

## **Sociologists for Trans Justice 4<sup>th</sup> Annual ASA Forum – Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – New York City, NY**

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The meeting started at 8:05pm.  
40+ people attended

- **Welcome and opening remarks (S4TJ Co-Chair Daniel Laurison)**
  - This meeting is our fourth annual ASA forum. It is amazing what we have accomplished in the just over three years that we have been an organization.
  - We are incredibly proud of all that our committees and coordinators have accomplished over the past year.
  - Tonight's agenda:
    - Co-chairs' report (brief)
    - Committees will briefly report their accomplishments this year
    - Thank and congratulate our committees and coordinators for their work.
    - Transition leadership (Laurel moves from Co-Chair to Past Chair, Daniel stays on as chair)
    - Gather feedback and suggestions from those at the meeting
  - Committee volunteers will be solicited via an online survey sent over the listserv after ASA
- We sent around a sign-up sheet to join our Google groups listserv.
  
- **Report from S4TJ Co-Chairs (Daniel Laurison)**
  - See circulated Annual Progress Report (<http://s4tj.com/s4tj-annual-progress-report-2019-edition/>) for a full description.
- **Reports from S4TJ Committees (facilitated by Laurel Westbrook)**
  - See circulated Annual Progress Report (<http://s4tj.com/s4tj-annual-progress-report-2019-edition/>) for a full description of each committee's accomplishments.
  - **Advancing Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Scholarship report** (presented by Maggie Nanney)
  - **Supporting Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Scholars** (co-chairs were unable to attend, so the report was presented by Laurel Westbrook and by subcommittee members)
    - **Short summary of gender inclusive bathrooms** (Jason Orne)
    - **Summary of accomplishments of the Demographics Subcommittee** (Nik Lampe)
  - **Advancing Public Understanding of Trans, Non-Binary, and Intersex Issues** (co-chairs were unable to attend, so the report was presented by Laurel Westbrook)
  - **Outreach Committee** (presented by Mael Embser-Herbert)
  - This portion of the meeting finished at 8:28pm.

- **Transition leadership** (Daniel Laurison)
  - Daniel thanked Eric Anthony Grollman for initiating the group and Laurel Westbrook for being Co-Founder and serving as Co-Chair for three years.
  - In order to minimize burnout and to increase the number of voices heard in leadership decisions, starting in 2019-2020 S4TJ will have one Chair and an Executive Council comprised of the Co-Chairs of the three task committees as well as the Past Co-Chair. Following the August S4TJ forum at ASA 2019, Laurel Westbrook will roll off as Co-Chair (after serving for three years) and shift into a new position (Past Co-Chair). Daniel Laurison will remain Chair, working alongside those who volunteer to serve as committee Co-Chairs for 2019-2020. Next year, the S4TJ Chair will be chosen from the Executive Council, maintaining institutional memory.

### Comments and Suggestions

Jax Gonzales (S4TJ member and representative of SWS) read the following statement from SWS:

1. Work undertaken by Council/Pubs regarding trans inclusivity:
  - a. Council and Publications are aware of ongoing concerns about inclusivity, specifically regarding trans, nonbinary scholars and scholarship.
  - b. Council and Publications have been attempting to work together to create a more inclusive environment in SWS, and also to ensure that G&S is a journal accepting of gender diverse scholars and scholarship. Toward the latter specifically, in addition to other work, we have worked to support hiring a Deputy Editor with this research specialization and also support a Special Issue of G&S.
  - c. SWS Council has created a Task Force on Inclusivity to identify areas of growth for SWS related to both race & ethnicity and gender identity. Some of the work that this task force has done is to consider alternative names for our organization to better represent its mission and function, and the development of focus groups to determine the needs of our community. The task force includes: LaToya Council, Manisha Desai, Sylvanna Falcón, Jax Gonzalez, Jessica Herling, Nancy López, and Marcia Texler Segal
  - d. Members of SWS Council include: Tiffany Taylor, Christin Munsch, Veronica Montes, Adia Harvey Wingfield, Jax Gonzalez, Melanie Heath, Ronni Tichenor, Roberta Villalón, Barret Katuna, Josephine Beoku-Betts and Nancy López
  - e. Members of SWS Publications Committee include: Sharon Bird, Bandana Purkayastha, Tristan Bridges, Vrushali Patil, Yasemin Besen-Cassino, Minjeong Kim
  
2. Additionally, as these issues related to *Gender & Society* specifically, we'd like to request that Council and the Publications Committee empower members of each to suggest that people with expertise on trans, non-binary, etc. scholarship (particularly scholars who identify as trans, non-binary, gender fluid, or outside the binary) sign up as reviewers for *Gender & Society* to help us build a larger and more diverse reviewer base so that work submitted in these areas will receive consideration from a larger and more diverse group of scholars. Toward this, we would like to craft a handout with instructions for how to sign up as a reviewer for *Gender & Society* and pass these out at ASA – potentially including a stack at the SWS registration table.

- Further discussion:
  - SWS would like to think of more ways to collaborate with S4TJ
  - It may be possible for S4TJ to do a preconference attached to a future SWS Winter meeting
  - Jax was asked to say more about the renaming effort. Jax stated that part of the function of SWS has been for marginalized scholars to find mentorship. SWS is doing a lot of work around mentorship right now. The Task Force on Inclusivity is asking for ideas for names; please reach out to them (the Task Force membership is listed in the statement above). The new name should signal that they are inclusive of all gender identifies and are inclusive of people of color.
  - Tiffany Taylor (President of SWS) and Barret Katuna (Executive Officer of SWS) were in attendance and introduced themselves.

Ann Travers:

- Announced that they are the *Gender & Society* Deputy Editor with a focus on trans issues. Stated that articles that do not cite queer and trans scholars of color will not be sent out for review.

Jason Orne:

- ASA stepped up more this year than they have in the past. It's not perfect, but it's better and it will get better.
  - This was followed by questions and answers about gender inclusive restrooms at ASA (one issue was that they weren't open before 8am this year).

Other discussion:

- There was a request for more panels on trans, non-binary, and intersex issues
  - The Intersex Studies panel at ASA 2019 co-sponsored with Sex & Gender and Body & Embodiment was mentioned and Sex & Gender was thanked for using one of their session slots for the panel.
- It was suggested that S4TJ should collaborate more with the sections on Asia and Asian America, Latina/o Sociology, Race, Gender and Class, and Racial and Ethnic Minorities.
- It was suggest that S4TJ members should become more involved in ASA leadership. One way to that is to get involved in sections. Body & Embodiment was mentioned as a supportive and welcoming section.
- There was a discussion of talks with ASA to host a S4TJ webinar based on the Trans Justice Syllabus. Hosting with ASA means that the webinar will be free. There was then a question of whether the webinar will be behind a paywall (i.e., only free to ASA members). There was then an offer to discuss other options with SWS that would allow for it to not be behind a paywall.

Daniel and Laurel thanked everyone for their hard work this year and for their suggestions for the future.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.