

Letter from the Co-editors

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In case you missed it, last fall, *The American Sociologist* published a double issue on the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA). Rare is the opportunity for such open reflection by an organization. Spanning two dozen articles and more than 200 pages, esteemed members, past and present, cast light on where the Association has been and where it is headed. It is good stuff—sociologists reflecting on structures they have created to engage and understand structures in which we are all embedded. And, as you might imagine, a major leitmotif in this effort is change, both inside and outside the organization. We recommend that you check out the issue, if haven't already. For our purposes, though, we adopt and extend the theme of change—recent and forthcoming—with *Sociological Perspectives*. Some of it good. Some of it sad. And, some to be determined.

First, though, we want to look back and thank our editorial board members for another year of hard but rewarding work in 2014. Three years ago, when we took the editorial reins, we recruited colleagues whom we admired and trusted to help make the journal the best we could. A surprising number said yes to our solicitation and have continued to give their professional time and effort without fanfare or material reward. They are the type of sociologists we are proud to call colleagues and to whom we and the Association continue to owe a great deal of gratitude. We also thank our many reviewers from last year. We have learned a great deal from you, including what it means to serve earnestly behind the scenes in the face of competing professional demands.

Now, to the change. If you were too busy reading, writing, and reviewing pieces last year, you may have missed an important shift in *Sociological Perspectives*. Publication migrated from the University of California Press to SAGE Publications, the official publication partner of the American Sociological Association. The move to SAGE brought significant national and international marketing and advanced technological expertise to the journal, including early online access for accepted manuscripts. The move also, to our surprise, brought a near-doubling of new submissions. During 2014, the journal received more than 200 papers for initial review. By all accounts, this total is the highest in the journal's 50-plus years of operation, and we are not sure why it occurred. Perhaps it is the prestige of affiliating with the national association and its flagship publications. Perhaps it is the work of SAGE in promoting greater international access. Perhaps it is the rising pressure for sociologists to publish earlier and more often. Perhaps it is the wonderful work of our editorial board. It is difficult to say, but we will certainly learn more at the annual meeting in March. There, SAGE will provide the Association with the latest data on who has been accessing the journal, how, and from where.

In the meantime, we responded the best way we knew to the increased workload: by asking an esteemed scholar, past PSA president, and good friend to selflessly give her time, energy, and expertise to help us. That person is Jean Stockard, and she joined us as Co-editor last year and will continue to serve in this capacity until our collective stint is over later this year. Having her on board has been terrific, and we are grateful for her ongoing help. Of course, with a near-doubling of submissions, our excellent Managing Editor, Jessica Schultz, also needed some additional assistance. So with approval from PSA leadership, she trained and mentored two undergraduate assistants to work with her last summer: Emily Green and Xiaorui Huang, who is now a graduate student in sociology at the University of Utah. We thank these students for their hard work and dedication to the journal and the discipline. After their summer appointments

ended, we enlisted the services of Katie Boissicat. Katie served as the Managing Editor of *Sociological Perspectives* when it was at Santa Clara and has graciously agreed to return to the fold to help Jessica, as needed, into this year.

From where we sit, these changes presented new challenges, but for the most part, they have been positive. More people are submitting to the journal, more people are helping to make it the best it can be, and hopefully, more people will be reading and using its content to better understand and possibly change the world. There was another change last year, however, that was not good. It saddened us and others. We lost one of our good colleagues and board members, Daniel Sullivan, to cancer at the age of 47. He was a professor of sociology at Portland State University. We join all who knew Daniel in sorrow for his terribly early passing. He was a wonderful soul. Daniel expressed universal care for others and an abiding confidence in their abilities, which made him an inspiring colleague, teacher, and friend. We will miss but never forget him or his unwavering grace, humility, and good humor.

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