

# ASR First Council Meeting

## August 11, 2018

**Present:** Dan Olson (President), Paula Nesbitt (President-Elect), Michael Emerson (Immediate Past-President), Rachel Kraus (Executive Officer), Jerry Park (Program Chair), Gerardo Marti (Editor of SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION), Nancy Ammerman (Lifetime Achievement Award Committee Chair), Patricia Thomas (OUP Liaison), Michael – OUP Liaison-Designate, Solange Lefebvre, Ruth Braunstein, Jeremy Uecker, Kevin McElmurry (all Council members)

**Note Taker:** Tia Noelle Pratt

Dan Olson opens the meeting at 4:12pm

All present introduced themselves

### Editor's Report – Gerardo Marti

- Journal is doing well
  - Impact factor has gone up – 1.55; number of citations in the last 2 years
  - Long term impact factor is 2.0 (last 5 years)
  - Cite the journal early and often to increase impact factor
  - Impact factor is the result of a number of things
- Quality of research has gone up even though the number of submissions has gone down
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> associate editor – Dan Winchester
    - Dissemination of new research particularly via social media
      - twitter, OUP Marketing, podcast hosted through OUP
    - role should continue under future editors
    - Kevin Dougherty and Penny Edgell are great (other two associate editors)
    - Grace Yukich is great as a book review editor
      - Featured Book Review to make the book reviews less “flat” and fit book reviews in a broader context
  - OUP has been very responsive regarding production and technical issues
  - Moving up production calendar
  - Submissions have 4 reviewers; it is working
- Journal Transition
  - Gerardo is coming to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his 2<sup>nd</sup> term
  - Decisions need to be made now about a transition
  - Appointment of next editor needs to be made by the end of 2019
  - Publications committee needs to decide on Call for applications/nominations and the application process
  - New Editor-elect should be selected by end of 2019. 2020 will be an apprentice year for the Editor-elect.
- Dan commended Gerardo on all of his hard work

4:25pm Nancy Ammerman arrived

### Review of last year's minutes – Dan Olson

Dan moves to approve the minutes; Paula seconds the motion; the motion carries unanimously

### Publisher's Report – Patricia Thomas

- Commends the job Gerardo is doing as Editor.
- Reiterates the need for editorial transition
  - Supports Gerardo's timeline
- OUP is willing to have the Editor-elect come to Cary, NC to learn more about OUP and the publishing process.
- New Publisher liaison – Michael is based in New York; Production and marketing is based in Cary, NC
- Circulation
  - Decline in traditional subscriptions – in print
  - Migrated subscriptions – libraries used to have full print subscription; moved to full online rate through consortia agreements
  - Production & Marketing working with the editorial team on social media has been very helpful; the 3<sup>rd</sup> associate editor focusing on social media has been very helpful
  - Online usage via website has increased; can be used to heighten the profile of the journal
- Authors seem happy

4:45pm Trish and Michael depart

#### **Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism – Dan**

After robust discussion, motion passes unanimously to create an ad hoc committee to propose policies for the Association regarding sexual harassment and sexual assault in professional conduct

#### **President's Report – Dan**

- Working with ASA has been difficult
  - Missed their Joint Session deadline
- Dan encouraged Paula to think about joint sessions early.
- Continuing the joint sessions is a good thing
- Dan suggests that Jim Cavenedish (2019 President-elect and 2020 President) needs to start thinking about joint sessions early
- 3 presidential panels
- Furfey Lecture – Jennifer Glass, UT Austin
  - Not a sociologist of religion; but uses sociology of religion in her research Sunday Night; “Religion and Politics”
- Presidential Address – Monday Night
  - “How your neighbors’ religions affect you, your neighbors, and your communities”

#### **Nominations Committee – Michael**

- The nominations committee is charged with nominating candidates for president and council
  - 2 women of color declined to be nominated as president
  - James elected President-Elect
  - Council members elected: Amy Adamczyk, Kraig Beyerlein, Rebecca Kim

#### **President Elect's report – Paula**

- She developed the theme and issued the Call for papers for next year's conference.
  - ASA Program Committee

- ASA theme fits well with ASR theme – particularly in the area of racial justice
- 4 joint ASA-ASR panels proposed
  - 2 were accepted; 2 rejected due to overlap with ASA sessions
  - Recommend that president-elect have paper titles and panelists ready for ASA by 11/1
- She is exploring the use of salon discussions that are similar to ASA roundtables. These sessions do not consist of paper presentations. Instead, a scholar proposes a question and people engage in informal conversation.
- A Furfey lecturer has not been chosen yet. Suggestions are welcome.

5:57pm Nancy Ammerman departs

### **Program Chair’s Report – Jerry**

- 175+ submissions, 60+ sessions, 3 presidential panels, 3 special panels (including teaching and grants)
- Great help from Rachel and Baylor graduate students
- People always drop out
- Challenges: would be helpful to know how much time it takes to put the program together; No grad assist: 40 – 60 hours total

### **Executive Officer’s Report - Rachel**

- Appreciation to Council for the work it does to make the organization run well
- Padfolios to Council gift from Rachel
- Reports to include basic job description and time commitment for Program Chair, Committee Chairs, and SoR editor to make for a smoother transition between people leaving and entering roles.
- Rachel received an inquiry for a trans bathroom. Sofitel does not have gender neutral bathrooms. Participants may use the restroom that aligns with their gender identity; pronoun stickers are available for participants; they were purchased at Rachel’s expense
- New Webmaster has been hired; webpage is being overhauled. Session proposals and abstract submissions are going on the website.
- Working on ways to force payment for registration and membership
- Inquiries have been made for a “Retired” category for membership; robust discussion ensued; ultimately Council decided to keep the current membership categories.
- Graduate students have asked if there is a Graduate Student Committee;
  - Dan says SSSR has something like a graduate student committee
  - Tia mentioned being grad student representative of Council for 2007 and the work that she did at the behest of 2007 president, Jim Davidson
    - Paula, Rachel, and Tia will have further discussions
  - Solange suggests a graduate student meet-up
  - Dan says “senior/less senior” match-up is important
  - Paula says that the Salon idea for 2019 could allow for senior scholars to put forth a question and encourage graduate students to attend
- F&B minimum for NYC is \$30,000
- Rachel suggests earlier deadline for elections so that newly elected members of council will know their status before making travel arrangements
  - Rachel, Paula, and the Nominations committee will decide on a new election deadline
- Rachel will seek out information on Directors and Officers insurance
- Budget – interest income is stagnant; there is a slight deficit for 2018

- Rachel purchased a PayPal chip-reader to facilitate on-site registration
  - Social media partnership with SSSR, RRA, and the ASA-Religion. ASR has committed \$2500 to this effort – Christine Cusack is spearheading this effort
    - Gerardo asks about metrics for whether or not “the Wheelhouse” is a good investment
    - Rachel will reassess over the next year
  - General discussion about the need for a portable printer to facilitate on-site registration and missed nametags
    - Motion to authorize up to \$300 to purchase portable printer passes unanimously
  - **Upcoming Meetings**
    - 2019 – Park Central New York - \$185/night; Next to ASA hotel; possibility for an ASR/ASA-Religion joint reception at ASR hotel
      - Paula moves and Dan seconds to move forward with a joint session; motion passes unanimously
    - 2020 – San Francisco
    - 2021 – Chicago
      - Section rotation for ASA is changing; dates will be decided in Spring 2019; consequently, no site visits for fall 2018
- Paula suggests looking at hotels in a date range (if not specific dates); to develop a short list; Rachel will pursue this

7:45pm Jualynne Dodson arrives

New Business

- No new business at this time

Meeting adjourns at 7:56pm

## **ASR Business Meeting August 13, 2018**

**Present:** Dan Olson (Past-President), Paula Nesbitt (President), James Cavendish (President Elect), Rachel Kraus (Executive Officer), Tia Noelle Pratt (Note Taker); Approximately 25 members

### **Hotel**

- Rachel says finding a hotel this year was a challenge. There are a relatively small number of hotels in Philadelphia. The first-choice hotel was not available. So, this year’s hotel is far from the ASA hotel. Next year in NYC the ASR hotel is next door to ASA hotel.

### **Travel Grants**

- Travel grant for international scholars.
  - Some international scholars were unable to attend due to financial reasons.
- Information is available on website and via electronic newsletters. Rachel says that ASR is trying to raise assets to \$1 million. If so, interest generated from that amount will sustain travel grants.

### **Graduate Students**

- Question raised about graduate student involvement in the ASR. Dan points out that this issue came up at the Council meeting.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Tony Blasi asked about ASR meeting at the same time as the International Sociological Association to make travel for international folks easier. Dan says that ASR is committed to coordinating with ASA.
- Question raised about conveners not showing. Rachel says that sometimes conveners don't notify ASR when they are not going to show. Dan suggests making conveners aware of their responsibilities in advance. Solange says keep it simple. If there's no convenueer, one of the session participants should take over.

### **Council**

- Rachel talks about newly elected council members and President-Elect, James Cavendish. The President appoints chairs of committees. Anyone interested in running for an office, contact the immediate Past-President, who is the Chair of the Nominations Committee. James Cavendish is looking for people who want to serve on ASR committees.

### **The Journal – Gerardo Marti**

- He is honored to serve as editor of SofR.
  - He thanks Rachel and 3 associate editors, Penny Edgell, Kevin Dougherty, and Dan Winchester for their work and assistance. Impact factor grows especially with Dan Winchester's work on social media.
  - Gerardo highlights the Featured Book Review, impact factor, partnership with OUP, and quality of manuscripts.
  - The time between a manuscript being accepted and when it appears in the journal is eight months. Articles are available on line much faster. Manuscripts have a decision in 3 months with 4 reviewers.
  - Gerardo highlights the transition process of looking for a new editor.

### **New Business**

- Tony Blasi mentions the encyclopedia he edits.
- Afe Adogame RC22 (Sociology of Religion) of ISA would like to have a sponsored session at next year's ASR meeting.
- Dan encourages people to follow up on their suggestions with an email.
- Dan says there isn't as much overlap with ASR and ASA-Religion. ASR has more of an international contingent.
- Paula directs everyone to the 2019 Call for Papers and the salon sessions as a way for graduate students to get more involved.

Dan moves to adjourn the meeting at 12:43pm. Everyone seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

## **ASR Second Council Meeting August 14, 2018**

**Present:** Dan Olson (Immediate Past-President), Paula Nesbitt (President), James Cavendish (President-Elect), Rachel Kraus (Executive Officer), Jerry Park (Program Chair), Gerardo Marti (Editor of SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION), Council Members: Rebecca Kim, Solange Lefevbre, Ruth Braunstein, Kevin McElmurry, Amy Adamczyk, Kraig Beyerlein (by phone)

**Note Taker:** Tia Noelle Pratt

7:16am Paula Nesbitt calls the meeting to order

Introductions all around

Paula asks if there is anything to add from the first meeting. Jerry thinks that the first meeting went well. Jerry appreciates Council's sympathy and support regarding the need to cancel one of the presidential panels.

### **The Journal**

- Gerardo talks about editor transition for SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION.
  - Reiterates his call for a timely process to ensure a smooth transition.
  - Gerardo has provided notes for this transition which will be entered into the minutes.
  - Paula thanks Gerardo for his wonderful work on the journal. The editor's term is three years. Dan asks Gerardo if he wants to stay for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term. Gerardo says no. ASR practice (not policy) has been for the editor to hold no more than two consecutive terms. The apprentice year for the new editor means that the outgoing editor stays on for a 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Paula invites Council to reflect on whether the editor term should be 4 years.

### **Report on Meeting – Jerry and Dan**

- Jerry says it went well. One author for an author-meets-critics had to Skype in. It worked out fine.
- Some concern was expressed that some sessions are not well attended.
- James suggests contacting publishers to get information on books for author-meets-critics sessions. Rebecca suggests asking the Book Review editor for suggestions.
- Dan apologizes for not introducing Paula as the new President during his Presidential Address and suggests routinizing it as part of the Presidential Address.
  - Rachel says the introduction usually occurs at the business meeting.
- Rachel says that approximately 180 people attended the meeting. Approximately 200 people registered. That is a decline in attendance.
  - Rachel suggests a few reasons: Philadelphia as a destination, Sofitel's distance from the ASA hotel. Top choice hotel was not available. Amy talks about the perks of the meeting...drink tickets and lovely food can be selling points for attending ASR over ASA – especially for graduate students.

### **Upcoming meeting – Paula and Rachel**

- 2019 – NYC hotel is much closer to ASA hotel (right next door) and has a great rate
- ASA-Religion Section has agreed to a joint opening reception where both sets of awards will be presented.

- James suggests that joint program sessions may increase registration for ASR given that participants in joint sessions only have to register for one conference. Furthermore, registration for the ASR tends to be less expensive than the ASA registration.
- Rachel says that there are a lot of moving pieces.
  - Food & Beverage minimum, room block rates, ratio of sleeping nights to meeting space needed. In order to get the necessary meeting space, ASR has to guarantee sleeping nights at the hotel. If that minimum is not met, ASR pays a penalty. If the hotel is able to fill to 98% capacity to the general public, ASR does not have to pay the penalty.
  - Gerardo suggests that the ASA-Religion Section may be willing to advertise ASR hotel rates especially if cheaper than ASA hotel.
  - Ruth suggests advertising for roommates. Rachel says it's done informally. Solange says the Sofitel told her that there are not many double rooms available. That can be a problem if people are trying to share rooms.
- Paula says that the Program Chair has changed. Paula has a short list of names and welcomes suggestions.
- Rachel discusses hotel contracts. ASA books their hotels much farther in advance than ASR, but doesn't advertise until ASR has a contract. So, there is no way to know ASA rates.
- For the 2020 Meeting in San Francisco
  - Rachel loves the hotel and hates the rate. It's an Asian theme hotel, comfortable and modern. Rate of \$279 was the best ASR could do. It's directly around the corner from the ASA hotel. Some hotels were \$300+ pre-tax. We need at least 240 sleeping nights needed to fulfill contracted number of rooms.

## **New Business**

- Editor
  - Dan says a four-year term makes sense if the first-year/last year is transition; Gerardo agrees with an editor-elect year.
  - James asks whether the editor-elect should be compensated. Gerardo says yes.
  - Paula asks if Council supports her consulting the Publications Committee and Gerardo about moving to a 4-year term. Council says yes.
  - Gerardo says that the term needs to be set before the Call goes out for the next editor. The editorial team (associate editors and book review editor) typically serves the same term as the editor.
  - Dan says he is comfortable with the Publications Committee making a motion that council can vote on electronically at a later date. Council agrees.
- Executive Officer
  - Rachel is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 4-year term. Paula says that there needs to be a process to review the EO and decide the process for renewal or selection of a new EO. Paula suggests an ad hoc committee consisting of the Past President, President, President-Elect, and Program Chair to work on this.
  - 8:09am Rachel steps out
  - There are questions from Council about the EO position. As the immediate past-EO, James provides insider knowledge about compensation and term limits (there are not term limits for the EO).
  - Jerry suggests having a back-up person in case there is an emergency and the EO cannot run the meeting





- Rachel says that lifetime achievement award winner gets travel and 2 hotel nights.
  - Paula suggested that the Publications Committee may discuss the topic of a book award.
  - Jim says that a Book Award would need an amendment for the organization's constitution.
- Council decided to hold elections early enough so they are finished by February 28.

Paula thanks everyone for their patience and grace. Paula wishes everyone well for the year ahead!

Meeting adjourns at 8:53am.