

**Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) 2024 Annual Meeting  
Editorial and Publication (E & P Committee)  
Report to the Board of Directors  
Sunday, August 11, 2024**

Prepared by Marlese Durr, Chair of E & P Committee

**2023-2024 E & P Committee Members:**

Marlese Durr (Chair), Yvonne A. Braun, Luis Alberto Fernandez, Claire Renzetti, Alexis A. Bender, Linda M. Waldron, Nancy Mezey (as BFA Committee Chair), Kristen M. Budd (as Justice 21 Committee Chair), Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms (outgoing Co-Editors of *Social Problems*)

**Electing a New Chair of E&P for the 2024-2025 Term:**

Marlese Durr was elected unanimously to serve a second year as the E & P Committee Chair, effective after the 2024 Annual Meeting.

**Gratitude and Thanks**

The E & P Committee wishes to thank Administrative Officer Michele Smith Koontz and Nancy Mezey, BFA Chair, Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer and Chair of the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee, for working with the committee throughout our business items from 2023- 2024, especially for selecting the *Social Problems* publisher.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Before beginning our work, we welcomed the New Editors of *Social Problems*: **Andrew S. Fullerton, Michael A. Long, Rachel M. Schmitz, Kelley J. Sittner**, and new E & P Committee Members Kristen M. Budd and Jerry A. Jacobs.

**2023-2024 Ad Hoc Publisher Search Update & Publisher Selection**

With direction from our Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee (June 2023) during October 16-20, 2023, the committee reviewed the three finalist proposals for journal publishers (*Routledge/Taylor & Francis, Sage, and Oxford University Press* and met with each publisher to hear their proposal and view their presentations. Each finalist publisher made a 30-minute presentation followed by a 20-minute Q&A. **Oxford University Press (OUP) was selected to continue as the publisher of Social Problems.**

Once the journal publisher was selected, the E & P Committee met virtually on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024, from 1-3 PM Eastern Standard Time**. Invited to this meeting were the new editors of *Social Problems* (**Andrew Fullerton, Michael Long, Rachel Schmitz, and Kelley Sittner**), Oxford University Press Representative (Sarah Levine), Policy Press Representative (Victoria Pittman), and Outgoing Social Media Editor Mi'Chael Wright. All attended except Sarah Levine and Victoria Pittman, but they sent reports. The committee was satisfied with these reports and had questions regarding their contents.

**Royalty Payments**

In 2024, the E & P Committee voted that royalty payments **belong to the journal after reviewing the contract language. The exception was that one payment would be made to one author for 2024.**

**Print and Mail of the Social Problems Journal**

Elroi received an email from Sarah at OUP regarding printing and mailing copies of the journal, which was sent to the E & P committee for our feedback and recommendations for Board approval regarding the two options presented below.

## Option One

1. In 2025, OUP can continue to print and mail copies of the journal to SSSP members in the same manner we have been. At the end of the year, we would invoice SSSP for those costs or take them out of the remaining royalty due to the society. The invoiced amount would be based on the average per-subscription cost calculated from the 2023 expenses. The workings are below, but it comes to \$39 per subscription (or about \$10 per member per issue). If SSSP wishes to keep offering print subscriptions to members in 2026 and beyond, OUP would help set up a direct relationship between SSSP and Sheridan Printing. OUP would transmit print-ready files to Sheridan, but the rate for printing, binding, and mailing would be negotiated between SSSP and Sheridan. Sheridan is our preferred printer for this; they have established processes for working directly with societies and OUP has long partnered with them to print and mail journals in North America. That said, SSSP could use any print and mail service you wish, and in that case, OUP would send print-ready files to SSSP directly.

## Option Two

2. SSSP may decide to cease member print subscriptions in 2025 altogether. In that case, no other action is necessary from the OUP's perspective.

Elroi confirmed that OUP's fee of \$39 would cover both printing and mailing for any print subscriber, regardless of location. However, this remains an issue for the Board's approval.

Michele and Elroi recommend that SSSP shift with OUP to offering only online journal versions. Their perspective is based on online editions' more sustainable practices, which aligns with our commitment to social justice, including environmental justice. In addition, there are administrative costs with continuing the practice of mailing hard copies (*See Sarah's comments and options below*).

## Sarah Levine's Comments and Options

As I mentioned in the press's offer letter, OUP has been printing and mailing print copies of the journal to SSSP members at no cost to members or to the society, and **we will need end that in the new term beginning in 2025**. I understand that a print subscription to the journal is considered a significant member benefit by some association and society members, so a couple of options are moving forward. **The E & P Committee recommends Option 2 to the Board.**

## Social Problems Co-Editors Exit Interview ( Excerpted from Co-Editors Report)

The exit interview for the former co-editors (*Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms*) of *Social Problems* took place on June 3, 2024. The editorial team responded in writing and during an interview that the University of Cincinnati has been 100% supportive since day one, despite institutional support being initially variable during the first few years of housing the journal in financing the necessary course releases (mismatch between our budget and what our university asked for). However, that eventually got resolved. During these years, one graduate student assistant was funded to assist co-editors with the help of university funds. The co-editors reported a budget shrinkage in their second term as co-editors, coinciding with a new contract with OUP and the addition of Dr. Derrick Brooms as a third co-editor. However, the most important change reported was that two graduate students were funded through the SSSP budget. At the same time, stipends for co-editors and Associate Editors were reduced (cut). The co-editors reported this was a necessary change since they were unsure whether the university would provide sufficient graduate student funding.

Overall, the co-editors reported that OUP provided good support despite much turnover in the publishing business, with Sarah Levine providing continuous support over the last several years. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were some glitches—no real barriers except the occasional time crunch.

During their six years as co-editors, they have worked to increase the visibility of the journal through:

- *Working with OUP to increase exposure, readership, and impact,*
- *Working with virtual issues, special issues, and authors' attic videos to increase exposure and impact,*
- *Working with the social media team to highlight content (most recently headed by Mi'Chael Wright),*
- *Seeking reviewers from a wide range of institutions. They note that securing reviewers is always difficult (especially after COVID), indicating it is no longer possible or desirable to rely primarily on faculty members at the top 25 research universities in the United States for reviews.*

From the co-editor's perspective, the most readily available evidence of increased visibility is the high quality of most papers we receive; however, since papers do not advertise themselves, their co-editors relied on our Social Media Committee and the occasional campaign by OUP to spread the word of the papers we publish. Nevertheless, despite liking their content, the co-editors were unsure how to evaluate the Authors' Attic videos. ***They worked with the SSSP*** social media chair and OUP to streamline their appearance. The result is that they look so much better than the typical video abstract! Nevertheless, it took much work from Trenton Haltom, the previous social media committee chair, and Mi'Chael Wright, the current social media chair.

### **Virtual and Special Issues**

The assembly of virtual issues is a low-cost way to increase exposure to previously published papers, which the co-editors report doing about 2 per year, with varying responses. However, overall, the virtual issues increase the visibility of the included papers. However, as with the Authors' Attic videos, we are unsure how to evaluate their impact since OUP typically provides numbers in their annual report.

The co-editors were unable to find an effective way of tracking Award-winning papers. However, they report working with OUP to improve the visual layout of the website page. Additionally, the co-editors have worked with the social media committee to develop a better system for keeping track of award announcements (SSSP divisions, ASA sections, regional organizations, and author CVs).

The co-editors report that when beginning their editorship five years ago, they were enthusiastic about the prospect of special issues to help us publish high-impact papers and market the journal. The first issue they did (with Earl and Aldon Morris as guest editors) was quite successful. They sponsored two additional special issues (one on the Lives (and Futures) of Black Children, by Derrick Brooms and Marcelle Medford, and the other on Racism of Omission, guest-edited by Victor Ray, Rory Kramer, and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva), both of which have caused some delay and other issues. The co-editors hoped to publish these two issues in the last two issues of Volume 71, their final volume. Although these particular issues contribute to the discipline, the co-editors are now less sold on special issues than initially because there are many outstanding papers among our regular submissions that special issues serve as a disruption.

### **Editorial Transition**

The timing of the transition to new editors needs to be formalized. When Anna and Earl took over six years ago, they were told by SSSP that their term began on June 1, but the outgoing Editor announced that they started on May 1. Moreover, that is what happened (after scrambling on their part). They were determined to establish a better transition process. They built May as the transition month, during which their graduate students were paid while facilitating the transition to the new team. They invited the new team to their

monthly meetings early this year. They ensured they had access to the submission system in early April. However, as it turns out, the new team was not ready to take over until the end of May, which shortened the transition period considerably. Considering the use of graduate assistants, who usually work well into May on their spring semester obligations, it is probably better if the editorial term officially begins on June 1, which probably means that the outgoing team needs to work a week or two into June. In this case, two of the incoming editors have extensive experience working with the Manuscript Central system, thus reducing the need for training. Nevertheless, we cannot count on that to be the case.

The outgoing co-editors have suggested that the questions below be removed from the exit interview since, for question 6, most of the answers were provided under question 2, and question 7 should be left for the new editors to answer.

**6) Have the working relationships (with other editors, the host institution, the SSSP Administrative Office, etc.) positive, negative?**

**7) What additional ideas does the Editor have for improving the journal and what resources would be needed to implement them?**

### **Justice 21 (J21) Committee**

A new chair of the J21 Committee, *David C. Lane*, has been selected to lead the *2028 US Agenda of Social Justice*. Dave will partner with the current Chair, Kristen M. Budd, to learn the lead editor role during the *2026 Global Agenda for Social Justice* curation.

### **Justice 21 (J21) New Member of the Editorial Team Call for Applications**

With the rotation of one of the members of the J21 Committee Editorial team (*See J21 Actions below*), members of the E & P Committee were sent a request for E & P members to form and serve as members of a subcommittee to review applications received for the **Call for Editor applications**. The hope was to post the Call before our *Annual Meeting in August 2024*, giving potential candidates time to review the call's contents. Given the summer vacation, we have received one positive response from Jerry Jacobs to serve with Kristen on this committee and await two more responses. However, as we await two more responses, the hope is to form a subcommittee in late **August or early September** and post the call immediately since *The Global Agenda for Social Justice, CFP goes out in October 2024, and it is ideal to have a new J-21 editor in place no later than the beginning of October 2024*.

### **J21 Committee Action Items for E&P**

1. Glenn Muschert will rotate off the J21 Committee at the end of his term (2023-2024). Therefore, as per the SSSP bylaws, the *E&P Committee should proceed with publishing a call for applications*. A subgroup of E&P members (to be selected) will then review applications and select the next member of the J21 Committee. **The E & P Committee voted to accept these action items unanimously and to begin the search.**

2. **Kristen M. Budd requests to be reappointed for an additional term of 2024-2028.** Kristen will provide training, support, and continuity as the J21 Committee onboards a new Chair and new members. She would then conclude her service and rotate off the J21 Committee, as per the bylaws, after the publication of the 2028 US volume. **The E & P Committee voted to accept this action item request unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Marlese*

Marlese Durr