

Sociologists for Trans Justice 3rd Annual ASA Forum – Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 12th, 2018 – Philadelphia, PA (PA Convention Center)

- **Welcome and opening remarks (S4TJ Co-Chairs Laurel Westbrook & Eric Grollman)**
 - This meeting serves as our third annual ASA forum.
 - We are incredibly proud of all that our committees and coordinators have accomplished over the past year.
 - Tonight's agenda:
 - Thank and congratulate our committees and coordinators for their work.
 - Offer co-chairs' (brief) report
 - Transition co-chair leadership (Eric to Daniel)
 - Brainstorm goals to include in our new five-year plan.
 - We are no longer a small, new organization, so now is an appropriate time to look ahead five years and ensure that we identify steps to take to achieve those long-term goals.
 - We will not be asking for volunteers for our committees and coordinator positions tonight. Rather, after developing committees for the 2018-2019 year based on our new five-year plan, we will then take volunteers via email.
 - We sent around a sign-up sheet to join our Google groups listserv.
- **Report from S4TJ co-chairs (Laurel Westbrook & Eric Grollman)**
 - Sociologists for Trans Justice was created in 2016 as an independent group to promote transgender justice *in* and *through* sociology. We aim to work toward better inclusion of trans, non-binary, and intersex identified sociologists, and to expand the sociological study of trans, non-binary, and intersex communities.
 - Over the past year, we have made a more explicit commitment to supporting intersex sociologists and intersex studies scholars in sociology.
 - Laurel, Daniel, and Eric were invited by ASA president-elect Mary Romero to organize a presidential plenary at the 2019 meeting in NYC on Transgender Justice. The plenary will feature scholar-activist Cary Gabriel Costello and activists Pauline Park (NYAGRA) and LaLa Zanell (Anti-Violence Project).
 - This year's ASA annual meeting features the first ASA regular session on Transgender Studies. Please attend! Next year, Eric will serve as the organizer for the session; they are hoping to receive enough quality papers to request multiple sessions on the topic for the 2019 ASA annual meeting. Please plan to submit a paper when the call for papers opens in November.
- **Report from Committee on Advancing Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Studies in Academia (committee co-chairs Jackie Tabor and Maggie Nanney)**
 - TransJusticeSyllabus is now available online. The committee will continue to collect resources and readings with plans to release subsequent iterations of the syllabus in the future – please send these to the committee.

- The committee is also creating an archive of classroom activities for teaching trans, non-binary, and intersex studies – please send ideas to the committee.
 - The committee continues to update its online list of professional development resources for trans, non-binary, and intersex studies scholars.
 - The committee continues to oversee the list of potential peer reviewers for manuscripts in trans, non-binary, and intersex studies. This list will be sent to sociological journals each fall. Please sign up as a potential reviewer.
 - The committee works to address hostile research both proactively and in reaction to particular transphobic work. They released the Trans Affirmation 101 guide on sex, gender, and sexuality concepts to raise awareness about these issues. In the future, they will make similar guides specifically for journal editors, journal reviewers, and authors.
 - The committee has recently begun working on an instance of hostile research that occurred at the ISA.
- **Report from Committee on Advancing Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Studies at Sociology Conferences (committee co-chairs: Andrea Miller and Rebecca P.)**
 - The committee created a statement on the importance of including research on trans, non-binary, and intersex communities in ASA sessions that was subsequently sent to all ASA session organizers. The goal is to better integrate research in these areas outside of the fields of sexualities, sex and gender, body and embodiment.
 - This effort was well-received by a number of session organizers.
 - It appears that there was an increase in trans and non-binary (but not intersex) related events at the 2018 annual meeting from the previous 3 years.
 - The committee successfully hosted a session at the ASA Section on Sexualities preconference on teaching trans, non-binary, and intersex studies.
- **Report from Committee on Advancing Public Understanding of Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Issues (former committee chair: Piper Sledge)**
 - The committee continued to oversee the directory of experts in trans, non-binary, and intersex studies to make these scholars more visible to the public and the media. Please add your name to this list.
 - The committee created an email template for S4TJ members to send to their university media/public relations office noting their expertise and availability to speak to the media on trans, non-binary, and intersex issues.
 - The committee continues to explore creating a S4TJ blog to make sociological insights on trans, non-binary, and intersex communities available to the public, beyond paywalls of academic journals and classrooms.
- **Report from Committee on Supporting Trans, Non-binary, and Intersex Scholars (committee co-chairs: Jordan Forrest Miller and Lindsey Wilkinson)**
 - The committee continues to develop a trans, non-binary, and intersex graduate students' needs assessment survey.

- The committee put out a call for feedback from S4TJ membership, and a specific request to Dr. Sharon Preeves on better capturing intersex issues in graduate school. They implemented this feedback to improve the survey, which is currently under human subjects (IRB) review.
 - The survey is open to all trans, non-binary, and intersex graduate students in the US, as well as those who have dropped out of or finished graduate school (master's level included) in the past decade.
 - The committee will advertise the survey widely, starting by compiling a list of queer and trans-related academic programs to which they will send the survey.
 - After a successful inaugural year of the S4TJ mentoring program for trans, non-binary, and intersex graduate students, contingent faculty, and pre-tenure faculty, the committee revised and continued the mentor-mentee pairing for a second year.
 - The committee solicited feedback from last year's mentors and mentees to find out what worked and what didn't. They found that many expressed concern about lack of clarity regarding what was expected of them (especially mentors) and desired advice to be more effective in their roles.
 - In response, the committee created a best practices guide for mentoring, send specific tips for initiating mentorship relationships, and created a listserv to facilitate communication among mentors and mentees.
 - This year, 18 prospective mentees and 24 prospective mentors signed up for the program. The excess mentors were not assigned mentees; but, students and junior faculty are encouraged to sign up for a mentor.
 - Mentors and mentees were paired just before the 2018 ASA annual meeting in Philadelphia in hopes that they would be able to meet in person during the conference.
 - The committee continues to work on an accessible, downloadable PDF best practices guide for departments to support intersex, non-binary, and transgender students, staff, and faculty.
 - The committee solicited and implemented feedback for what department leadership wants to know regarding these issues.
 - The committee also published an essay on best practices as a blog post for WriteWhereItHurts.net.
- **Report from Committee on Promoting Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Inclusion at Sociology Conferences (committee chair: Emilia Lombardi)**
 - The committee will be working with ASA staff member Jean Shin to host a trans, non-binary, and intersex-friendly hospitality suite at the 2019 ASA meeting in NYC.
 - The committee will create a guide for the 2019 ASA annual meeting in NYC on trans, non-binary, and intersex-friendly restaurants, bars, and other attractions in the city.
 - The committee proposed that ASA make asking for conference attendees' pronoun(s) standard practice, as well as printing them on conference badges in place of the stickers that are seen as a special case for non-cisgender people.

- The committee is working with the ASA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ People in Sociology to develop a climate assessment survey, placing particular emphasis on trans, non-binary, and intersex people.
- **Report about S4TJ Website (web editor: Anne Marie Champagne)**
 - Anne Marie has done incredible work to maintain and update the TransJusticeSyllabus.com website. We are grateful for her work adding many, many posts that have helped sociologists navigate and thrive during the August sociology conference season. Thank you, Anne Marie!
- **Report from ASA Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Persons (Liaison: Anne Marie Champagne)**
 - Report from the Status Committee to come in the near future.
- **Report about Grants (coordinators: Lydia Dana and Cal Garrett)**
 - Unfortunately, Lydia was locked out of the Pennsylvania Convention Center and was unable to provide a report.
 - The grants coordinators have created an index of grants relevant to trans, non-binary, and intersex studies research, which will soon be made available on the S4TJ website. They contacted grants officers when possible to ensure that work in these fields would be given genuine consideration.
 - At the 2019 ASA meeting in NYC, the grants coordinators will host a professional development workshop on successfully applying for grants for trans, non-binary, and intersex studies scholars.
- **Report from Committee on S4TJ Social Media (coordinators: Jaime Hartless, alithia skye zamantakis, and Jordan Forrest Miller)**
 - Our social media team has been busy keeping our Facebook page active, maintaining an intersectional approach (i.e., posting about news not exclusively about trans, intersex, and non-binary communities). Please like the page!
 - Over the past year, S4TJ Facebook posts have automatically been posted on Twitter. Moving forward the social media team will more intentionally use the @transsyllabus Twitter account to expand S4TJ's online presence.
- **Leadership Transition (S4TJ Founder and Outgoing Co-chair Eric Grollman, S4TJ Co-Chair Laurel Westbrook and Incoming S4TJ Co-Chair Daniel Laurison)**
 - In order to make space for other members to hold leadership positions, S4TJ has limited co-chair terms to two years. As such, Eric's term as co-chair has officially ended; in their place, we welcome incoming co-chair Dr. Daniel Laurison (Assistant Professor at Swarthmore College).
 - In order to protect institutional memory, current co-chair Dr. Laurel Westbrook has agreed to serve as third-year in this position. The alternative – selecting two in-coming co-chairs to replace both Eric and Laurel – would be challenging for both the new co-chairs and S4TJ overall.
 - It is bittersweet that we now say goodbye to Eric, who launched S4TJ with Laurel's support to hold sociologists more accountable for intervening in

moments of trans injustice, to be a part of the national conversation on trans rights. Thank you, Eric. (But, don't worry – Eric will serve a one-year term as past co-chair, which serves in an advisory capacity for the current co-chairs; they will likely help in other ways, as well.)

- Welcome to Daniel, our new co-chair! Daniel is a trans man with a long history of trans activism, who is eager to return to this work after a long break to focus on scholarship.
 - Please note that ahead of the August 2019 meeting in NYC, we will need to select a new incoming co-chair to replace Laurel (and Daniel will stay on for one more year as co-chair).
- **Ideas for S4TJ Five-Year Plan, 2018-2023 (S4TJ Co-Chairs Laurel Westbrook and Daniel Laurison)**
 - ***Initiatives that would benefit all sociologists/that are beyond the scope of S4TJ's work:***
 - Increase knowledge and capital for navigating ASA (e.g., attending conferences, successfully submitting papers, distinguishing among caucuses, committees, and sections).
 - ***Recruitment and expansion/outreach initiatives:***
 - Increase number of trans, non-binary, and intersex-identified sociologists.
 - Increase racial and ethnic diversity in S4TJ membership.
 - Collaborate with regional sociology organizations, pushing S4TJ initiatives at the regional level.
 - Collaborate with other national sociology organizations, including Association of Black Sociologists, Sociologists for Women in Society, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Humanist Sociology, and ASA section pre-conferences.
 - This could aid in our efforts to increase racial and ethnic diversity in S4TJ membership and leadership.
 - Expand collaborations to international sociological organizations and scholars in other countries.
 - ***Advocating for trans justice in the community***
 - Facilitate both proactive and reactive approaches to responding to current events affecting trans, non-binary, and intersex communities.
 - Create a committee for working proactively on policy initiatives and creating partnerships with policy researchers, activists, and community organizers and non-profits.
 - ***Advancing public understanding of trans, non-binary, and intersex issues***
 - Push for trans, non-binary, and intersex studies scholars to be listed in ASA and other sociology expert databases, and to join Scholars Strategy Network.
 - Create an apparatus for issuing statements on trans, non-binary, and intersex related issues and current events that ASA can release on our behalf. Perhaps create a public response committee that aims to do so every two years.

- Request an ASA Public Engagement Liaison specifically for S4TJ.
- Partner with community organizers and non-profits who already have captive audiences for trans, non-binary, and intersex justice work.
- ***Promoting and expanding trans, non-binary, and intersex studies***
 - Increase racial and ethnic diversity in trans, non-binary, and intersex studies research.
 - Consider creating a trans, non-binary, and intersex studies section of ASA. However, this may pull from already small, marginal, resource-poor sections that are already a space for trans, non-binary, and intersex studies scholars.
 - Push existing ASA sections to better include work by trans, non-binary, and intersex studies scholars. Body and Embodiment (via Natalie Ingraham) is especially interested in solidifying its inclusion of work in these fields.
 - Push for better representation of trans, non-binary, and intersex studies research in sociological journals, especially ASA journals. *Gender & Society* and *Social Problems* were cited as particularly receptive journals.
 - Push for greater focus on trans, non-binary, and intersex health at sociology conferences.
- ***Supporting trans, non-binary, and intersex identified sociologists***
 - Consider creating a trans, non-binary, and intersex scholars caucus.
 - Consider proposing an ASA Committee on the Status of Trans, Non-binary, and Intersex People in Sociology.
 - Propose a trans, non-binary, and/or intersex themed ASA tour for the 2019 annual meeting in NYC and the locations of subsequent ASA meetings (e.g., San Francisco, Chicago, etc.). Tey Meadow is interested in partnering with another NYC-based sociologists to plan such a tour for next year.
 - Propose that sociology organizations explicitly ask members their pronoun(s), especially for announcing award winners' bios.
- ***Creating resources for teaching trans, non-binary, and intersex studies***
 - Collaborate with ASA's TRAILS initiative to publicize and expand the TransJusticeSyllabus.
 - Host a conference session on using the TransJusticeSyllabus, including different substantive and/or methodological foci, levels, and lengths (e.g., one day, one week, one unit, or the entire course).
 - Create resources for instructors to effectively teach on trans, non-binary, and intersex issues in the classroom, particularly to students who are more resistant to learning about these communities.
- ***Other/General:***
 - Think outside of the box with our initiatives (i.e., not simply doing what's already been done by others like creating an ASA section on trans studies).
 - Consider renaming S4TJ to explicitly note commitment to intersex studies and intersex scholars.