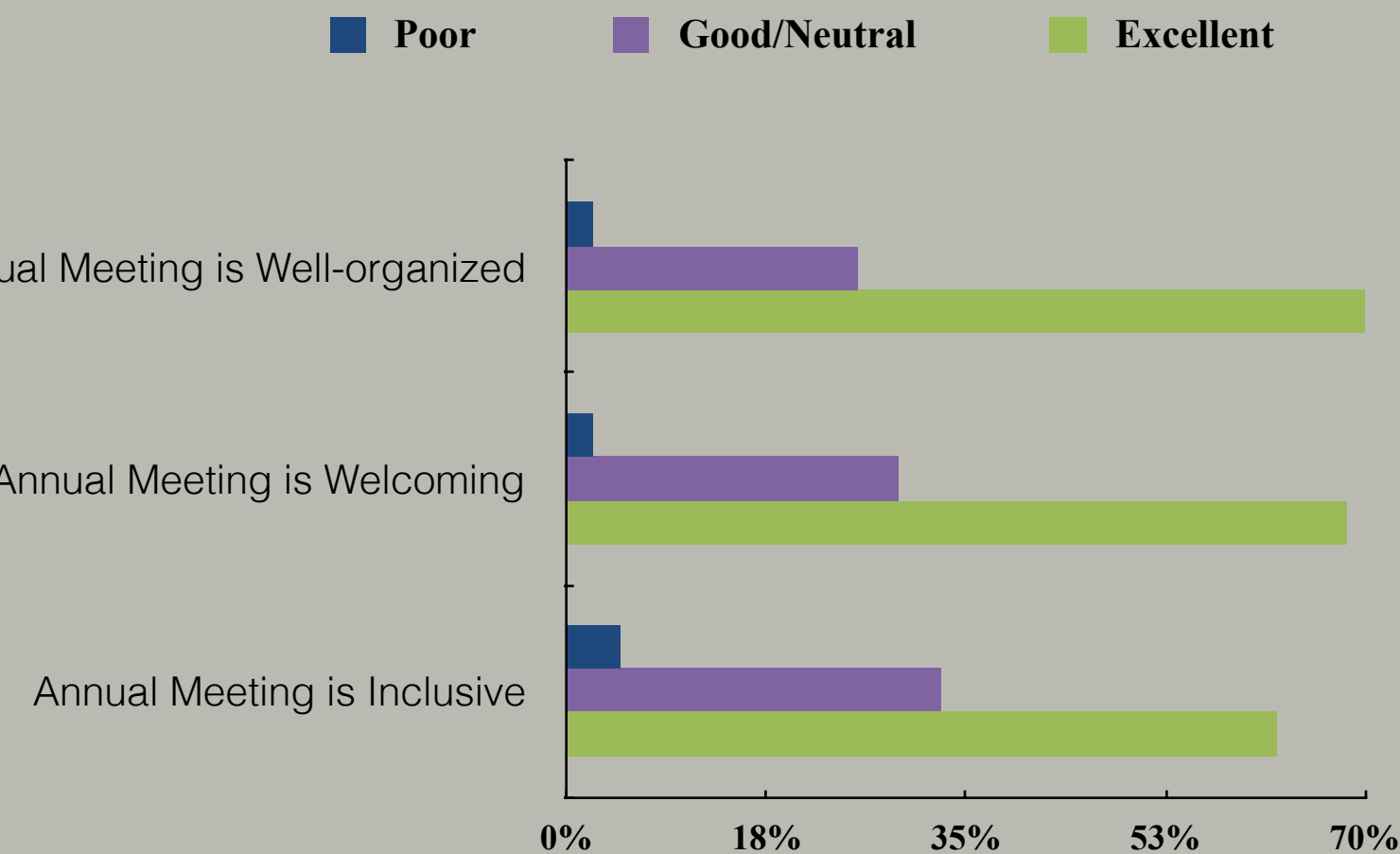
The survey ran for three weeks from August 22 through September 13 with a **22% participation rate**. Please note that the participation rate is based on the total number of attendees, 876. This year, there were 130 registered attendees not able to come to New York and participate in the annual meeting.

In this report, you'll see the survey questions, possible answers, summary of responses, graphs, and comments where applicable. The comments have not been edited and may contain misspellings and grammatical errors. Please note in the interest of keeping the survey short, we only ask for comments when "poor" is selected.

Thank you for your participation!

Most sincerely,  
The Administrative Office

Based on your experience, how do you feel about the following?



Question	Poor (1)	Good/ Neutral (2)	Excellent (3)	Response	Mean Value
Annual Meeting is Well-Organized	4	43	121	168	2.70
Annual Meeting is Welcoming	4	49	115	168	2.66
Annual Meeting is Inclusive	8	55	104	167	2.57

## Based on your experience, how do you feel about the following?

Statistic	Annual Meeting is Well-organized	Annual Meeting is Inclusive	Annual Meeting is Welcoming
Min Value	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3
Mean	2.70	2.57	2.66
Variance	0.26	0.34	0.27
Standard Deviation	0.51	0.58	0.52
Total Responses	168	167	168

**You stated that the annual meeting was not inclusive.**

### Text Entry

As a body, SSSP turned its back on the request made by Palestinian civil society for solidarity. I don't see how it can be said to be inclusive of Palestinian people in any way, shape or form.

SSSP still embraces an analysis and practice that remains, in aspects, white supremacist and exclusionary of the most basic needs of all of humanity & the planet. I want to especially lift up one very disappointing thing at this year's meeting. Those of us - Jewish (I am) & otherwise - who understand the relation between the violent history in the US of indigenous genocide, chattel slavery & oppression and exploitation and dispossession of the working class more generally in this land and the role of US imperialism in supporting that same violent dispossession, exploitation & oppression of the Palestinian people in Palestine (aka Israel) found our efforts to name this as a social problem and get approved as a resolution the BDS (boycott, divestment & sanctions) campaign as a nonviolent policy to address this problem blocked by unprincipled last minute legalistic maneuvers around voting. Too often "legality" and "humanity" in our social relations are in deep contradiction. As a past vice-president of SSSP, co-recipient of the Lee Founders Award and SSSP member since the early 1970s I am angry & disappointed about the political and intellectual climate of SSSP at this moment. I look forward to all of us addressing this situation going forward. History requires more of us ... in love & struggle, walda (katz-fishman)

## You stated that the annual meeting was not inclusive, continued.

### Text Entry, continued.

I feel there is not enough time to interact with colleagues and a lot of people know each other and socialize just among themselves. I also feel there is a divide between graduate students and others.

The BDS bill that was introduced resulted in absolute havoc on the emotional wellbeing of so many around me. I had not heard of the legislation until I saw two people in tears, and someone else telling me they would never return to the conference. Upon doing my due-dilligence, I realized that the inherent nature of this BDS is to be divisive. I do not believe that this was an appropriate space, and the fact that members were actively calling one another derogatory names and many were pushed to tears based on their identities is absolutely inappropriate.

SSSP should offer student discounts if students volunteer with the conference. SSSP should pick cities that are more affordable to travel to. SSSP should pick locations that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Those with physical disabilities could not navigate the hotel easily.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	6

## You stated that the annual meeting was not welcoming.

### Text Entry

Same as above - the message sent by that vote, particularly alongside a vote in support of human rights broadly, is either that the organization supports human rights but Palestinians are not human, or that when there are even minimal stakes involved, then despite its platitudes, the organization doesn't actually support human rights at all.

The comments by BDS supporters were accusatory and exclusive. At one point during the business meeting after someone made a proposal another person called them colonialist and racist or something along those lines. There was no organizational attempt by SSSP to educate people about new antisemitism or anything related to the resolution.

**You stated that the annual meeting was not welcoming, continued.**

### **Text Entry, continued**

Too far away from ASA meetings and other simultaneously scheduled events.

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Value</b>
Respondents	3

**You stated that the annual meeting was not well organized.**

### **Text Entry**

1) I did not feel that my paper submission was taken seriously. It was placed in a roundtable instead of a paper session 2) A new paper session was created to address my complaint, but the title was so generic as to be so vague that it would not appeal to any attendee. 3) Sure enough, there was 1 person in the audience and this happened to be a friend! 4) On top of all this, the session was scheduled when there were multiple meetings of SSSP boards/divisions/etc. scheduled. It felt like an utter waste of my time and money.

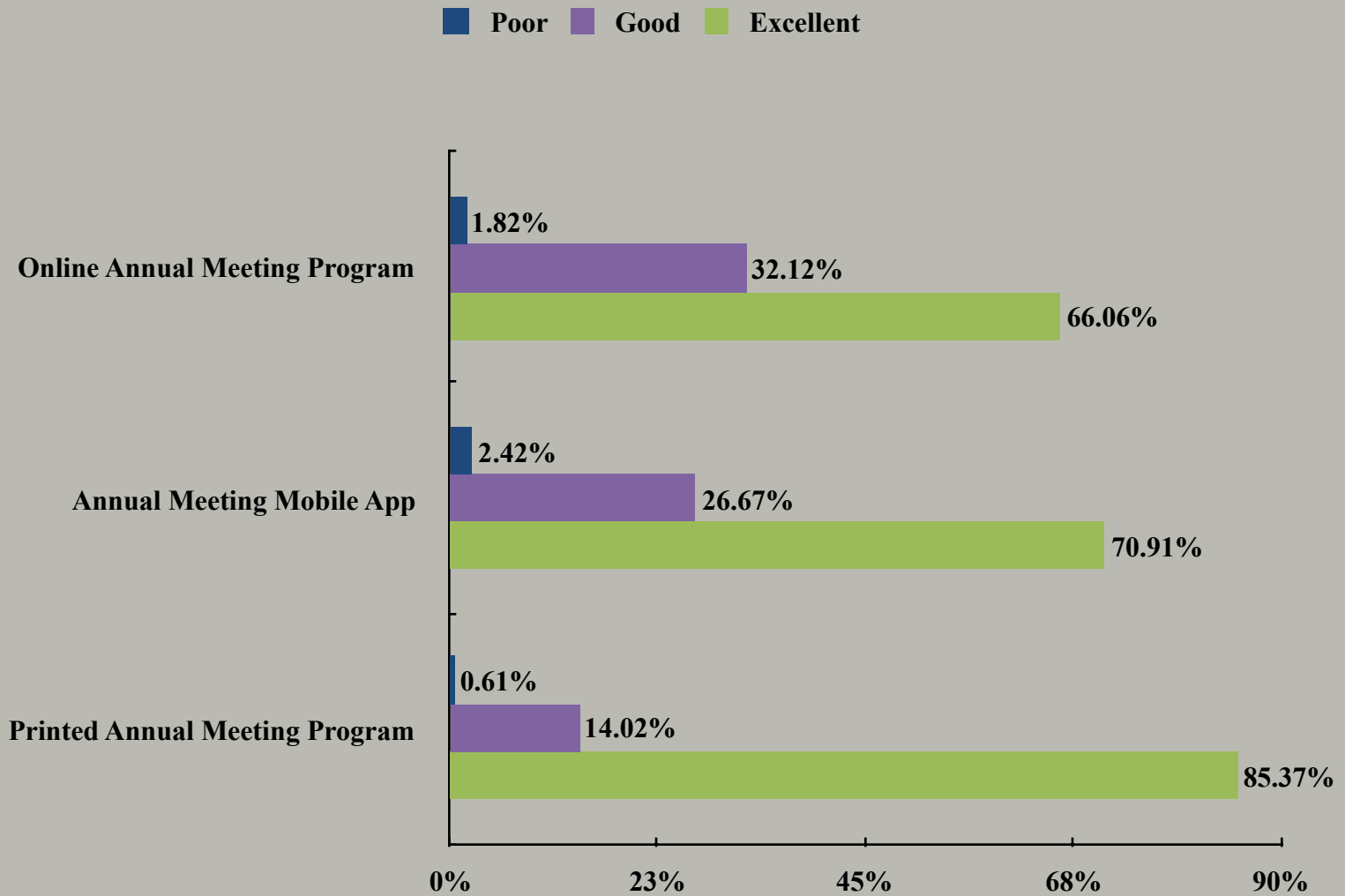
Presenters were often late or didn't show up at all. A laptop wasn't in a couple of rooms that needed it.

The room in which the panel was held did not have neither a laptop nor an adapter for a Mac computer (belonging to one of the panelists who provided it for use during the session).

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Value</b>
Respondents	3



Based on your experience, please rate the following items.



Question	Poor (1)	Good (2)	Excellent (3)	Response	Mean Value
Online Annual Meeting Program	1	23	140	164	2.85
Annual Meeting Mobile App	4	44	117	165	2.68
Printed Annual Meeting Program	3	53	109	165	2.64

Based on your experience, please rate the following items.

Statistic	Printed Annual Meeting Program	Annual Meeting Mobile App	Online Annual Meeting Program
Min Value	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3
Mean	2.85	2.68	2.64
Variance	0.14	0.26	0.27
Standard Deviation	0.38	0.51	0.52
Total Responses	165	165	164

You said that you are dissatisfied with the printed Annual Meeting Program.  
Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.

#### Text Entry

Difficult to navigate, print too small

Statistic	Value
Respondents	1



**You said that you are dissatisfied with the Annual Meeting mobile app. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.**

### Text Entry

Didn't provide much information

Everything about it - it's difficult to use. Not intuitive. Clunky. Also kept loading last years program and couldn't easily switch to this year.

The icons were not clear and the printed and online programs had more information.

### Statistic

Respondents

### Value

3

**You said that you are dissatisfied with the online Annual Meeting Program. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.**

### Text Entry

You said that you were dissatisfied with the online Annual Meeting Program. Please tell us why you were dissatisfied.

I only remember a downloadable pdf. That is rather limiting. But with the app, I don't think much more is need.

Slightly confusing.

Difficult to navigate

### Statistic

Respondents

### Value

4

Based on your experience, how satisfied are you with the following?

Question	Poor (1)	Good/ Neutral (2)	Excellent (3)	Response	Mean Value
SSSP Leadership	3	27	106	136	2.76
SSSP Administrative Office Staff	1	17	118	136	2.86

	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
SSSP Leadership	1	3	2.76	0.23	0.48	136	136
SSSP Admin Office Staff	1	3	2.86	0.13	0.37	136	136

Text Entry
Michele needs to go. She controls too much and has too much influence. The organization is supposed to be governed and run by sociologists. We sociologists need more say and not have Michele draft and do everything.
Total lack of new ideas and initiatives. Limited meeting presence outside of committee duties (which are limited to members) and plenary address/reception (which is mostly talking at -- not with -- members). The annual meeting model of most societies has not changed much since 1980s (besides tech, obviously) and it needs an infusion of new ideas or membership/involvement will continue to dwindle.
The leadership's handling of the Palestine vote was really disheartening. I felt like the procedures for handling democratic process were really quite incomplete, and it made the process a mess and the outcome worse than it could have been. And the confusion around it all made it feel even worse on top of that. Moreover, I keep hearing rumors that SSSP's leadership will copy the republican party and seek to raise the threshold for passage of votes to 2/3rds. Now that would be truly shameful.
SSSP Administrative Office Staff are incredible. The SSSP Leadership did not provide space for people to feel safe and comfortable, and I was dissapointed at that. That being said, I thought the president did a great and professional job navigating this year's difficult terrain.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	4

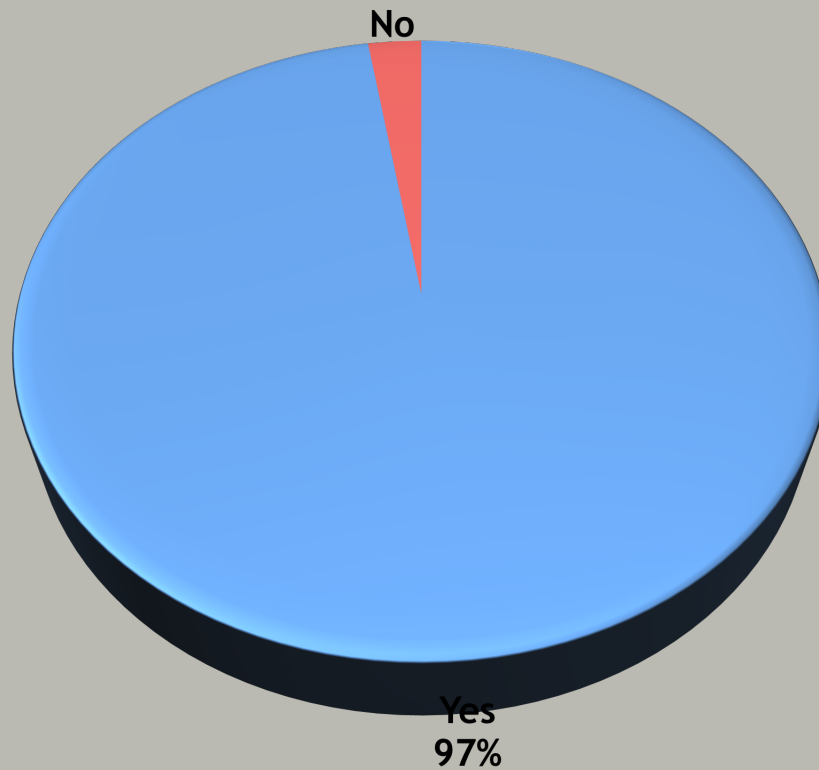
## Did you pre-register for the Annual Meeting?



Answer	Response	%
Yes	160	99%
No	2	1%
Total	162	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.01	0.01	0.11	162	162

## Was the online pre-registration process satisfactory?



Answer	Response	%
Yes	155	97.48%
No	4	2.52%
Total	159	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.03	0.02	0.16	159	159

### Text Entry

I wish the reminder emails would tell me if I registered or not. I have to check just in case every time

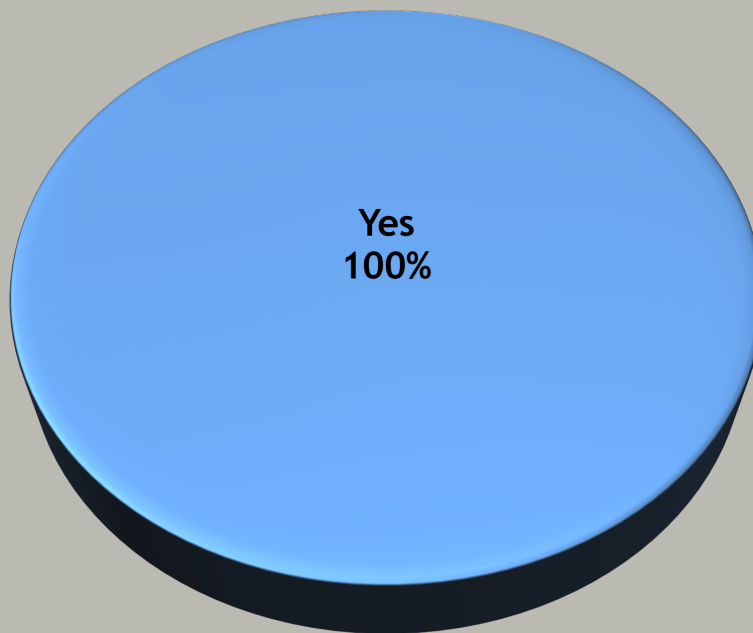
Not everyone uses a personal credit card to pre-register, many of us need to print off completed form for our institutions to send check.

Hassle getting my institution to prepay, which they eventually did, by using online system.

The website for pre-registration was confusing to navigate.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	4

## Was the on-site registration process satisfactory?

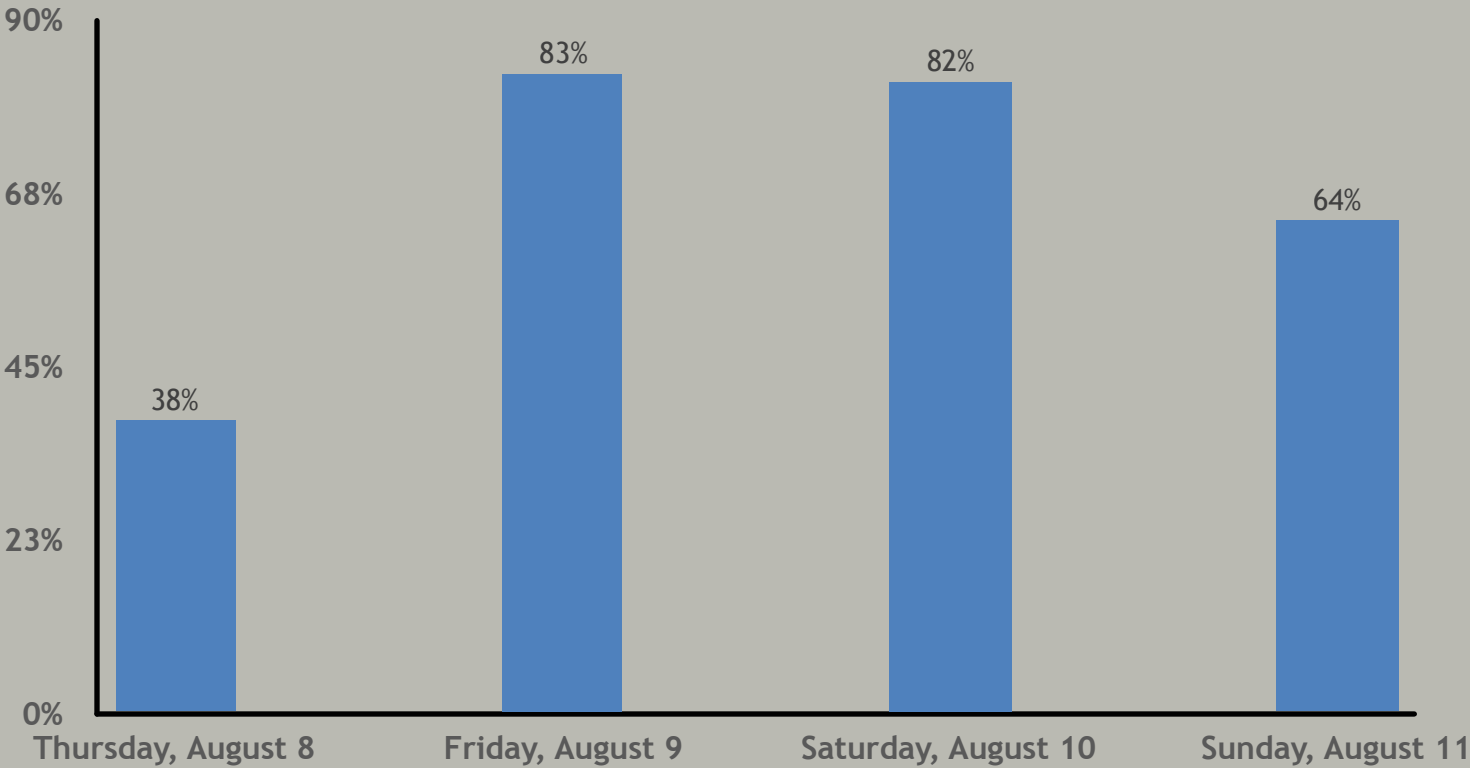


Answer	Response	%
Yes	2	100%
No	0	0%
Total	2	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	1	1	0	0	2	2



Please check the day(s) you attended the Annual Meeting.

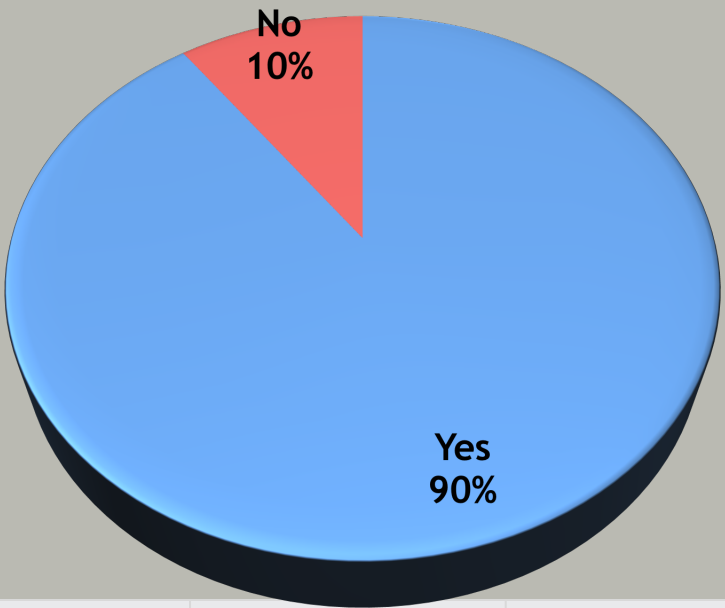


Answer	Response	%
Thursday, August 8	61	38%
Friday, August 9	135	83%
Saturday, August 10	133	82%
Sunday, August 11	104	64%

Total Responses	Total Respondents
433	162

Did you participate in the Annual Meeting as any of the roles listed below?

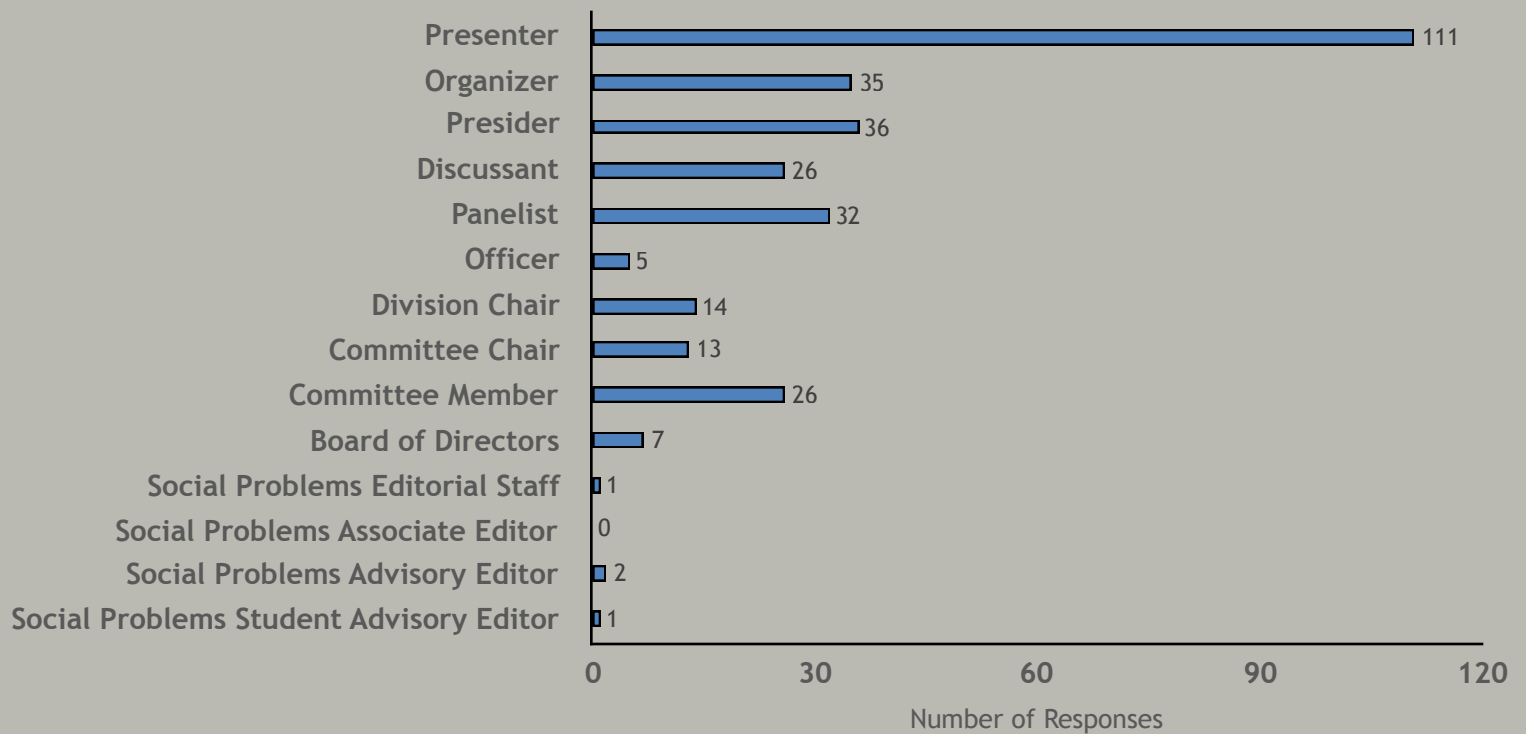
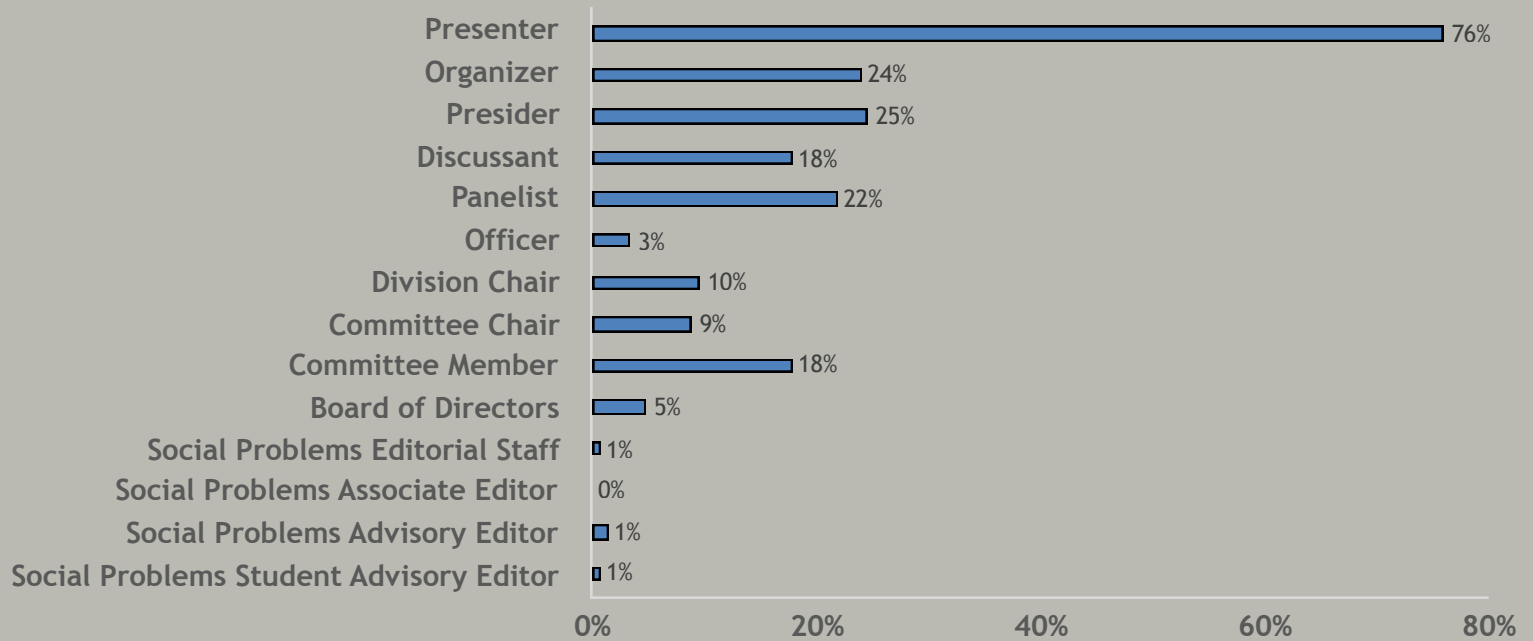
- Presenter
- Organizer
- Presider
- Discussant
- Panelist
- Officer
- Division Chair
- Committee Chair
- Committee Member
- Board of Directors
- *Social Problems* Editorial Staff
- *Social Problems* Associate Editor
- *Social Problems* Advisory Editor
- *Social Problems* Student Advisory Editor



Answer	Response	%
Yes	146	90%
No	16	10%
Total	162	100%

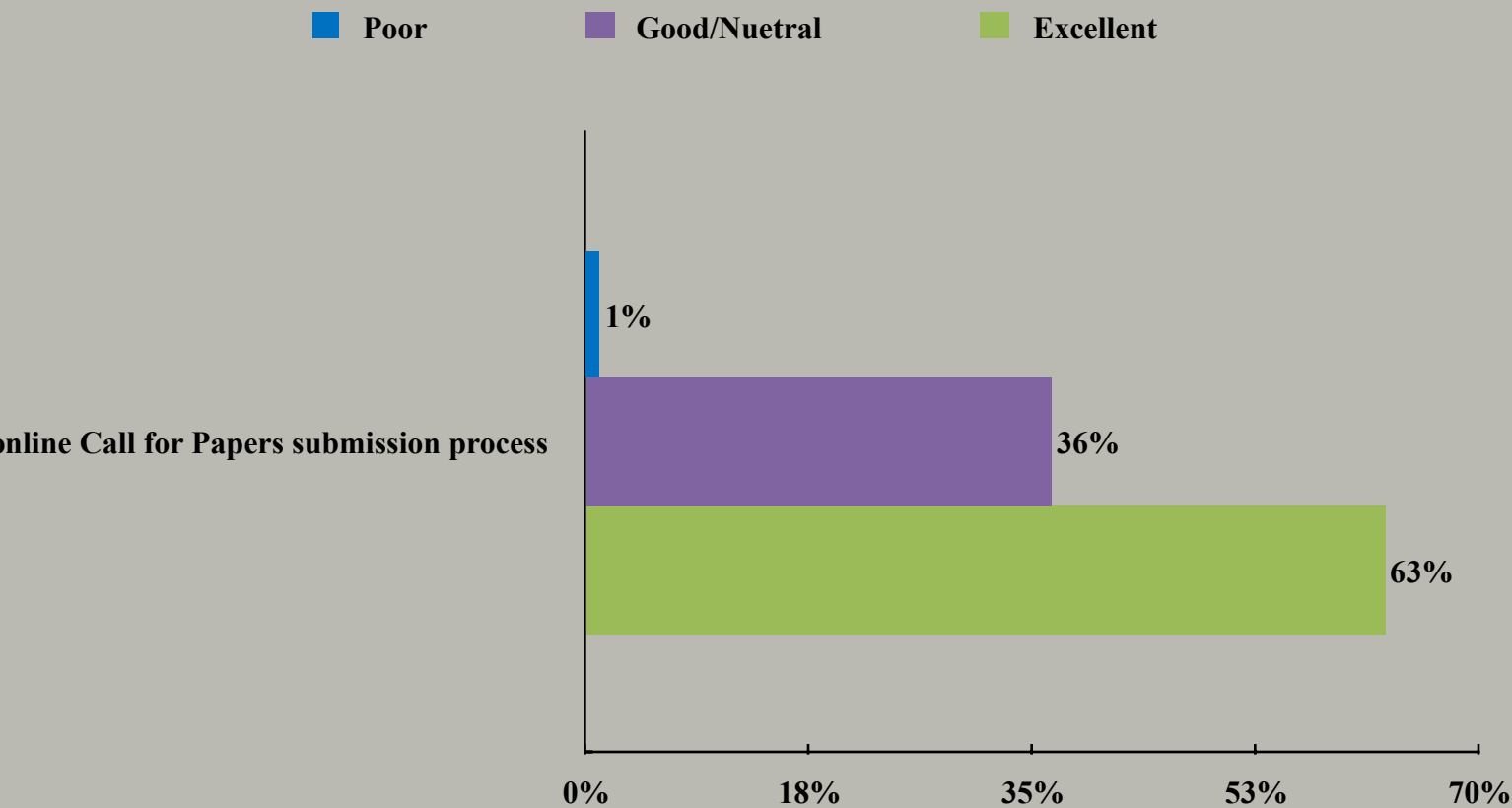
Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.10	0.09	0.3	162	162

## Please indicate the roles you played at the Annual Meeting.



Total Responses	Total Respondents
309	146

Please rate your experience of the online Call for Papers submission process for the Annual Meeting.



Answer	Response	%
Poor	1	1%
Good/Neutral	39	36%
Excellent	67	63%
Total	107	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	3	2.62	0.26	0.51	107	107

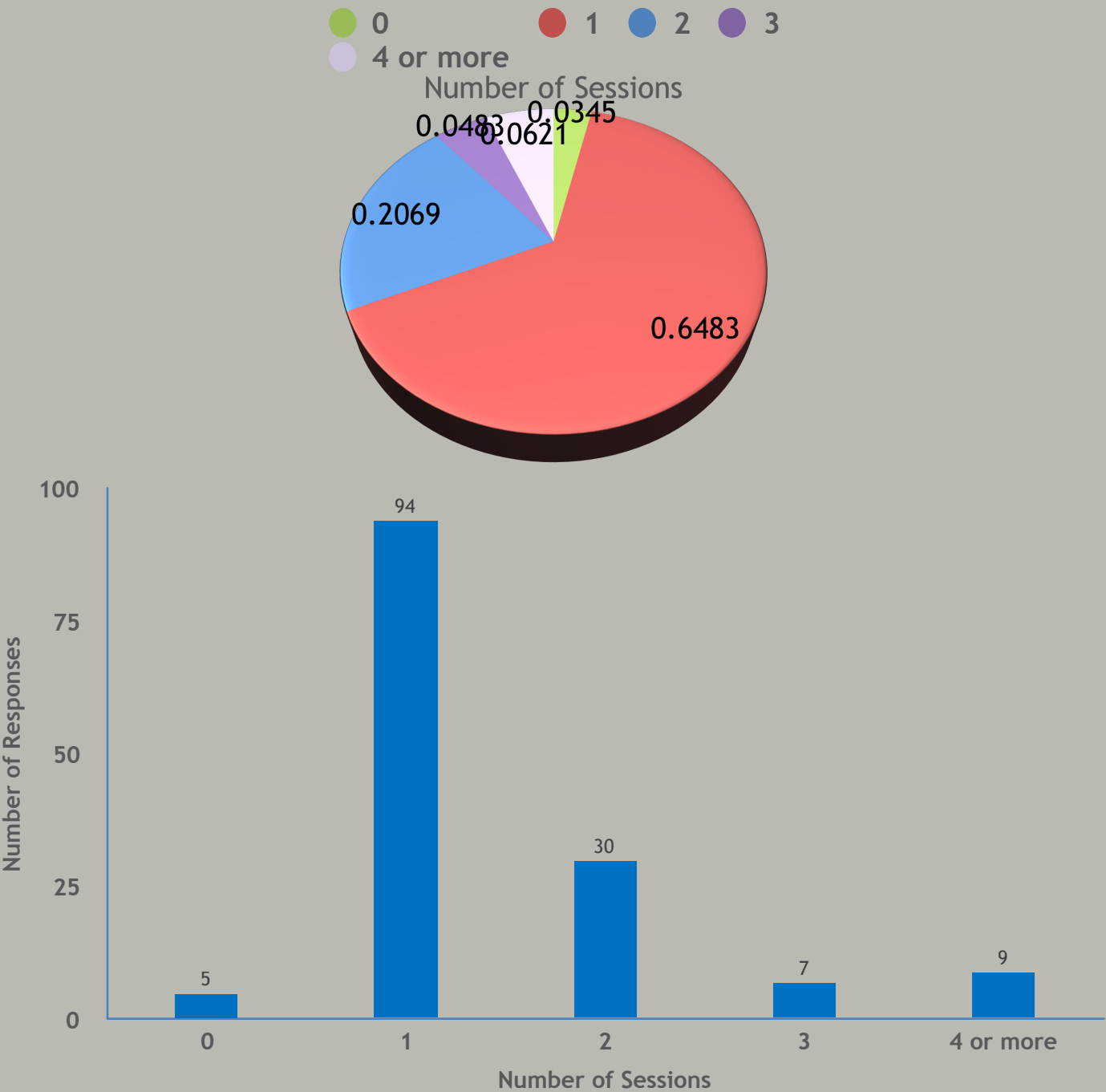
You said that you are dissatisfied with the online Call for Papers submission process. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.

**Text Entry**

From my experience, it is difficult to get one's paper onto a paper session. This shouldn't be the case.

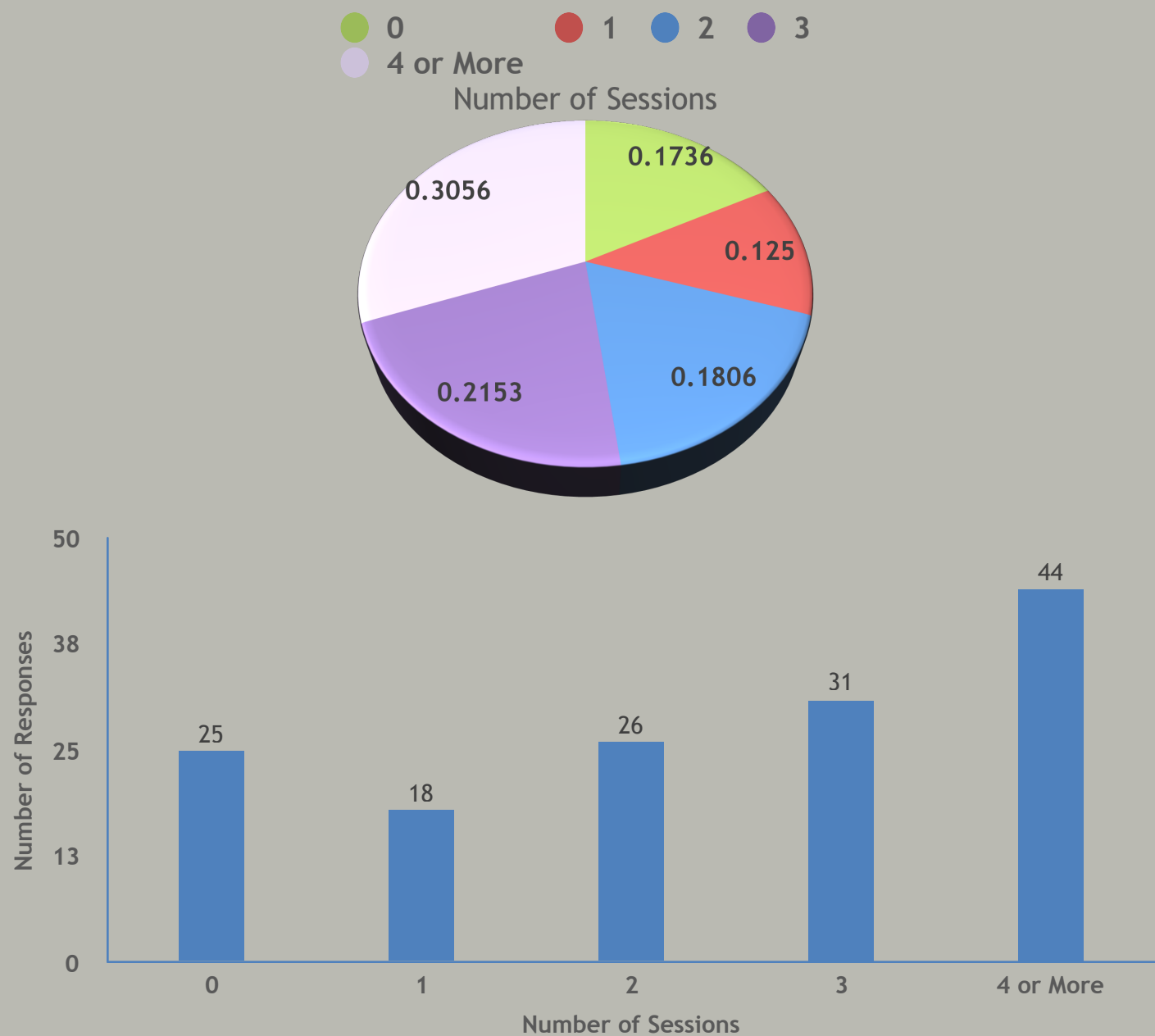
Statistic	Value
Respondents	1

How many sessions did you participate in as either Presenter, Organizer, Discussant, and/or Panelist at the Annual Meeting?



Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	5	2.46	0.79	0.89	145	145

Approximately how many sessions did you attend at the Annual Meeting, aside from those you participated in?



Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	5	3.35	2.13	1.46	144	144



**Please specify reason for not attending more sessions, aside from those you participated in.**

**Text Entry**

Had to attend to other things.

Wall-to-wall meetings

Had to leave town for a memorial service that was not anticipated when I registered for the meeting.

I agreed to speak on panel, although I'm not a usual member of SSSP or participant in events.

Unfortunately I had personal obligations and obligations at ASA.

Involvement in other meetings happening simultaneously.

Too many conflicts with meetings or obligations at ASA

ASA commitments, distance from my hotel to the conference hotel

I was also with ASA

Scheduling conflicts with ASA

Time constraints; also participating in ASA.

I volunteered at the Registration Table and did not have time to attend other sessions this year.

I scheduled too many meetings with colleagues

busy with division chair meetings

Busy with other meetings/commitments.

Other society obligations

Time restrictions.

Conflicts with ASA schedule.

The SSSP hotel was too far from the other hotels (ABS, ASA, ASR) so that made it very difficult to go between the hotels.

I was feeling unwell but would have loved to attend more.

I did not have the time.

I am on the job market and had too many meetings to attend.

I had travel problems, and got in to the conference a day later than expected. Saturday I was out for religious reasons and on Sunday I was at the ASA conferene.

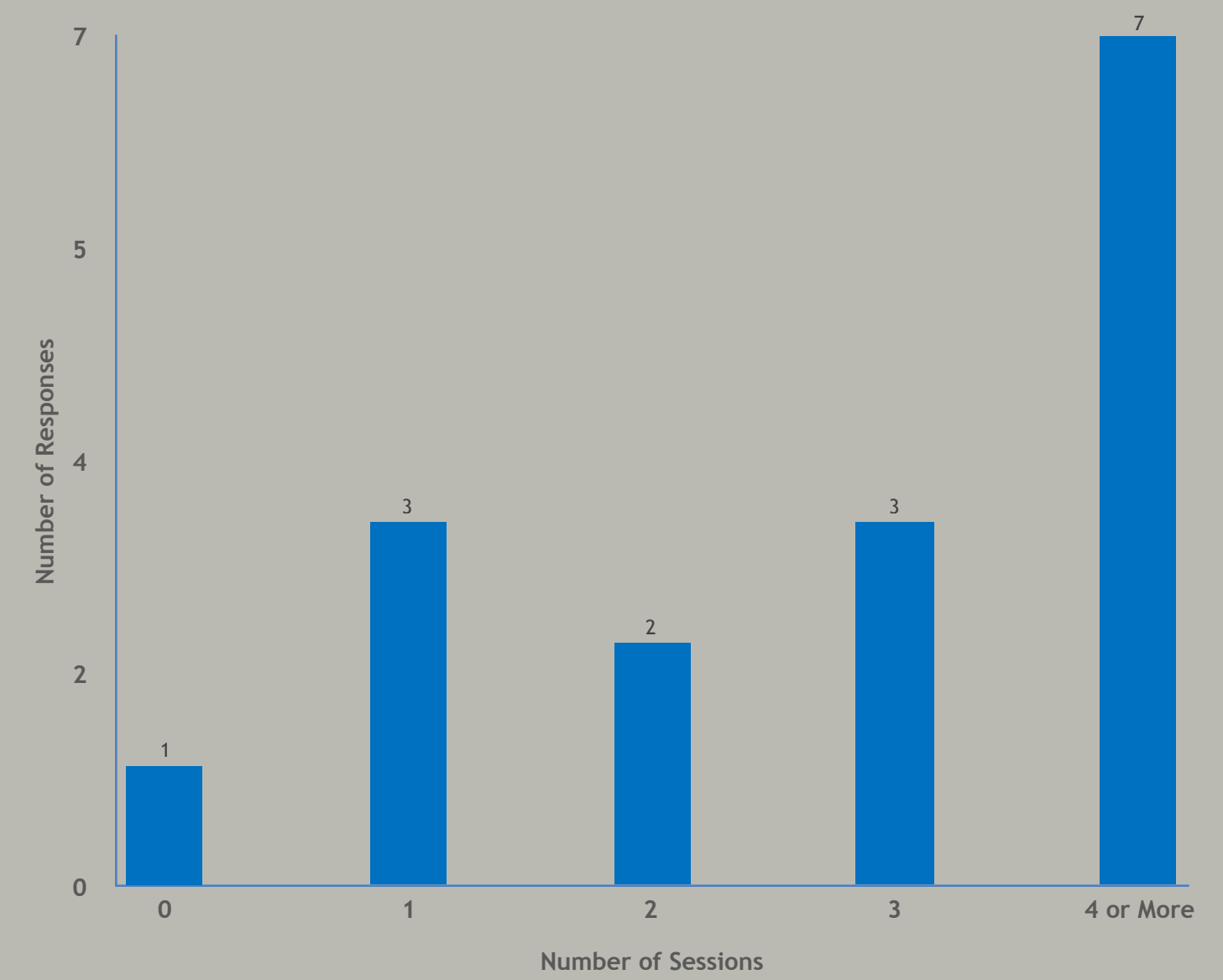
time constraints/other obligations

Please specify reason for not attending more sessions, aside from those you participated in, continued.

Text Entry, continued
Attended with family and so sight seeing in NYC was a highlight
Because I was in meetings during other times.
I also attended and presented at the ASA.
I was not interested in the topics of the other sessions. NYC is a tourist city and I was more interested in touring than attending sessions.
Time conflict with the ASA panels.
Required meetings (e.g., committee work, Board of Directors, etc.)
business meetings, mentorship meetings, meetings with co-chairs to try to determine next year's program, time needed to prepare for meetings
many individual meetings; obligations at overlapping ASA meetings
other meetings with colleagues
Simultaneous ongoing sessions of my topic interests
Time commitments in other conferences.
Poorly scheduled (no one in history has ever gotten to a presentation which started before 9 a.m.) and a lack of well-put together panels (too many grab bags without a clear theme)

Statistic	Value
Respondents	36

Approximately how many sessions did you attend at the Annual Meeting?  
(This question was only asked to non-program participants.)



Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	5	3.75	0.18	1.35	16	16

Please specify reason for not attending more sessions.

• (This question was only asked to non-program participants who attended less than 2 sessions.)

### Text Entry

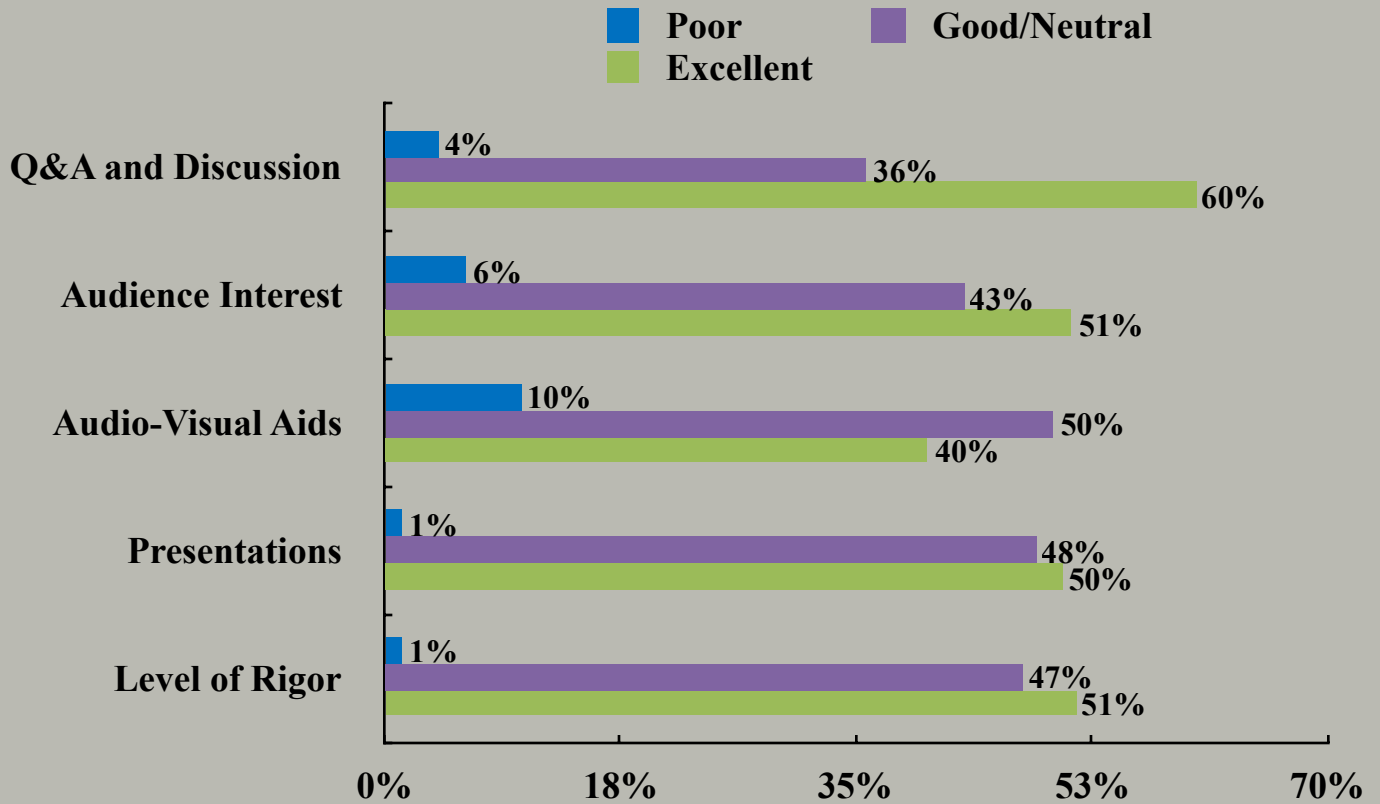
I got very busy with other obligations at other conferences

They did not look interesting or they did not look like rigorous scholarship.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	2

Please rate the overall quality of the aspects of the session(s) you attended at the Annual Meeting.

(This was only presented to respondents that attended at least 1 session.)



Question	Poor (1)	Good/Neutral (2)	Excellent (3)	Response	Average Value
Q&A and Discussion	6	54	91	151	2.56
Audience Interest	9	64	76	149	2.45
Audio-Visual Aids	13	64	52	129	2.30
Presentations	2	73	76	151	2.49
Level of Rigor	2	72	78	152	2.50

Please rate the overall quality of the aspects of the session(s) you attended at the Annual Meeting, continued.

(This was only presented to respondents that attended at least 1 session.)

Statistic	Level of Rigor	Presentation	Audio-Visual Aids	Audience Interest	Q&A and Discussion
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3	3	3
Mean	2.50	2.49	2.30	2.45	2.56
Variance	0.28	0.28	0.41	0.37	0.33
Standard Deviation	0.53	0.53	0.64	0.61	0.57
Total Responses	152	151	129	149	151
Total Respondents	152	151	129	149	151

## You said that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of the session(s) you attended. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.

### Text Entry

I found some questions to be the classic "gotcha"-type badgering of speakers, rather than generative, critical questions. AV equipment was a real problem in the session where I presented, with projector's connection periodically going out.

Organizers typically took a hands-off approach. One session I attended (Merideth from Health Division) did a great job putting together the panel of senior scholars/leaders. I think we should emphasize the role of organizer/discussant.

Panels were very poorly attended, I assume because they were scheduled in the lunch hour

Some of the papers were unimpressive.

I thought that the presentations were largely well-researched, but the presentation itself was lacking. There wasn't a lot of great graphic or other visual aids to assist in grabbing the audience interest, or generally maintaining it. Similarly, in one session I asked a question to a presenter and he didn't even look at me while I spoke, which I found just kind of rude. Likewise, this lead me to believe that he didn't really care about my question or other feedback. I was kind of an outlier at the conference, as I don't work in an educational or institutional setting focused on sociology any longer. It had been about 10 years since I was more involved in the world of sociology, besides living in the social world, and was disappointed by the lack of creativity in presentation skills, critical communication, and general hospitality of the presenters.

Q/A focused too much on one presentation and time restriction limited the conversation.

low attendance

The a/v in the rooms did not include converters for the HDMI cables the hotel supplied. This made it difficult for many people to utilize.

In at least two sessions, presentations were delayed because presenters with Macbooks were unable to connect to the projector due to the absence of an adapter. In one case, an audience member saved the day by loaning one. In the future, this should either be worked out with the conference hotel or presenters with Macbooks should be told to bring an adapter.

Some of the sessions had folks presenting on no data. Some folks were actively scrolling through data and openly said "hmm...that looks interesting" as if they were first examining data for the first time. Many of the presentations were well done, had well-prepared slides (despite several sessions in which technology was not working), and had excellent data. However, the overall rigor appeared to be lacking. Also, it seemed discriminatory towards folks of low SES that a laptop/device was expected of at least one presenter in the group. Technology should have been provided, as not all folks can afford laptops, or have traveled with them. This was not disclosed to presenters ahead of time, and oftentimes created anxiety.

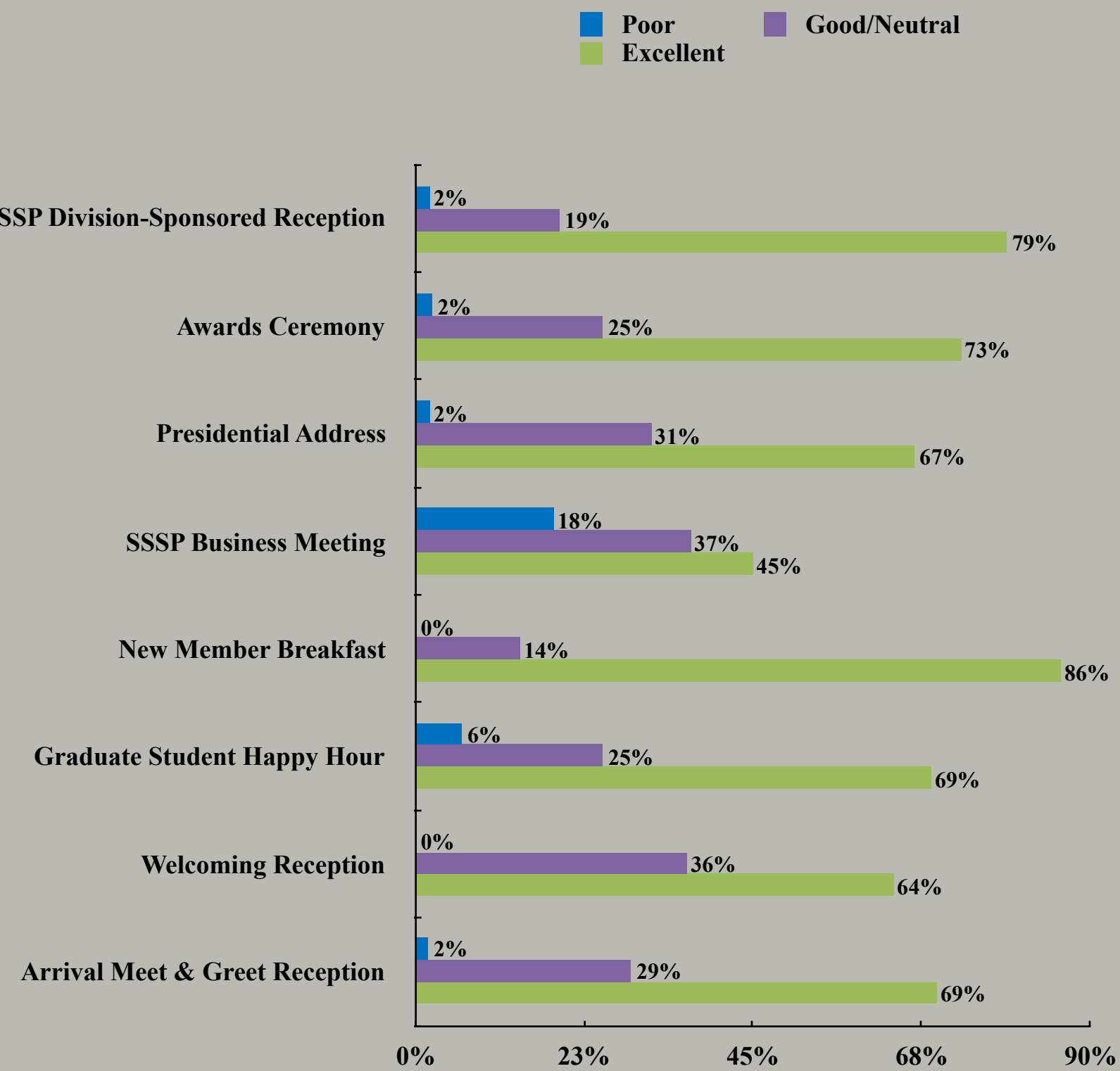


**You said that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of the session(s) you attended. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied, continued.**

<b>Text Entry, continued.</b>	
Because the session was so early in the morning there was only one audience member.	
Besides the panelist and the Discussant, there was no one in the audience.	
Almost no one at attendance in one session I went to. Membership is dwindling and it is starting to show in the regular sessions.	
I organized a session where no one other than the panelists and myself showed up. I was at a couple of other sessions with a handful of participants	
The discussant for the panel provided little feedback on the work and presentations.	
Scholars read papers instead of presenting them. No bullet points. Text heavy powerpoints. Graduate students need more mentoring before presenting at a national meeting.	
the technology at the hotel was horrible, which caused some disruption during the conference	
I presented at an early presentation slot, so no one was actually in attendance. It's both a waste of time and an insult to be scheduled in that slot, because no one is ever at those presentations. Being scheduled in one of those slots is being told your topic is worthless.	
Several of the papers on the panel made no theoretical or generalizable contributions, they simply presented results of the narrow, not especially rigorous study they conducted.	

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Value</b>
Respondents	19

Please rate your experience and overall quality of the reception(s) and special event(s) you attended at the Annual Meeting.



Please rate your experience and overall quality of the reception(s) and special event(s) you attended at the Annual Meeting.

Question	Poor (1)	Good/Neutral (2)	Excellent (3)	Response	Mean Value
Welcoming Reception	0	21	37	58	2.64
SSSP Division-Sponsored Reception	1	10	41	52	2.77
Graduate Student Happy Hour	1	4	11	16	2.63
New Member Breakfast	0	6	37	43	2.86
SSSP Business Meeting	9	18	22	49	2.27
Presidential Address	1	17	36	54	2.65
Awards Ceremony	1	11	32	44	2.7
Arrival Meet & Greet Reception	1	17	41	59	2.68

Please rate your experience and overall quality of the reception(s) and special event(s) you attended at the Annual Meeting.

Statistic	Welcoming Reception	SSSP Division-Sponsored Reception	Graduate Student Happy Hour	New Member Breakfast
Min Value	2	1	1	2
Max Value	3	3	3	3
Mean	2.64	2.77	2.63	2.86
Variance	0.23	0.22	0.36	0.12
Standard Deviation	0.48	0.46	0.60	0.35
Total Responses	58	52	16	43
Total Respondents	58	52	16	43

Statistic	SSSP Business Meeting	Presidential Address	Awards Ceremony	Arrival Meet & Greet Reception
Min Value	1	1	1	1
Max Value	3	3	3	3
Mean	2.27	2.65	2.70	2.68
Variance	0.56	0.27	0.25	0.25
Standard Deviation	0.75	0.51	0.50	0.50
Total Responses	49	54	44	59
Total Respondents	49	54	44	59

**You said that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of the reception(s) and special event(s) you attended. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied.**

**Text Entry**

The resolutions process was inadequate. Regardless of the fact that a parliamentarian was not present to interpret SSSP bylaws regarding the resolutions process, care should have been taken to address the concerns presented by the authors of one of the resolutions that was ultimately shot down. This is not about the resolution, per se. However, it is one in which SSSP procedures need to be clearly outlined and distributed to all parties.

The business meeting was handled extremely poorly with respect to the vote on the Palestine motion. It really did a disservice to the principles of social justice the organization is bound to uphold.

nothing new

The Presidential Address was SOC 101. I didn't leave inspired or energized.

First, the format was quite confusing. When it started agenda item #3? on resolutions was jumped into with an opportunity for comments. It was unclear this was also the time to make proposals for amendments until there were about two minutes left. The bylaws had said that the resolutions proceed as a package and then if there is a motion to remove one from the package that gets a vote first. This never happened. The process was thus confusing. People also came to the business meeting with a particular agenda, and many members were unaware of the BDS resolution and not educated about its implications. The open forum the day prior was supposed to address this, but was insufficient both in format and scope to accomplish this.

The business meeting was somewhat chaotic around the question of proxy votes on the BDS resolution. It was such an important issue; if proxy votes were to be allowed, every member should have been informed of that fact. The absence of any proxy votes in favor of the resolution reflected the fact that most of us were unaware that proxy votes were possible. This was especially infuriating given the close vote.

The Business Meeting and the Resolutions Process could have been managed better.

**You said that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of the reception(s) and special event(s) you attended. Please tell us why you are dissatisfied, continued.**

**Text Entry, continued**

The board meeting was hijacked by BDS, and it created a very hostile space. I remember one woman running out after having a panic attack--how can we call that a welcoming space? The board meeting needed more structure and active leadership from those in positions of power.

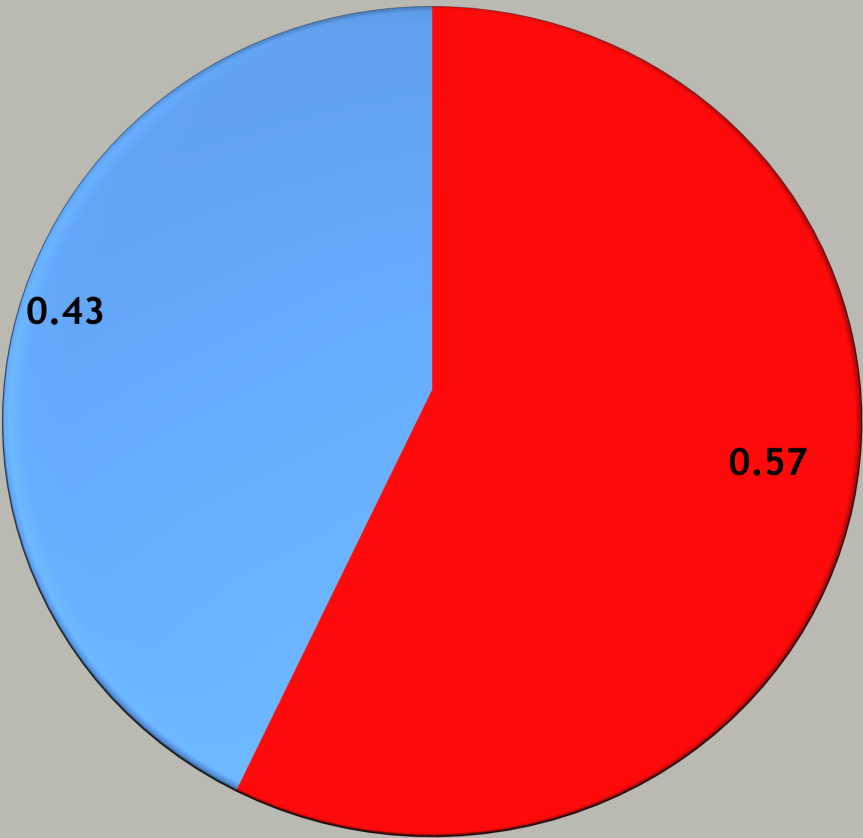
long boring meeting, too much time wasted.

The division reception is too late in the evening. I was expecting a larger turnout.

Lightly attended, business meeting was pretty intense-with a fairly dissatisfying ending. As a new member some of the proposals seemed very grandiose to me-why would the State of Israel give a hoot about SSSP and whether or not they are supported by us? And signing on to the green new deal? Seems a bit strange to me for a professional organization to get so involved in these global issues when there is little the society can practically offer?

Statistic	Value
Respondents	11

Did you stay at the Roosevelt?



Answer	Response	%
Yes	68	43%
No	91	57%
Total	159	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.57	0.24	0.49	159	159



## What was the main reason you did not stay at the conference hotel?

### Text Entry

Had other arrangement.

I stayed with friends who live in NYC.

I live in NJ

I didn't have the money to stay there.

I couldn't afford it (by a long shot).

price

price was high and reviews of the hotel weren't very good

My family lives in Brooklyn.

I was a part of another organization meeting at the same time

I stayed with a group at another hotel to save costs.

Cost and other options

I had a reservation, but the company I booked through went out of business and I lost my reservation.

Cost

Needed to stay at the ASA hotel

I had another place to stay for free close by

Cost-too expensive

Too expensive.

too expensive

cost

Family in the area, so I chose to stay with them

Cost

Expenses

What was the main reason you did not stay at the conference hotel, continued?

Text Entry, continued
I missed the registration window for the group discount, and by that point the prices had escalated. I found an equal-priced hotel that was better rated just down the street.
it's both too expensive and it gets terrible reviews
Hilton Honors Member
I live locally
The expense. I couldn't afford it.
Price was too expensive
stayed at ASA - more central for multiple meetings & sessions
I live in NYC
Too expensive.
I found an inexpensive option nearby. Also, I know I do better with walking / thinking / alone time, so preferred to be a 15 minute walk away.
Commuted from home to conference to save money.
Booked by the time I was looking for a hotel
too expensive
don't like the neighbourhood.
Unable to afford the high rate of the hotel accommodation cost
It was full so we stayed at another conference hotel.
I was able to stay with family for free
It was too far from the ASA hotel
I was low on funding to pay for Roosevelt.
It's way too fucking expensive

What was the main reason you did not stay at the conference hotel, continued?

Text Entry, continued
It was more expensive than the place I stayed in.
Cost.
too expensive
I live in NY
Filled up/No more rooms
Price
Professor did not reserve spots in The Roosevelt Hotel.
Cost of staying at the Roosevelt was expensive on my graduate student stipend. Additionally, I had family in New York I was able to stay with.
Expense
I live in NYC, so stayed in my own home.
Cost.
Took the train. Didn't need to stay overnight.
I live in NYC
I found an AirBnB listing for much cheaper.
It was too far from the other conference hotels
It was still expensive
Cost: I stayed at a youth hostel
Price
Cost.
Cost, I was able to find a more affordable hotel.
expense, I stayed with friends.
Stayed with a friend.

What was the main reason you did not stay at the conference hotel, continued?

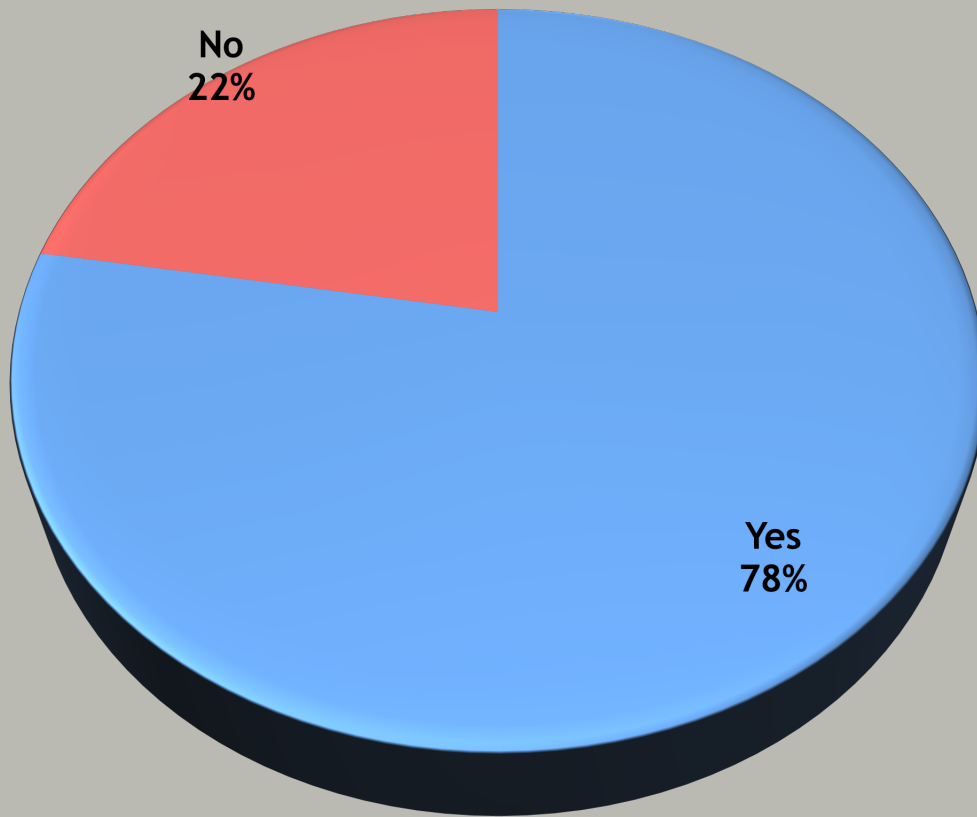
Text Entry, continued
Found a cheaper accommodation
Cost
Stayed with friend in the city.
I stayed at the Sheraton because I also participated in ASA.
Family in town
Too expensive
Family residing in close proximity.
live near NYC
The hotel for ASA (Hilton Midtown) had a more affordable rate. SSSP only reserved the Roosevelt for a couple of days and I wanted to stay in NYC longer. ASA had the Hilton reserved for a whole week.
Too expensive!
Cost.
It was too expensive.
Cost.
expensive
Could not book a room for the full duration I plan to stay for the conference (Aug 8-Aug 11)
affordability
Cost
I would have had to move over to the ASA hotel after a couple of nights.
Too expensive
I live close by.

What was the main reason you did not stay at the conference hotel, continued?

Text Entry, continued
Budget constraints
I live in NYC
I live in NYC.
staying at another conference hotel due to leadership responsibilities.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	88

## Are you likely to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA?



Answer	Response	%
Yes	122	78%
No	35	22%
Total	157	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.22	0.17	0.42	157	157

## What is the primary reason that you are unlikely to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA?

### Text Entry

My department doesn't have enough money to send me to a conference every year. I go to the SSSP conference when it is in NYC because my department can afford it. I would love to go every year, but it is not possible.

Travel

Lack of funding

Costs

Cost of membership and registration, and cost of SF as host city. Additionally lack of professional/intellectual benefit to most of these sessions. I have been a SSSP regular for nearly 20 years and its value to me and colleagues with whom I have spoken continues to go down. In my view the SSSP is in a rut and could use an infusion of new ideas and cost-reduction strategies.

I am already attending the American Criminological Society's meeting there in November and doubt I will be able to afford the expensive travel and accommodations twice in a year.

Too far, too expensive

I felt the conference was shallow and was not really interested in challenging and interrogating concepts as much as I would have liked. I found leadership to be problematic and dated, and the organizer of my session was offensive and lazy.

Have attended most other years, but SF is very far and expensive. I will definitely attend Chicago 2021, however.

Costs. Institutional travel support is limited.

I'm unsure of where I will be/what other commitments I will have at the time.

i was disappointed by the conference. this was my first time attending and it was much different, less involved and less rigorous than i expected. i also thought this was a space for critical or community engaged research, which was also not my experience.

I'm a grad student and can't afford the trip

A combination of factors - both personal and professional; but, also I struggled with issues I have regarding the host city, and providing economic support that disproportionately is in service to elites while ignoring the growing social problems that plague that city (disproportionate to other cities that we visit).

## What is the primary reason that you are unlikely to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, continued?

### Text Entry, continued

Cost.

i dont think i could finance it

Because of my poor experience this year.

I came to this conference to take a step back into sociology and see where the field is currently. I was disappointed by what I took away from the conference, in that I was disappointed that we're talking about the same issues, but seemingly not getting anywhere with solving them or proposing solutions to solving them. The theories and research papers were well thought out, but I found myself simply not caring towards the end since there seemed to be no resolve to the issues or interest on the part of presenters to find possible alternatives. I feel I heard "I hate to be cynical" entirely too many times. I get it, the world is ROUGH, for lack of a better term, but we have jobs to do in order to challenge these issues, and being cynical and therefore lacking energy to find solutions was so disappointing to see and hear. The best presentation and research was done by someone who was out in the field and really working with the people and processes she was studying. She was the only person who offered solutions to the problems she uncovered and in her surprising results. Maybe other presenters and researchers can do more ground-level work in the field to better understand the plight of the people and then be able to see how subtle some of the problems are. Once you see how many, and how subtle the issues are, you're bound to find 1 or 2 solutions to some of them. The problem, from my point of view, is that the concepts they were trying to tackle are too large to tackle as one huge piece, and therefore it's easy to become complacent, but that's an error.

too busy

For personal reasons I don't think I might, but I'm not completely sure.

Our school brings undergrads students from our methods and research who are currently working on research. I currently have no intentions of working on research outside of that course.

Location - I live on the east coast. Traveling to the west coast is inconvenient.



## What is the primary reason that you are unlikely to attend the 2020 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, continued?

### Text Entry, continued

travel costs

Family commitments.

San Francisco is not an affordable or accessible city for me to travel to.

Time conflict I was the presider at a roundtable and none of the presenters showed up.

I will likely be out of the country during all of summer 2020.

Sessions for most of the presentations were attended by 10 or fewer people, kind of like you are talking to yourself.

Too expensive, not presenting

Too far

Expense. The costs of travel and hotel for this conference were more than twice my yearly allotment so I cannot afford to go to SFO.

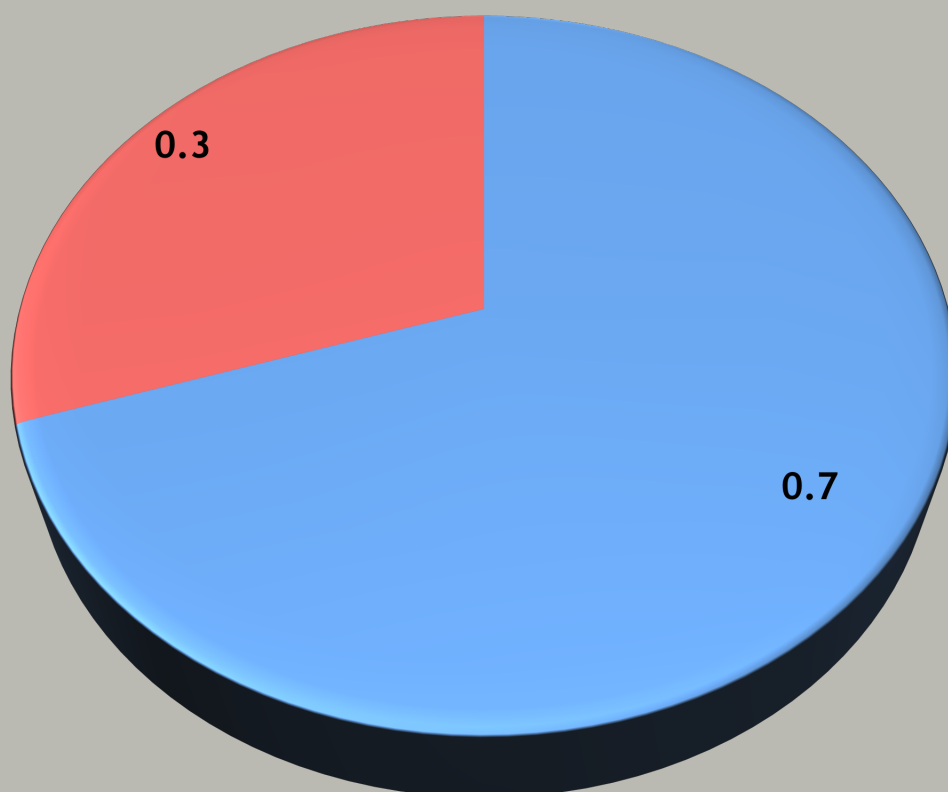
extremely expensive location

We never actually have the conference in an affordable location, and unlike the leadership of the society, I don't have a gigantic travel budget to pay for all of this for me

I was unimpressed with this meeting, it was my first time attending.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	34

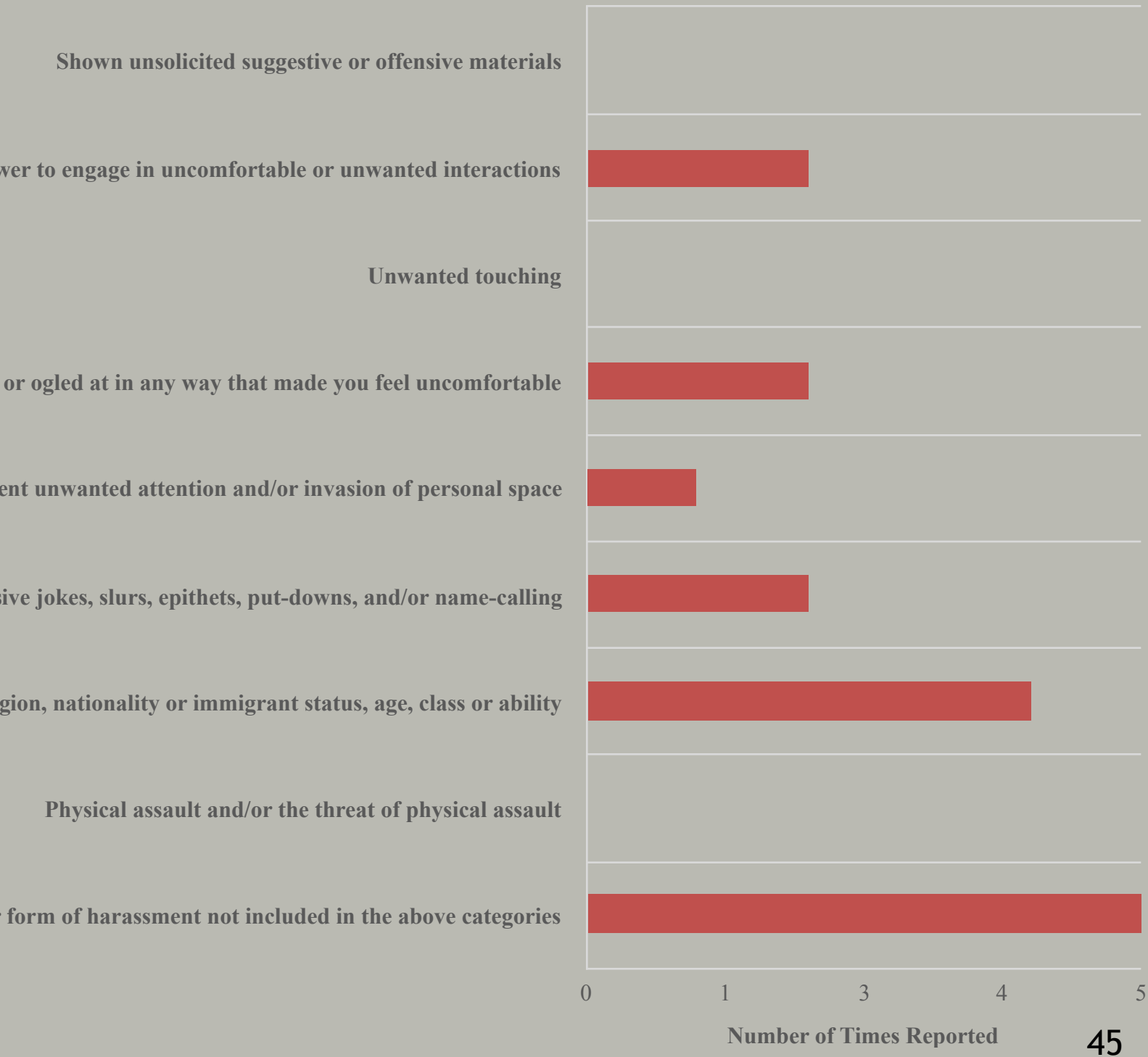
**Are you aware of SSSP's new policy on sexual harassment and other forms of harassment, including options for reporting instances of harassment?**



Answer	Response	%
Yes	112	70%
No	47	30%
Total	159	100%

Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Variance	Standard Deviation	Total Responses	Total Respondents
1	2	1.30	0.21	0.46	159	159

The Society for the Study of Social Problems is committed to the eradication of discrimination (both intentional and unintentional), harassment, intimidation, and violence directed at individuals and groups based on, but not limited to, race and ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, class, nationality and immigration status, ability, or religion. Toward that end, we would like to know whether you were subjected to any of the following by a SSSP member or employee, hotel employee, or vendor at any SSSP meeting you have attended in the past two years, including this past one. Please check as many as apply.



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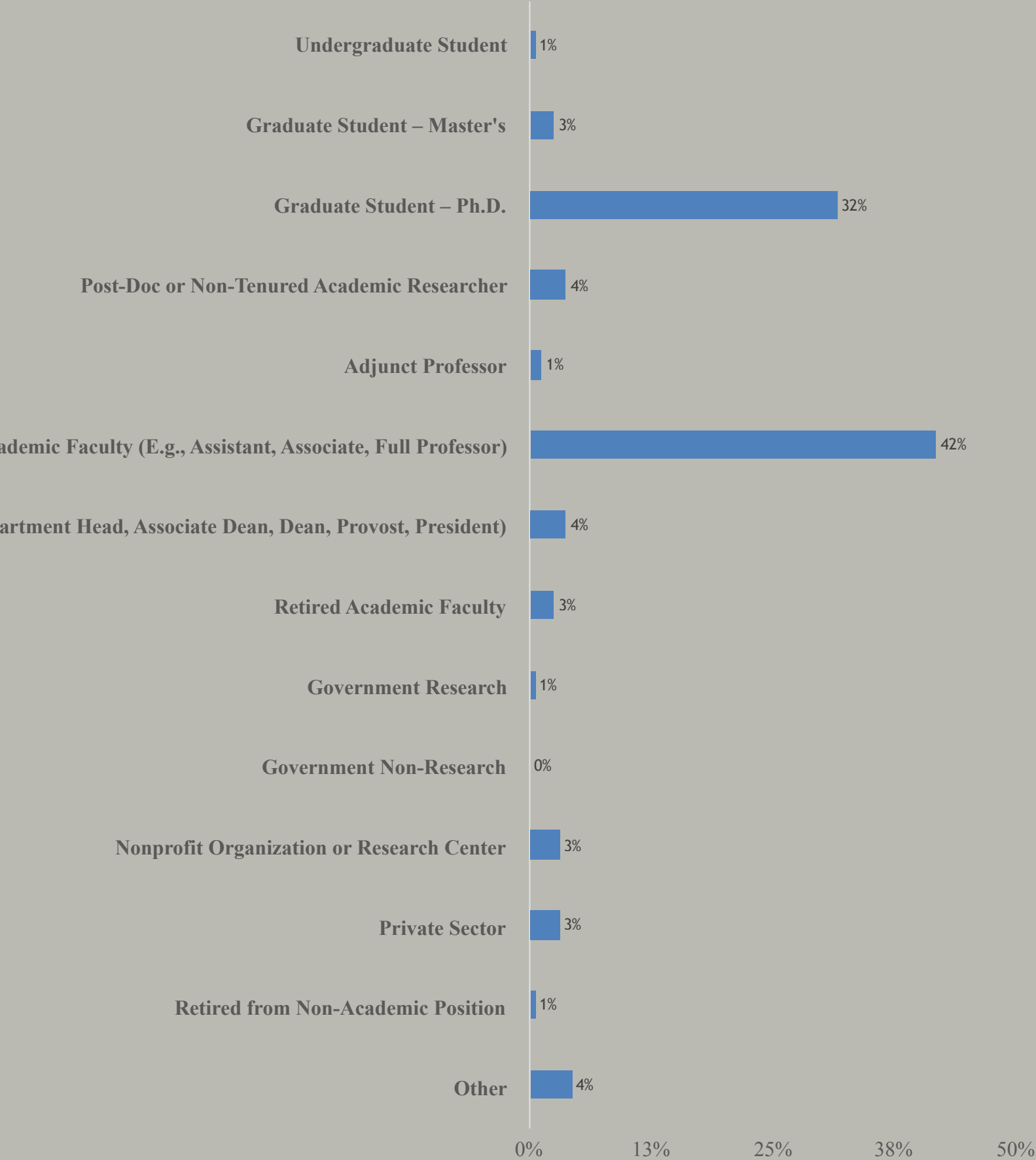
Form of Harassment	Percentage of Respondents Reporting	Number of Respondents
Shown unsolicited suggestive or offensive materials	0.00%	0
Felt pressured by someone with more status or power to engage in uncomfortable or unwanted interactions	12.50%	2
Unwanted touching	0.00%	0
Stared, leered, or ogled at in any way that made you feel uncomfortable	12.50%	2
Persistent unwanted attention and/or invasion of personal space	6.25%	1
Offensive jokes, slurs, epithets, put-downs, and/or name-calling	12.50%	2
Offensive remark based on your race or ethnicity, gender or gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, nationality or immigrant status, age, class or ability	25.00%	4
Physical assault and/or the threat of physical assault	0.00%	0
Other form of harassment not included in the above categories:	31.25%	5
	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>16</b>

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Other Forms of Harassment not Included in the Above Categories
Hotel personnel VERY rude, and not particularly responsive.
No but how could you be committed to the elimination of discrimination and fail to pass a bill against discrimination towards Palestinians!
Hostile Behavior
Use of profanity by panelists during session

Statistic	Value
Respondents	4

# What is your primary employment type or affiliation?



## What is your primary employment type or affiliation?

Answer	Response	%
Undergraduate Student	1	0.63%
Graduate Student - Master's	4	2.53%
Graduate Student - Ph.D.	50	31.65%
Post-Doc or Non-Tenured Academic Researcher	6	3.80%
Adjunct Professor	2	1.27%
Academic Faculty (E.g., Assistant, Associate, Full Professor)	66	41.77%
Academic Administration (E.g., Department Head, Associate Dean, Dean, Provost, President)	6	3.80%
Retired Academic Faculty	4	2.53%
Government Research	1	0.63%
Government Non-Research	0	0.00%
Nonprofit Organization or Research Center	5	3.16%
Private Sector	5	3.16%
Retired from Non-Academic Position	1	0.63%
Other (please specify)	7	4.43%
Total	158	100%

# What is your primary employment type or affiliation?

## Other Employment of Affiliation Responses

Lecturer

Non-tenure track full-time lecturer

Senior lecturer, once AGAIN, nontenure track people not included

Recent undergrad graduate

Independent

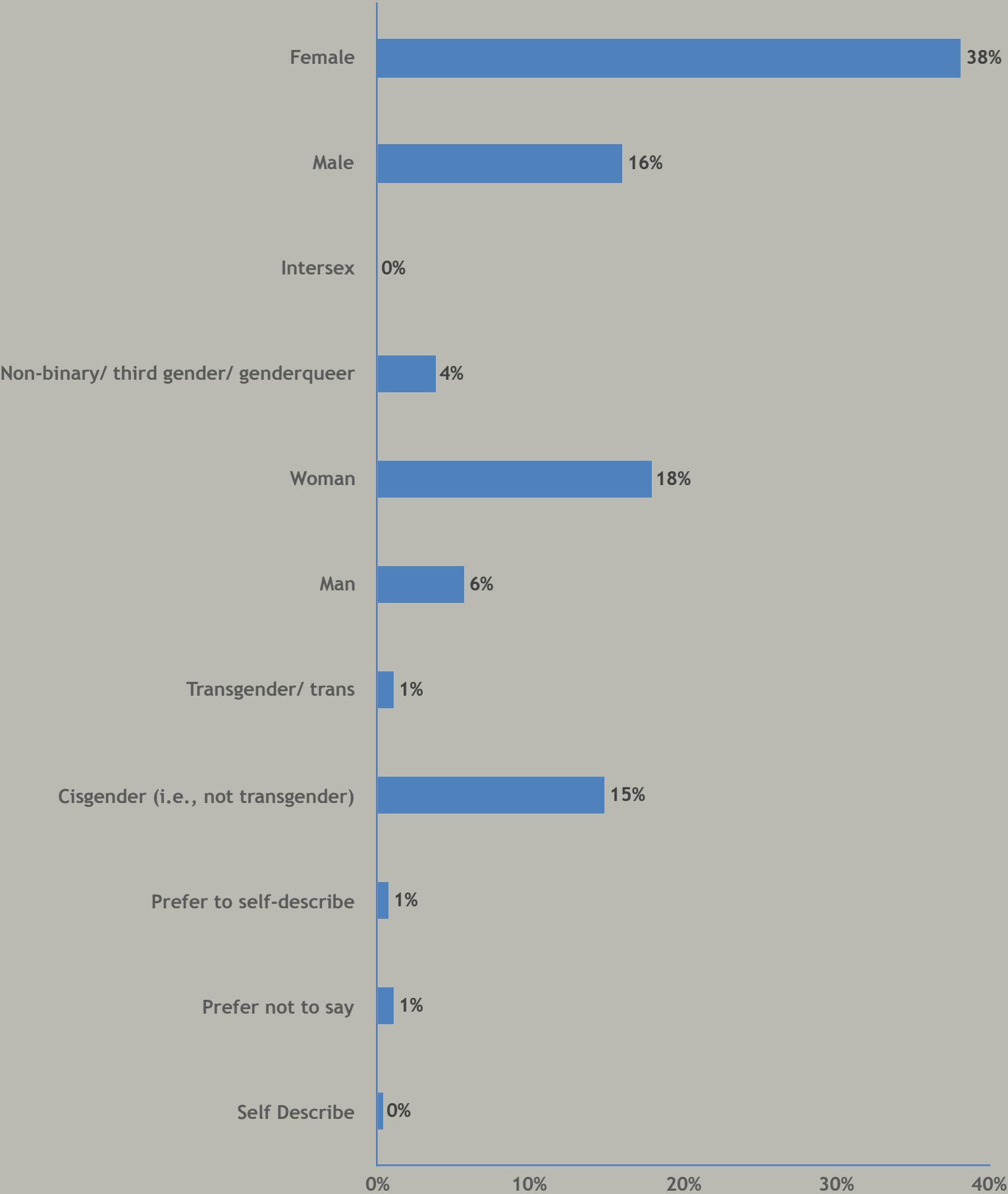
Senior Lecturer. Once again, we are left OUT.

Filmmaker

Statistic	Value
Respondents	7



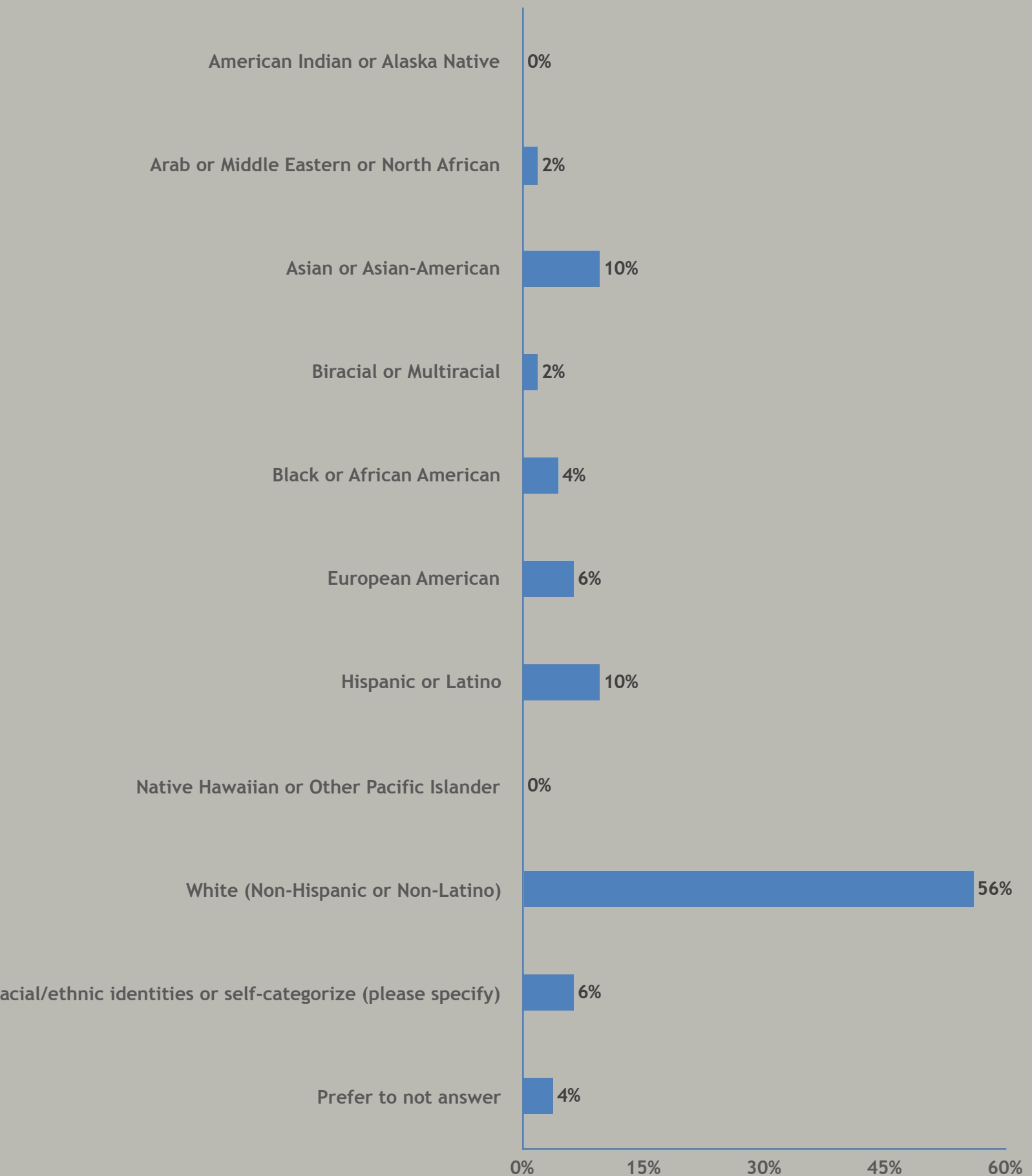
What gender/sex categories apply to you? (please check all that apply)



## What gender/sex categories apply to you? (please check all that apply)

Answer	Response	%
Female	100	38.17%
Male	42	16.03%
Intersex	0	0.00%
Non-binary/ third gender/ genderqueer	10	3.82%
Woman	47	17.94%
Man	15	5.73%
Transgender/ trans	3	1.15%
Cisgender (i.e., not transgender)	39	14.89%
Prefer to self-describe	2	0.76%
Prefer not to say	3	1.15%
Self Describe	1	0.38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100</b>

## Please specify your racial/ethnic identification.



Please specify your racial/ethnic identification.

**Other or multiple racial/ethnic identities or self-categorize (please specify)**

Nigerian, West Africa

Latinx and White

White and Hispanic

southern jewish - european descent

Mixed Latino and White

Black caribbean

filipino

Jewish

Answer	Response	%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Arab or Middle Eastern or North African	3	1.9%
Asian or Asian-American	15	9.6%
Biracial or Multiracial	3	1.9%
Black or African American	7	4.5%
European American	10	6.4%
Hispanic or Latino	15	9.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
White (Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino)	88	56.1%
Other or multiple racial/ethnic identities or self-categorize (please specify)	10	6.4%
Prefer to not answer	6	3.8%
Total	157	100%

**Accessible - The SSSP strives to ensure that meeting facilities are accessible to all, preventing inequities by gender expression, disability, health status, or other identities or experiences. If you had any accessibility difficulties or if you noted something that could be a problem for others, please share that information here. If you wish to inform us of some accommodation or access that worked particularly well, we would welcome that feedback as well. Also, please feel free to contact the Chair of the SSSP Accessibility Committee, Valerie Leiter, [valerie.leiter@simmons.edu](mailto:valerie.leiter@simmons.edu), with your concerns.**

### Text Entry

None

As an autistic first-time participant, I found the mentee-mentor program very helpful in terms of accessibility. I also found the session on networking and navigating SSSP helpful. That was the morning session right after the welcome breakfast that had a lot people who have been heavily involved in SSSP for a number of years. I honestly don't think I would've been as involved as I was without those two events. Those two elements also made me feel incredibly welcomed and helped me stumble upon incredibly welcoming people (even though everyone was incredibly welcoming).

This hotel was HORRIBLE. First room we were placed in was filthy, mold and mildew visibly growing on outside grate of room air conditioner, as well as in grate/metal filter of unit. Room REEKED of filth, mold and mildew. Bathroom stench of mildew/mold hit you as soon as you opened room door. ONLY reason we were accommodated with a different room is that I had the good fortune of having a supervisor present talking with desk personnel when I walked up, SHE insisted that we be given a different room. Second room better, but paint still peeling off walls, and a substance growing on room behind heads of bed that was either dust, or powdery mildew-NEITHER of which is acceptable. Only reason we stayed is that we knew a request for a third room would NOT be accommodated, only reason this one was, was that supervisor was present at desk. Hotel old, tired, shabby, and FILTHY!

I have a chemical fragrance sensitivity, it would be great if attendees could be asked to refrain from using chemically-scented body care products

N/A

I am so grateful that there was an all-gender restroom available. However, because it was transitioned from a women's restroom, that left only one women's restroom on the conference floors which was PACKED in between sessions, and I hesitated to use the all-gender restroom lest I take away space from someone who needed that accommodation more than me. I suspect this may be less of an issue in California, but I'm hopeful that in the future there's a way to add an all-gender restroom without losing other space, or even de-gender all the restrooms in the conference space.

1. I would like to request you, those who are coming from out of America or lower-income countries participants kindly provide them free of accommodations so they can fully engage with conference without any tensions.

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### Text Entry

I understand conferences are held in large cities for a number of reasons but the cost of hotels can be really prohibitive. (As a doctoral student I have access to one time funds - once over my course of study at the University.) This year for instance I was only able to afford a single night because of the cost of the hotel (and I shared a room and single bed with a colleague). Again recognizing that it is the unfortunate reality of the situation, are there ways to establish relationships with additional hotels - finding group rates at nearby and perhaps more affordable hotels? I am worried once again about the cost of hotels in San Francisco next year.

I witnessed two occasions when people with physical disabilities had difficulty navigating through one side of a double door.

I happen to be on crutches this trip, unfortunately, and normally this would never be an issue, but the elevators going down to the lobby were consistently full. I would normally use the stairs, but with a funky leg, I didn't want to risk going down an unnecessary number of stairs.

As I enter my 80s I suffer from age-related hearing loss. I need the amplification provided in sessions in order to participate fully. Some presenters walk or look away from the microphone on their lectern. I suggest that a lapel microphone or one in a headset would help to alleviate this problem.

The Roosevelt Hotel was an unsanitary, unclean, dump-and that's putting it charitably. First room REEKED of mold and mildew, and had large clumps of mold growing in air conditioner, with mold on outside of vent. Second room was slightly better, paint peeling off walls and either dust or powdery mildew growing on wall behind head of beds. Rooms were simply NOT clean! No way in hell I would EVER stay here again. If you didn't have respiratory issues when you arrived (which both I and my spouse do), you would certainly have them upon departure.

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**Text Entry**

The Roosevelt was on a busy street that could be hard to navigate for someone in a wheelchair or disability. The hotel environment was loud, which could be triggering to those with autism or other mental disabilities (PTSD, etc.). My presentation did not give out materials or have interpreters.

The mobile app was a lovely addition this year!

I believe there should have been an option for childcare at this conference, or nursing/lactation spaces outside of bathrooms. Additionally, meetings were held during days in which Muslims and Jews (to name a few) abstain from work. That precluded them from being in the SSSP space all together. There was no prayer/meditation room, and that further created exclusion for religious minorities. Additionally, there were not laptops provided for presenters. That resulted in economic exclusion.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	15

**Do you have any comments or thoughts about any aspect of the Annual Meeting, including ways in which we can improve for next year?**

**Further, if you would like to be contacted regarding this survey, please send an e-mail to Rachel Cogburn at [ssspit@utk.edu](mailto:ssspit@utk.edu) and include “Annual Meeting Survey” in the subject line.**

### Text Entry

None

I think it is a great conference. I believe the research conducted by its members is important and makes a difference in the lives of people. I am proud to be a long-time member.

Try using a hotel that, in addition to fair labor practices, has been cleaned in the last decade. This dump is literally a public health hazard! I have written hotel manager, and, surprise surprise, have had NO response, not holding my breath looking for one. Last time SSSP was in NYC we were at Westin, superior hotel in EVERY way.

I urge you as the leadership of an organization I love and am committed to being a part of for the rest of my career to spend time thinking through and working on the question of Palestine. The experiences of Palestinian academics and students, their exclusion from access to education and research, the impossibility for many to even attend such a conference, the barriers to even accessing SSSP's resources and the resources of the discipline. When it comes to Palestine, you must put the organization in practical alignment with your principles of social justice. Currently, this is not the case, and it is a travesty. It is one I urge you to change. Don't rely on just the activists to do it, it must also be work on your part.

Highlight active facilitation by organizers, especially of Critical Dialogues. Perhaps have a panel/workshop on the role for new people Highlight active work by discussants, especially of Regular Sessions. Discourage "hands-off" organizer/presider role.

All the meeting rooms were too hot. Please make sure they have adequate AC for next summer.

This has less to do with SSSP and more to do with the meeting structure in general. My university provides far less funding for a travel budget than the amount spent to attend SSSP in New York. In general, it is becoming far too costly for me to continue attending conferences in cities that are so expensive. I end up taking about half the cost for SSSP out of my own pocket. While I absolutely love the atmosphere at SSSP, I fear that it will eventually become cost prohibitive in places like midtown.

N/A



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### Text Entry

I would appreciate more sessions related to teaching. I am faculty at an undergraduate college, and am always interested in improving my teaching and engaging with social problems in the classroom.

There should be a higher standard for getting a proposed resolution to a vote in terms of numbers of supporters, use of reputable sources, etc. Also the business meetings never have quorum, and resolutions should not be considered by such a small segment of the membership.

1. Provide Certificate to all presenters with Authours name and presented paper title, place of conference and date of the conference in the certificate.

I was on a fantastic panel on disability and labor sponsored by the disability section. I'd love to see more panels like this one with a discussant and papers that flow very well together. Some of the others I attended felt a bit disjointed and did not have time for Q&A

I would like to see more section around Native American/Indigenous issues

The hotel room I was in left a lot to be desired. It wasn't that clean, it was rather outdated and worn-looking. At one time, my roommate had a shower with dark, rusty brown water and it took hours for the hotel to rectify.

For my session, the order of presenters was different in the app and in the printed program.

Overall I believe it was a well organized event. Not too crowded so conversations and questions felt natural. I did like the "round table" style where it was more of a presentation of data first than questions and comments either after the presenter was done, or after all panelists were completed. It allowed us to stay on topic as well as gave me some really good ideas of information that needs to be included in my data sample as well as future research topics.

Did not appreciate attending a session where several of the presenters used considerable profanity. It was offensive and detracted from the message that they were presenting.

**Do you have any comments or thoughts about any aspect of the Annual Meeting, including ways in which we can improve for next year?**  
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### Text Entry

I don't know how much this can be helped in the future but the SSSP hotel was so far from the other hotels it made it difficult to go back and forth. Also, I think it is shameful that you had to be present for the business meeting in order to vote on any of the resolutions - those votes should be emailed to the entire membership versus relying on the availability of a few people to actually attend the meeting.

There are WAY too many emails sent out in advance of SSSP. Please fix this. I started treating SSSP emails like spam and eventually started deleting them angrily without opening or reading. In a few cases I got emails about registration deadlines that I should not have gotten because I had already registered. Nonetheless, the email confused me and I took time out of my day to sign in to the online system only to find that the email didn't apply to me. For the love of God please send less emails.

For the love of God, select a hotel that has been cleaned in the last year.

Discussants/Panelists should always be available as scheduled especially on the last day of the meetings. My main panelist was not there on Sunday the 11th. Someone had to stand in without prior notice.

I really appreciate the inclusiveness with non-gender specific bathrooms among other things.

Would be nice to see some crossover with ASA if both conferences are happening at the same time and in the same city again.

Sadly, despite being a pretty, historical hotel (particularly in the public areas like the lobby), the Roosevelt has "seen better days." The rooms are smallish and not great (no counter space in bathrooms, lukewarm showers, etc.). Even more disappointing was the really POOR service. My partner had difficulty getting service in the restaurant for breakfast, we had to go to the bar and get our own drinks one night in the lobby bar, etc. One night I had a question to ask at the front desk (it was nearly midnight): four staffers were behind the counter, but only one serving a short line of four or five customers (and two of them, literally, disappeared into "the back" while I was there, while another chatted with someone on the phone... as customers lined up and waited. The check-out procedures were also BAD: instead of slipping the paid bill under the room door EVERYONE had to line up with luggage the morning they departed (what a mess!). I think it would be best to find an alternative venue next time the conference returns to NYC. (I had NO real complaints about the conference itself...)

do something about the business meeting -- too long an evening

**Do you have any comments or thoughts about any aspect of the Annual Meeting, including ways in which we can improve for next year?**

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### Text Entry

BDS should not be allowed to wreak havoc on another SSSP meeting. It was absolutely destructive and counter productive. If this vote should take place, let it take place with a 2/3 majority, in an online space--NOT in our conference space in which we want people to feel included, not attacked for their identities.

We need to recruit!

I wish there were another way to plan the program and to organize sessions. The division meeting is spent almost entirely on this task and I think the divisions have better things to discuss. Why not build the sessions from papers that are submitted to the divisions. Jointly sponsored sessions are weak. The dialogue sessions don't seem to work. And there are too many presenters.

I found the hotel to be very overpriced given the shape of our room; this may not have been the case for others, however.

I was very stimulated intellectually at this conference....i so appreciated the evident leadership by people from marginalized communities, and the varied perspectives of each session i attended....thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put this on...especially the admin staff who were so, so friendly and helpful at each point along the way....

The Roosevelt Hotel has a beautiful lobby, it is centrally located, and it has friendly and responsive staff, but the rooms were old, dingy and not updated (for example, my plugs fell out of the outlets in my room and I had trouble charging my phone and using my computer) and the room WiFi was terrible and I could not use the WiFi to check email while in my room. I was disappointed that this was the hotel conference venue, as it seemed that no one had checked out the rooms before booking it here. I hope that, for future conferences, you will find more modern or updated hotels to host the event.

Please provide computers within the rooms, or state in advance that technology will not be provided.

Would be nice to have an option to indicate your pronouns on your conference badge

Stop scheduling 8 and 8:30 a.m. presentations

Do you have any comments or thoughts about any aspect of the Annual Meeting, including ways in which we can improve for next year?  
Further, if you would like to be contacted regarding this survey, please send an e-mail to Rachel Cogburn at [ssspit@utk.edu](mailto:ssspit@utk.edu) and include “Annual Meeting Survey” in the subject line.

**Text Entry**

The Roosevelt Hotel was not impressive given the deteriorating state of the hotel itself and the rooms (e.g., bugs, plastic/wallpaper falling off walls, etc.). This is particularly troubling given how expensive the hotel is for attendees. Hotel options are limited given the needs/wants of the Society, but I would recommend not returning to that hotel in the future.

Statistic	Value
Respondents	35