

SSS Journal

Journal Description

The Journal of the Southern Sociological Society will focus on cutting edge research from all methodological and theoretical traditions with implications for national and international sociological communities. While preserving a traditional journal “feel” including normal length articles, the SSS journal will be unique in welcoming succinct research and policy-related contributions as well as important conceptual and theoretical debates ranging from 2000-3000 words.

The journal will publish:

- refereed articles
- research briefs
- policy-related pieces
- theoretical and substantive area debates

See Appendices A, B and C for TOC examples

The SSS

Established in 1935, the Southern Sociological Society is a society of professionals that promotes the development of sociology as a profession and scientific discipline by the maintenance of high academic professional and ethical standards, and by encouraging effective teaching of sociology, valid and reliable methods and research in the study of human society, diffusion of sociological knowledge and its application to societal problems, cooperation with related disciplines and groups, recruitment and training of sociologists, and development of sociology programs in educational and other agencies.

The Southern Sociological Society, more generally, has many national and internationally recognized scholars with superlative editorial experience, including current and past editors of *American Sociological Review* and *Work and Occupations* as well as countless individuals at various southern universities who sit on the editorial boards of, or who have served as deputy editors, for the most prestigious general and specialty journals in our field.

Specific qualifications to edit this journal

Much like how the American Sociological Association chooses its editors, in the case of this journal, proposals to edit would be submitted to our elected Publications Committee—a committee that would vet the proposals received and recommend to the Executive Committee of SSS, based on quality of proposal and qualifications, a rank ordering of preferred editors. Like the ASA, editorship would rotate approximately every 3 to 4 years.

Proposed editorial board

The editorial board would be comprised of 25-30 individuals, and their appointment is made by the acting editor with final approval from the SSS publication committee. Members of the editorial board should and would be visible and active scholars in the field, nationally and internationally. Ideally, at least fifty percent of the editorial board would be comprised of active members in the Southern Sociological Society. There is also an expectation of geographic, racial/ethnic, and gender diversity on the editorial board, as well as the inclusion of international scholars among editorial board members.

A plan for the administration of the journal, including editorial office, board participation, funding, etc.

The blueprint for journal administration, editorial office, board participation, etc. will largely follow the model offered by the American Sociological Association. Specifically, the journal would transition to a new editor and editorial office every 3-4 years. Prospective editors would submit proposals to edit approximately a year and a half before a new editor is to step in to insure adequate transition time between the two locations.

The SSS Publications Committee will accept and rank order proposals for editorship and make a recommendation to the SSS Executive Committee. Generally speaking, the recommendations of the Publications Committee will be followed unless the Executive Committee has strong justification for doing otherwise. In such a case, the Executive Committee will consult with the Publications Committee. An exception to this process may emerge wherein the SSS Publication and Executive Committees, satisfied with the current Editor and editorial office, asks the current editor to stay on for an additional 1 year to one full term. For reasons of intellectual variation, however, no Editor can serve more than two consecutive full terms. The SSS would imbue the editor with editorial discretion, although if grievances with the current editorial office go unresolved, authors, reviewers, etc. can forward grievances to the SSS Publications Committee for adjudication. Deputy editors and editorial board members will serve at the discretion of the editor, though their selection must be approved by the SSS Publications Committee to ensure reasonable representation of intellectual traditions, methodologies and background.

The editorial office ideally would be comprised of the Editor along with graduate and/or undergraduate research assistants depending on the location of the university or college where the journal is located.

Proposed frequency

Quarterly

Indicate factors affecting prospective trim size and format of the journal

The journal would allow for both tables and figures, and generally should be the same width and length as the *American Sociological Review*.

Approximate page length

100 pages per issue

Audience: What need does the journal fulfill?

Aside from fulfilling the ongoing need of more general journal outlets for full length manuscripts (which this journal will include in the second half of each issue), the journal will fill two simultaneous gaps and needs in the field—both national and international—that currently remain open: Brief research papers, and a forum of important theoretical, substantive area and professional debates.

In terms of brief research papers, currently the field of sociology and social sciences even more generally have few to no outlets in which succinct, interesting, and potentially policy-relevant research discoveries are presented (i.e., without the token and often jargon-laden introductions and literatures). This is unfortunate, as many of us uncover fascinating associations, insights into process, and empirical specifications that may not warrant an entire, full-blow paper, but instead that could generate excitement and/or new directions in the field.

Relative to succinct yet broad theoretical debates or more substantive area-specific forums, there is likewise no current journal home. The journal *Contemporary Sociology* tried doing so several years ago in the form of invited essays, and received both wide acclaim and reading but has since stopped. Our most visible of journals (*ASR* and *AJS*) historically (pre-1960) allowed room for “thought” pieces and debates, several of which remain seminal in the field. Now, however, almost all sociology journals restrict themselves to either full length research articles or, in the cases of *Theory and Society* or *Sociological Theory*, very long and oftentimes abstract theoretical pieces that do not, in the end, get a very wide reading.

Notably, even international sociology journals do not provide such a forum for brief research papers and theoretical/substantive debates. Thus, we believe that the niche this journal will fill could very well garner the audience of not only U.S. sociology audiences but also international social science audiences.

Describe the primary market

The primary market includes sociologists at academic institutions, graduate students of sociology, and sociological practitioners. This includes members of the Southern Sociological Society, the American Sociological Association and perhaps even the Association for Applied Sociology. It also includes international sociology audiences.

Secondary market

The secondary market is other related social science disciplines of economics, psychology, history and political science, as well as perhaps education, social work, and anthropology.

How will this journal “fit” into the current literature of the discipline?

It will fit squarely into the current literature of the discipline, certainly with regard to regular manuscript length submissions and articles. However, it will also expand the current literature by producing succinct research and theoretical pieces that may very well guide the current literature.

What is the composition of the prospective audience?

Through the Southern Sociological Society, the almost automatic composition of the audience will be the approximately 1,200 members of the SSS, about half of which is faculty and the other half graduate students. I suspect an additional 1,000 subscribers could be achieved through journal strength, visibility and advertising to international and national audiences.

How will this journal be unique to the specialty, discipline, or profession?

See above regarding succinct research and theory/debate papers.

Show that that sufficient papers and research exist to sustain this journal.

Currently, the average acceptance rate for mainstream general journals like *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, and *Social Problems* is 10 percent or lower, while the same rates for the most visible regional society journals hovers anywhere from 8-14 percent. This is due to constraints on page production at these journals, and means that the editors of these outlets must turn down many very good manuscripts. There is clearly a general need for more sociological outlets, not to mention the specific niches (mentioned earlier) that this journal will uniquely fill.

List relevant societies and educational specialties/programs that might constitute prospective mailing lists (include the approximate size of each list, if known).

Southern Sociological Society (1,200)

American Sociological Association (10,000)

Rural Sociological Society (500)
Sociologists for Women in Society (1,000)
Association for Black Sociologists (200)
Society for the Study of Social Problems (750)
Social Science History Association (1,000)
American Society of Criminology (1,000)

List relevant conferences that would be appropriate for promoting the journal.

Annual meetings of each of the societies noted above

How will your journal compare with others and what will it offer that these do not?

(1) the possibility of non-standard article formats, including debates and succinct research pieces of note; (2) relatively quick turnaround time on article submissions; (3) intellectual variation of content, based on editorial moves every 3-4 years; (4) accountability structure and oversight through the SSS publications committee, and; (5) a relatively inexpensive submission fee. .

How does the proposed journal fit into the field generally?

This journal would fill an important niche in the field. Although there are widely visible and general journals in the field (e.g., *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*) as well as substantive specialty journals like *Gender & Society*, *Work & Occupations*, *Politics & Society*, *Research on Aging*, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*, these journals largely cater to average length research articles. It is important for reasons of visibility and legitimacy that the proposed journal do so as well, yet it will fill the current void by also providing a general forum for concise research pieces, theoretical debates and important commentaries. By publishing these in a relatively quick manner, the visibility of the journal as well as its overall impact in the field will be bolstered.

List the professional, academic or scientific societies that would have members with a primary or secondary interest in this journal.

This would be the official journal of the Southern Sociological Society, thus its members would have a primary interest. It will likely also be of interest to members of the various other professional societies listed earlier.

List the professional societies that might consider affiliation with the journal and why.

The Southern Sociological Society is currently one of the only regional societies without an official journal. Moreover, we have interest in running our own journal and already have in place the organizational infrastructure for editor selection and oversight. This includes an elected executive committee, a publications committee and a secretary-treasurer.

If known, how many members comprise each association? Do you or future editorial board members belong to these listed societies?

Approximately 1,200 members. A requirement for future editors of this journal would be that they are a member of SSS in good standing, and the editorial board would be comprised on no less than 50 percent of SSS members.

Literature survey

List products or services that might be interested in advertising in the journal.

Ingenta, JSTOR, etc., along with companies creating statistical and qualitative software for the social sciences.

Appendix A
Sample Table of Contents #1 (theory debate front-end)

DEBATES

THE SOURCES OF INEQUALITY

Legitimation Dynamics and Their Neglect in Sociological Analyses p. 1-5
L. Richard Della Fave

The Key Role of Institutional and Organizational Process p. 6-10
Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Sheryl Skaggs and Kevin Stainback

Its Really All Politics! p. 11-15
David Jacobs

SOCIAL CONTROL, SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION, AND CRIME

Social Control at the Center p. 16-20
Travis Hirschi

Why Social Disorganization of Communities Should Be Central p. 21-26
Paul Bellair and Brian Quin

RESEARCH

Resource Mobilization, Bureaucracy and American Labor Activism p. 26-41
Andrew Martin and Marc Dixon

Gendered Discourse and Framing in Policy Discussion Surrounding “No Child Left Behind” p. 42-65
Wendy Griswold

Family Resource Distribution and Decisionmaking in Rural and Urban China p. 66-85
Zhenchao Qian

Status and Power Activation in Mixed Gender and Racial Groups p. 86-99
Cecelia Ridgeway

Appendix B
Sample Table of Contents #1 (research brief front-end)

NOTEWORTHY PATTERNS & PROCESSES

Voting Patterns Relative to Support Against the War on Terror p. 1-5
Clem Brooks and Jeff Manza

Racial Disparities and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome p. 6-10
Mary Phillips and Timothy Whitmire

Immigrant Use of Banking and Implications for Wealth p. 11-16
Guillermina Jasso

Adolescent Employment Patterns over the Last Decade p. 17-21
John Warren

RESEARCH

Nationalism, Religion and Identity Politics p. 21-36
Yehouda Shenhav

Gendered Discourse and Framing in Policy Discussion Surrounding “No Child Left Behind” p. 37-55
Wendy Griswold

Family Resource Distribution and Decisionmaking in Rural and Urban China p. 56-74
Zhenchao Qian

Status and Power Activation in Mixed Gender and Racial Groups p. 75-93
Cecelia Ridgeway

Racial Identification among First Generation Latinos and Asians: A Comparison and Theoretical Elaboration p. 93-112
Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean

Appendix C

Sample Table of Contents #1 (mixed (debate and research brief) front-end)

DEBATE

THE SOURCES OF INEQUALITY

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The Key Role of Institutional and Organizational Process p. 6-10
Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, Sheryl Skaggs and Kevin Stainback

Its Really All Politics! p. 11-15
David Jacobs

NOTEWORTHY PATTERNS & PROCESSES

Voting Patterns Relative to Support Against the War on Terror p. 16-20
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Racial Disparities and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome p. 21-25
Mary Phillips and Timothy Whitmire

RESEARCH

Resource Mobilization, Bureaucracy and American Labor Activism p. 25--41
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Gendered Discourse and Framing in Policy Discussion Surrounding “No Child Left Behind” p. 42-60
Wendy Griswold

Family Resource Distribution and Decisionmaking in Rural and Urban China p. 61-82
Zhenchao Qian

Racial Identification among First Generation Latinos and Asians: A Comparison and Theoretical Elaboration p. 83-102
Jennifer Lee and Frank Bean