

AGENDA
2022 FIRST ASR COUNCIL MEETING

3:45 – 7:00 PM PDT, Saturday, August 6, 2022

Jim Spickard presiding

1. Review of minutes from ASR's virtual and e-mail 2021-22 Council Meetings, and call for approval of any minutes not yet approved – Jim Spickard and Tia Pratt
2. Announcement of election winners – Jim Cavendish
3. President's Report – Jim Spickard
 - Summary of Council actions on behalf of several committees
 - International Liaison / Gallagher Grant Committee
 - Fichter Committee
 - Development / Finance Committee
 - Summary of Between-Meeting Events
 - Book event for Tahseen Shams' Here, There, and Elsewhere : The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalizing World
 - Upcoming or continuing issues not dealt with in committee reports
 - ASR website redesign
 - Membership/participation shifts
 - Consequences of endemic COVID
4. Program Committee's Work – Rebecca Catto
 - Recommendations
5. Update on Composition of Standing Committees and new appointees – Gerardo Marti and Grace Yukich
6. Questions from the Council on Standing Committee Reports which do **not** call for action by Council: – Jim Spickard, presiding
 - Nominations Committee
 - Development / Finance Committee
 - Fichter Award Committee
 - International Liaison / Gallagher Grants Committee
 - Distinguished *SOR* Journal Article Award Committee
 - Lifetime Achievement Award Committee
 - McNamara Student Paper Award Committee
7. Reports from Committees that have action items for Council: – Jim Spickard and Committee Chairs
 - Publications Committee

- Membership Committee

Discussion & voting on action items that do not have budgetary implications.

8. Discussion of upcoming or continuing issues – Jim Spickard, presiding

- Membership shifts
- Consequences of endemic COVID

9. Executive Officer's Report – Rachel Kraus

- Activities this year
- Any changes in office operations
- Budget
- Discussion of issues raised in the budget – led by Jim Spickard
 - Website redesign
 - Provisions for remote/hybrid presenting in Philadelphia
 - Any committee action items that do have budgetary implications
- Approve budget

10. Journal Editor's and Publisher's Report – Joseph Baker

- Editor transition
- Manuscript flow, acceptance rate, and special issue
- Decision times
- Impact Factor
- Diversity of authors and content
- Data transparency practices

11. Special Thanks – Jim Spickard

Nominations Committee
2021-22 Annual Report
Association for the Sociology of Religion
August 2022 Council Meeting

Committee members: Laurel Kearns, Michele Dillon, James Cavendish (Chair).

The Nominations Committee used the same process used by the Nominations Committee last year. This process is described by Past President Paula Nesbitt in her 2021 Nomination's Committee Report as follows:

Committee's process

Referring to a list of names suggested by sources outside the committee as well as those they had identified, each member individually developed a priority-list of 10 potential nominees. The lists were compiled and the names rank-ordered by the number of times they appeared on each respective list.

Committee members then individually rank-ordered the compiled list for their top six preferences for Council nominees. These lists in turn were compiled and the rank-ordering was tallied to create an invitation list. The remaining names served as a working list in cases where a potential nominee declined.

At each step, committee members were informed about acceptances and declines, and agreement was reached on any names moved forward from the working list.

All potential nominees were asked to affirm in writing the following:

1. You review and agree to fulfill the duties of the position, which can be found under "Duties of Officers," <https://www.sociologyofreligion.com/about/duties-of-officers/>
2. You agree that you anticipate having the time available to fulfill these duties, and that during your term you will be able to attend the two Council meetings held just before and just after the ASR annual meeting. You also affirm that you will read and respond to emails throughout the year, related to your responsibilities.
3. You agree to keep your ASR membership current throughout your term of office.
4. You agree that you have recently read and agree to abide by the ASA code of ethics <http://www.asanet.org/code-ethics> (Article 2 of the ASR Constitution and bylaws, <https://www.sociologyofreligion.com/about/constitution-and-by-laws/>).
5. You affirm that you know of no personal issue or impediment to serving as an officer for ASR that could compromise the integrity of ASR.

All nominees affirmed these statements via email communications. No questions or concerns were raised. All nominees provided biographical statements, which were sent to our Executive Officer, Rachel Kraus.

The slate consisted of the following names:

- Candidates for President: Lisa D. Pearce, and Grace Yukich;
- Candidates for Secretary: Maureen Day, and Suzanne Fournier Macaluso
- Candidates for Council: Gary J. Adler, Rebecca Catto, Jonathan S. Coley, Conrad Hackett, Catherine (Katie) Hoegeman, and Philip Schwadel

The results of the 2022 election are as follows:

- President-Elect: Grace Yukich
- Secretary: Maureen Day
- Council Members: Gary Adler, Conrad Hackett, and Philip Schwadel

All nominees were notified of the results immediately following the election.

On behalf of our committee, I want to express my appreciation to Council and others for submitting names, and for all the nominees who were willing to serve the Association in this leadership capacity if elected. Congratulations to our incoming leadership!

Respectfully submitted,
James Cavendish, Chair

**Association for the Sociology of Religion
Development (Finance) Committee
2022 Report**

Members:

David Voas, University College London (chair)

Warren Goldstein, Center for Critical Research on Religion

Tricia Bruce, University of Notre Dame

Introduction

Activity by the Committee since 2020 has been focused on the ASR investment portfolio. Our investments were not influenced by Environmental, Social, and corporate Governance (ESG) considerations; in particular, we had significant funds in the fossil fuel sector. The Council resolved in 2014 to adopt a more socially responsible approach, especially in relation to climate change.

Scholarly research shows that ethical investing tends to produce better returns than the market average. Unfortunately, the American Funds Group, where our account was held, did not offer ESG funds. We investigated alternatives that would allow a change with no added cost or risk and found a promising way forward.

Following an extensive review, the President and Finance Committee presented a proposal to the ASR Council in early 2022 to transfer our investments to Mayflower Advisors, who will manage them for us, pulling out 4% annually for program spending. That proposal is summarized below. The key recommendations have been adopted by Council, as has a description of the ESG goals (appended to the end of this report). An Investment Policy Statement, describing each party's responsibilities and duties, was signed in July between Mayflower and the ASR President, Executive Officer, and Development/Finance Committee Chair. It will be reviewed annually and adjusted as needed. It is also appended to this document.

The Proposal (Summarized)

Background

The ASR had approximately \$900,000 across five mutual funds of the American Funds Group as of the beginning of 2022. The portfolio has done well over the past two decades, in line with the market generally. Even so, there were at least three problems:

1. Investments had not been reviewed or rebalanced between the funds for many years. This passive approach can lead to the under- or over-weighting of various asset classes.
2. A significant portion of our holdings were in bonds that were below or only marginally at investment grade.
3. One of the funds was heavily invested in fossil fuels.

Rather than using our investments to fund our programs, the ASR has added dividends and interest to principal, leaving the total to accumulate. In contrast, most non-profits and almost all universities use an endowment model, adding interest and dividends to the principal and drawing out a fixed percentage of total assets each year. Typically, a 4% drawdown allows for predictable income and modest asset growth. Shifting to an endowment model would give the ASR more resources for its programs at lower investment risk.

The proposal

To address these issues, we proposed moving ASR's investments to a different fund advisor/manager in order to secure more flexibility and potentially better returns. Specifically, we identified Mayflower Advisors, a Boston-based investment advisory group, as a suitable partner in constructing a portfolio that improves our ESG scores while balancing our investments between asset classes so as to increase our returns (prudently).

Founded in 2003, Mayflower Advisors help private clients, foundations, and non-profits refine and implement their long-term financial goals. Unlike American Funds, they provide active investment management. They do not own mutual funds. Instead, they screen and identify mutual funds according to the criteria we specify and then help us construct a balanced portfolio that gives us the income and stability we need.

For this, they charge a fee of 0.5%. The fee is largely offset by lower recurrent charges on the funds in the investment portfolio. The total cost of investing through Mayflower just 0.06 percentage points higher than previously – about \$540 per year. This small rise brings us considerable flexibility and better services, as well as access to ESG funds.

Our other recommendation was to treat our investments as an endowment rather than as a source of variable income from interest and dividends. We should withdraw a small fixed percentage of our total assets each year to fund ASR activities — a common practice among non-profits, charities, and universities.

Conclusion

The new investment portfolio will give us better ESG status (and historically better returns) for a similar level of fees. Apart from administrative time, there were no costs of shifting our portfolio to the new managers. We have basically been following a 'file-and-forget' investment strategy for many years. This has not served us ill, but we can do better. The proposed changes should put the ASR on a better financial footing.

- Transitioning to an endowment model will increase ASR income without increasing risk.
- Active investment management will allow better balancing and direction of assets in a changing investment environment.
- Investing for ESG goals allows our investments to speak our values — prudently.

A switch to active investing will require us to pay more attention to our investments than we do at present. Hiring Mayflower as our investment adviser should make this relatively easy. We have agreed an Investment Policy Statement that sets out our goals. The Council has also approved the annual withdrawal rate (which can be changed). **We recommend the following actions** in addition:

1. Arrange for Mayflower to communicate with the ASR Executive Officer regularly and send the Development/Finance Committee quarterly reports. We should consider having that Committee, the ASR Executive Officer, and the President meet (by Zoom) annually with Mayflower. Under some circumstances we might wish to call for more frequent meetings.
2. It would be desirable for at least one member of the Development/Finance Committee to have some investment expertise, though it does not need to be extensive.
3. With the Executive Officer, the President, or another designated officer, the Committee should periodically evaluate Mayflower's performance.

ESG Goals

On a portfolio level, the Development/Finance Committee shall monitor ESG related metrics, such as:

- Overall ESG Risk level (to be maintained at negligible or low levels)
- Carbon Risk & Fossil Fuel Exposure (to maintain a low carbon designation)
- Where relevant metrics are available, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion measures, including Workers' Rights measures

International Liaison Committee

Report to Council 2022

Members: Abby Day (Chair); Afe Adogame; Roberta Ricucci

1. Executive Summary:

The Committee met virtually in 2021-22, over Zoom and email, and progressed three main tasks:

- 1.1 refining criteria for those applying for conference funding via the Ralph A. Gallagher Travel Grant Competition, as requested by Council in 2020.
- 1.2 considering possibilities for greater co-operation with other professional organisations in the field.
- 1.3 assessing and recommending applicants for funding.

We also experienced difficulties with website functionality.

Recommendations presented for solving problems with the website and for extending cooperation with cognate associations.

A summary of funds awarded follows, with some reflections in conclusion.

2. Matter arising:

The Committee (in two Zoom meetings) reviewed the instruction by Council in 2020 to:

- provide structured guidance around the definition of “graduate students” and “international scholars” for the purpose of applying for Gallagher grants.
- amend application detail to include a question asking applicants if they have access to funds for up-front expenses from other sources and if so, how much.

The Committee recommended, and the information on the website was adjusted accordingly:

2.1: Career scholars are defined as those who ‘who have completed their Ph.D. within the last 5 years – a period that may be extended to 8 years in consideration of career breaks or part-time work.

2.2. Applicants should include information about other sources available, ‘e.g., a letter from their institution indicating that their institution will partially subsidize the cost of the trip’.

In reviewing the applications, it was evident that Applicants had read the details closely and most provided all the necessary information.

3. Recommendations for action:

3.1 Address website functionality. This is undoubtedly a wider issue than only that experienced by the International Liaison Committee. We were affected when the system went down for a week, and one applicant's abstract could not be retrieved.

3.2 Strengthen collaborations with other Associations, such as ISA/RC22, SSSR, SISR/SISR, SOCREL (BSA) by exploring:

3.2.1 the idea of 'exchanging' a Presidential address where each Association contributes to costs;

3.2.2 creating a joint panel on a specific topic, where each Association contributes to costs;

3.2.3 hosting a virtual event such as a webinar in between annual meetings that provides avenue for mentoring of graduate students and networking amongst members and with others in other related associations.

4. Funds awarded

Funding was awarded to the following Applicants, three of whom subsequently could not obtain visas in time and will be presenting virtually. The extra funds were distributed amongst successful attending applicants to increase their grant/room allocation:

Bridget Alichie. International (registered at University of Alberta but normally resident in Nigeria where she conducts her fieldwork).

Chrissie Thwaites. International. UK.

Weiqian Xia. International. Sweden.

Dhrubajyoti Sarkar. International. India. (now presenting virtually)

Giulia Mozzette. International. Italy.

Ngozi U. Emeka-Nwobia. International. Nigeria. (now presenting virtually)

Rachael Shillitoe. International. UK.

Grace Umezurike. International, Nigeria. (now presenting virtually)

Taylor Paige Winfield. International. South Africa.

Yi, Joseph. International. South Korea.

5. Further reflections (information only)

Why were there no applicants from USA or Canada? The website makes it clear that people are eligible. There could be two minor adjustments to how we publicise the awards and these recommendations will be made for website amendments:

5.1 On Annual Meeting page there is no reference to funding. Suggest a link is added to the five-item list already there.

5.2 On the Grants and Awards page, rewrite the paragraph to make USA and Canada funding more prominent:

RALPH A. GALLAGHER TRAVEL GRANTS

Gallagher Travel Grants are awarded annually by the ASR to members of the Association who require financial support to attend and to present their research. Funding is available to U.S. & Canadian graduate students and

early-career members (who have completed their Ph.D. within the last 5 years, or up to 8 years in consideration of career breaks or part-time work). Funding is also available to international members living outside the U.S. and Canada who may be at any stage of their academic career.

The grants are named for the ASR's founding president and long-time executive officer. Click the link in the sidebar for details.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby Day". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Abby Day 17.07.2022

REPORT OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMMITTEE

Meeting of the Executive Council
Association for the Sociology of Religion

Inger Furseth (Chair, 2023) Sociology and Human Geography University of Oslo NORWAY	Kevin J. Christiano (2022) Sociology and Labor Studies University of Notre Dame USA	Philip S. Gorski (2024) Sociology Yale University USA
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During 2021-2022, the Executive Office and the members of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for Contributions to the Sociology of Religion received two nominations for this honor. However, because nominations remain active for five years after the time when they are first submitted, the committee had a list of eleven prospects from which to choose this year's recipient.

The members had access to files concerning each nominee that were deposited in a central storage facility online. They had a digital meeting on June 29 where they reached consensus that the 2022 award should be presented to

**James T. Richardson, Emeritus Foundation Professor of Sociology and Judicial Studies
at the University of Nevada, Reno**

Professor Richardson was nominated for this recognition by Professor and Chair Stuart A. Wright at Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice, Lamar University, Texas.

Professor Richardson served the Association as President in 1986-87, and he has served as President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) in 2013-2104, as Council member in the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR/SISR), and in the mid-1990s, he helped found the International Study of Religion in Eastern and central Europe Association (ISORECEA). Richardson was instrumental in developing two areas in the sociology of religion. First, he helped pioneer the field of new religious movements (NRMs) in the 1970s. In 1986, he obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree to strengthen the arguments regarding the protection of minority religion. This work led him to also help develop the field of religion and law, a research field that is still growing globally.

Richardson has published over 160 publications in academic journals and law reviews, in addition to several books. He has a wide international network, due to his many visits across the world. The committee wants to honor Professor Richardson for his extensive body of distinguished publications in the sociology of religion, for his record of collaboration with colleagues across the world, for his mentoring of countless graduate students, and for his work to champion religious liberty, and more recently, to "the judicialization of religious freedom" as it pertains to minority faiths.

Recommendations

One way to celebrate the recipient could be to arrange a session where scholars would present work that was related to the work of the recipient. If participants were to have time to prepare for such a session, there is a need to move up the deadline for the committee's selection, for example to April or May.

There were eleven nominees this. However, many were nominated a few years ago, while only a few were nominated the last two years. We suggest that nominations can be extended or renewed in order to have a reasonable pool of nominees. If not, there will be a very small group in a year or two. This also means that it is important to remind members to nominate their colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,
The Committee

2022 McNamara Student Paper Award Report

The 2022 McNamara Student Paper Award Committee consisted of myself (Rachael Shillitoe) as chair, along with Todd Nicholas Fuist and Nicolette Manglos-Weber. This year we had three more entries than last year, with a total of 9 papers submitted. The committee were very pleased with the quality and range of papers received.

The committee chose Luther Young from Ohio State University as the winner with his paper *Condemn or Not to Condemn: Perceived Climates Concerning Sexual Orientation in Black Churches. the Religious Identity Constructions of Turkish Muslim Immigrants.*” The committee thought this paper was well written and addressed an interesting and timely topic as well as both engaging and advancing the sociology of religion more broadly.

2022 Report of the Publications Committee (ASR)

This report outlines the main activities of the ASR Publications Committee during 2021/22. It draws on several e-mail exchanges that took place between the committee, the officers as well as the non-voting members of the Executive Council.

The Publications committee is composed of the following members:

Solange Lefebvre, University of Montréal (Committee Chair, 2019–2021; cycling off the committee in 2023);

Christopher Ellison, University of Texas at San Antonio (Committee Chair, 2019–2021; cycling off the committee in 2022);

Samuel Perry, University of Oklahoma (cycling off committee in 2024).

- The ASR should elect a new member to replace Christopher Ellison this year.

The current year was mainly focused on the search for a new SoR editor. We recall that Joseph Baker, because of his current professional and family commitments, informed the ASR that he preferred to have a 2-year (rather than a 3-year) term as editor of the journal. The first months of the year, the Publications Committee, Executive Officers, and current and past editors prepared a Call for Applications and a timeline for the search process. The call for Editor was sent out in October 2021 and widely disseminated. Joseph Baker made sure it circulated before the SSSR Conference in 2021, so he could meet potential candidates. The process of recruitment turned out to be challenging.

In July 2022, at the time this report is written, we are hoping that excellent candidates will apply before August 1st. The initial deadline for applications was April 1, 2022. Joseph accepted to continue to serve until his successor is chosen, but he made it clear that he could not go beyond December 2022. The Publications Committee is profoundly grateful to him. According to the previous timeline, we hoped that a new editor could be announced in January 2022, would select a new editorial team in February and March 2022, and the period from April to December 2022 was meant to be one of training. The current situation could show that we need a solid reflection on ways to attract new SoR editors.

Solange Lefebvre has discussed with Ryan Cragun who has served as a member of diverse committees for the SSSR, and he explained that SSSR faced the same problem during the last process of recruitment. SSSR had to double the editor's salary, pay for an assistant editor, add a budget for assistants, and negotiated with the university where the new editor was working, in order to get some more benefits. It seems that scholars are getting more aware of the implications of being editor for their careers, and the ASR should have a conversation about the way to increase our support. Because we do not have the same resources as SSSR, we may have to be creative. Among the reasons for not applying, we find the following: the post is still attractive to several scholars, but they cannot find the time to make it at this particular period of their career; they do not have the support of their department or university; the current academic world does not attach importance to this type of commitment.

A larger reason could be the fact that the position certainly requires more labour than one person can reasonably provide while also being a full-time professor. Gerardo Marti and Joseph Baker explained to the committee through emails that it represents from 10 to 20

hours per week. Ideally, the journal could be housed at an institution with a doctoral program, so that graduate student labour could be used in a more integrative way, but this would suppose that an editor's university is being supportive.

The field of scientific publications is changing rapidly. For instance, ASR is now getting less money back from Oxford University Press (OUP) under a new contract. This would be the place to pull some resources for the editorial team, but the new contract will make providing better compensation more difficult. When the possibility of changing publishers was discussed in 2020, the conclusion was that it was better to stay with OUP. We were hoping that OUP would give us some more in the page budget or editorial support. Gerardo Marti had written: "If they don't, we will be fine operating as we currently are." The question remains: can we? If this current year was mainly focused on recruitment, we should not forget to leave the possibility opened to explore other publishers' options, even if OUP provides us with rare worldwide access to issues back to 1964.

In the last year's report, a number of strategies to increase diversity were suggested, and they imply additional tasks for the editor (along with all ASR members): namely solicit proposals for special issues related to diversity, and encourage minority scholars, international and younger scholars to submit their articles. Moreover, the journal may have to reinforce a global presence, consolidating ties with Europe, Latin America and beyond.

To conclude, the several challenges related to the recruitment of a new editor (and his or her team) show how lucky the ASR has been to benefit from Gerardo Marti and Joseph Baker's extremely competent and efficient editorship during the last years. We are expecting to recruit an excellent new editor before the 2022 meeting, but this should not distract us from the need to create better conditions for the job in the future.

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT 2022

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Rachel Kraus, Executive Officer

RE: Report on the State of ASR

What I've been working on this past year:

- 1) Worked with lawyers to add a 501c3 entity to accept donations. Added new bank account at Chase. Created a separate PayPal account to accept 501c3 donations. The "Give to" buttons on the website lead to the 501c3 account
- 2) Working on transferring our assets to Chase bank. Most assets are already in the bank. I want to verify that nothing else is coming out of or going into the forum account before I transfer the remaining assets.
- 3) Continuing work on our website. Talked with webmaster regarding overhaul changes. Jim S. will discuss with council.
- 4) Worked with Finance Committee regarding transferring investments. We have a new investment firm. Papers are signed and funds are being transferred to Mayflower.
- 5) Working on transferring website from Bill Swatos. Network Solutions is having a lot of problems with the paperwork. Paperwork requirements seem to keep changing or they don't keep on file the paperwork that I've already sent in so I'm always starting over. I plan to continue working on this issue in the fall.

Upcoming Conferences

- 1) 2023 meeting information:
 - a. Bellevue Hotel Philadelphia: \$219 room rate, \$20,000 food and beverage minimum
 - b. August 19 (set up, first council meeting, opening reception) – August 22 (second council meeting)
 - c. ASA: August 18-21; Religion section August 19
- 2) 2024 Montreal;
 - a. Hotel Monville Montreal, August 9-11 ASR days, \$239 room rate (CAD), \$20,000 f and b minimum (CAD)
 - b. ASA: August 10-13ASA; Religion Section Day: August 12th (3rd day)
- 3) 2025 San Francisco; ASA: August 9-12
- 4) 2026 New York; ASA: August 8-11
- 5) 2027 Chicago; ASA: August 7-10

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S BUDGET 2022

The Association is in excellent financial shape. ASR's assets at the current time are summarized below:

<i>Banking Accounts</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022
ASR's Checking Account at Forum and Chase	\$100,802	\$55,704	\$45,940 (forum) \$44,681 (Chase)	\$20,695 (forum) \$97,012 (Chase)
ASR's Savings Account at Forum Credit Union	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$1.80
PayPal Account	\$3,132	\$9,251	\$11,572	\$2,750
Total Value of Banking Accounts	\$103,936	\$64,957	\$102,195	\$117,077

	<i>Value as of 7/12/19</i>	<i>Value as of 12/31/2020</i>	<i>Value as of 12/31/2021</i>	<i>Value as of 6/30/22</i>
<i>American Funds Accounts</i>				
American Funds Money Market Fund-A (Fund #59)	\$11,538	\$11,661	\$11,661	\$11,671
American High-Income Trust-A (Fund #21)	\$112,671	\$132,981	\$144,008	\$126,173
The Bond Fund of America-A (Fund #08)	\$121,054	\$127,428	\$126,220	\$113,229
Capital World Growth and Income Fund-A (Fund #33)	\$126,140	\$156,509	\$179,642	\$141,549
SMALLCAP World Fund-A (Fund #35)	\$144,297	\$214,119	\$236,107	\$160,787
Washington Mutual Investors Fund-A (Fund #01)	\$142,999	\$166,657	\$214,151	\$186,312
Total Value of American Funds Portfolio	\$658,697	\$809,355	\$911,789	\$739,720
TOTAL ASSETS	\$762,633	\$874,312	\$1,013,984	\$856,797

**PREVIOUS YEARS' BUDGETS AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023
ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION**

	2019 New York	2020 No conference	2021 Chicago/ Virtual Conference	2022 Los Angeles (as of 7/9/22)	2023 Philadelphia
<i>Contributions, Gifts Total</i>	21,494	21,023	20,059	15,885	20,000
Memberships	21,494	21,023	20,059	15,885	20,000
<i>Program Service Revenue Total</i>	123,151	105,114	93,765	106,899	102,913
Publications Total	71,621	71,085	71,590	53,000	53,163
Journal submit fee	810	274	909	337	500
Oxford Royalties	55,000	55,000	55,000	35,982 (estimate)	35,982 (estimate)
Oxford Stipend for Editorial Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	16,000*
Brill Royalties	412	412	260	260	260
EBSCO Royalties	185	185	162	162	162
Cengage	130	130	175	175	175
Copyright Clearance	84	84	84	84	84
Annual Meeting Total	51,530	0	15,408	53,899	49,750
Registrations	21,440	0	7,629	23,990	20,000
Professional	17,976	0	5,587	18,090	18,000
Student	3,464	0	2,042	2,419	2,000
NYU	950	0	50	0	250
Scholar's Choice			50	400	250
Pew			50	0	250
Program Ads	200	0	0	0	0

OUP Co-sponsor Reception	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000
Brill Co-sponsor Reception	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000
Louisville Instit. Co-sponsor Reception	2,000	0	0	3,000	3,000
Other Reception Sponsors	3,000 (ASA-Relig) \$500 USC	0	0	\$4,000 from ASA Religion Section	\$4,000 from ASA Religion Section
Session Sponsors	250 (Religion and Science group)	0	0	0	0
		10K refund from Nikko	8,377.25 Chicago hotel refund		
Investment Income Total (dividends, interest)	31,596	24,029	25,000	7,585	We will have new investments
Total Revenue/Income	176,241	150,166	140,480	130,369	122,913 (without investment estimate)
Expenses					
Virtual Platforms			30,215		
EventPilot			13,089.00		
Lunchpool			11,385.50		
SD Meetings			5,740		
Grants Total	17,903	12,500	14,000	26,000	25,000
McNamara	500	500	500	500	500
SoR Article	0	0	500	500	500
Lifetime Achievement	0	0	0	0	
Gallagher	4,403 (20 nights)	0	0	12,000 (some people aren't able to come in person so the actual figure will be smaller) 17 rooms x 250/room = \$4250 \$500 requested by each of the applicants except Mezzetti, who	10,000

				requested \$350 (plus three nights at the hotel) = \$3845 That adds up to \$9595, leaving us \$405 from our budget. We increased the amount by \$200 for people coming from Europe and people coming from Africa/China by \$400	
Fichter	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Furfey	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Salary/Stipends Total	32,500	33,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
Executive Officer	12,000	12,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
EO Course Buyout	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Executive Officer Office Help	500	0	0	0	0
Soc of Relig Editor	12,500	12,500	10,500	10,500	10,500
Editor Elect		1,000			
SoR Book Review Editor	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other Expenses Miscellaneous Total		1,773	0	1,500	1,500
Management/Website & podcasts Total	1,708	659	1,698	750 to date 1250-1500 deposit???	1000 1250-1500 website overhaul???
Office Total	4,094	1,114	1,394	3,361	2,144
Constant Contact	540 (45/mo)	360	540	540	540
Wordpress	250	250	250	250	
American Express Fee	179	179	179	179	179
Articles of Incorp. Renew	50	50	50	50	50
Indiana business	50	50	50	50	50
Office Expenses and Supplies (BSU)	200	200	200	200	200
Consulting Fees (501c6, 501c3)	300	0	0	1,967	1000

Taxes	125	125	125	125	125
Social Media Partnership	2,500	NA	NA	NA	NA
Travel Total/EO Site Select	0 (virtual tour)	0	0 (virtual)	0 (virtual)	0 (virtual)
Conference/Ann Meet Total	70,101	200	200	66,512	69,700
AV	7,000	0	0	11,000	10,000
AV Shipment	352	0	0	750	500
Food and Beverage	45,000	0	0	35,000	35,000
Room Costs (Officers, Furfey, Program Chair)	5,958 President: comped Pres-E: (\$1065, 5 nights) EO (1,278 6 nights) Furfey (424 for 2 nights) SoR (6 nights for 1,278) PC (5 nights 1065) FPC (848 for 4 nights)	0	0	7,700 (275/night) President (4 nights, 1,100) Pres-E: (1,375, 5 nights) EO (1,375, 5 nights) Furfey (825, 3 nights) PC (4 nights 1,100) FPC (1,375 for 5 nights) Lifetime (2 nights, 550)	7,500
Registration workers	600	0	0	700	700
Furfey dinner	463	0	0	500	500
Awards	195	200	200	200	200
Name tags, ribbons	AM Express points	0	0	200	200
Program Assistant	500	0	0	0	500
Program Printing	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000
Tablet				162	
Sign Language	2,762	0	0	0	0
Meet Travel Reimbursement	6,104	0	0	9,300	9,100
President	498	0	0	1,000	1000
President - Elect	500	0	0	500	500
EO	370	0	0	Flight+meals	Flight + meals
Furfey	478	0	0	600	Flight
Lifetime Achievement	500	0	0	Up to \$1000+2 nights	500 (or up to \$1000+2 nights)
Journal Editor	1736	0	0	2,000	2000
Program Chair	838	0	0	1,000	1000

Future Program Chair	684	0	0	1,000	1000
Secretary	500	0	0	500	500
Other Journal Expenses Total	17,000	16,500	14,380	13,500	15,500
Payment to OUP for member subscriptions	16,500	16,500	9,380	8000	10,000
Editor's Budget (research assistant)	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Reimburse Editor's Expenses (journal related gatherings at annual meeting)	500	0	0	500	500
Depreciation Total	600	600	600	600	600
Future Hotel Payments	16,000		6,750		
Park Central NYC	0				
Hotel Nikko SF					
Chicago	16,000				
Los Angeles			6,750		
Philadelphia					
Insurance (Gen liability, D&O)	1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843	1,843
Total Expenses	161,749	66,416	102,080	145,066	148,287
Total Income	176,241	150,166	140,480	125,093	122,913
Total Income - Expenses	14,492	83,750	38,400	-19,973	-25,374

Regarding our membership: As of July 21, 2022, we have 383 active members (which is comparable to this time last year).

I am also very grateful to our Council Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members. Without their hard work and dedication, the conference and the work of the ASR would not be possible. Thanks so much!

Many other aspects of the association continue to flourish. *Sociology of Religion* continues to climb in the rankings. Congratulations to Joseph for his tremendous service as the journal's editor.

This year's committee reports are a testament to each committee's hard work to make their operations more efficient and identify areas in need of improvement. All committees' work has been stellar, especially given the craziness of this year.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve (modified?) budget.
- Go ahead for 2025 San Francisco hotel? We were scheduled to be in the Hotel Nikko, and I would love for us to be there.
- Lifetime Achievement Award: \$500 vs. \$1000 + 2 hotel nights, which is the same as Furfey

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Kraus

Editor's Report August 2021– August 2022
Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review

July 22nd, 2022

Prepared by: Joseph O. Baker (East Tennessee State University)

I. Editor, Book Review Editor, Associate Editors, and Editorial Board

(Institution/date term ends)

Editor in Chief:

Joseph O. Baker (East Tennessee State University/2022)

Book Review Editor:

Jaime Kucinkas (Hamilton College/2023)

Associate Editors:

Ruth Braunstein (University of Connecticut/2022)

Grace Yukich (Quinnipiac University/2022)

Andrew Whitehead (Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis/2022)

Editorial Board Members:

Gary Adler (Pennsylvania State University/2022)

Nancy Ammerman (Boston University/2023)

Orit Avishai (Fordham University/2023)

John Bartkowski (University of Texas at San Antonio/2023)

Alex Bierman (University of Calgary/2023)

Joseph Blankholm (University of California, Santa Barbara/2024)

R. Khari Brown (Wayne State/2023)

Kelsey Burke (University of Nebraska, Lincoln/2022)

Wendy Cadge (Brandeis University/2023)

Ryan M. Calder (Johns Hopkins University/2023)

Nanlai Cao (Remin University of China/2022)

Jonathan Coley (Oklahoma State University/2024)

Katie Corcoran (West Virginia University/2023)

Jack Delehanty (Clark University/2023)

Brad R. Fulton (Indiana University/2023)

Jeff Guhin (UCLA/2023)

Conrad Hackett (Pew Research Center/2023)

Jonathan Hill (Calvin College/2023)

John Hoffmann (Brigham Young University/2024)

Courtney Irby (Illinois Wesleyan University/2023)

Isabella Kasselstrand (University of Aberdeen/2023)

Rachel Kraus (Ball State University/2023)

Chaeyoon Lim (University of Wisconsin/2024)

Nicolette Manglos-Weber (Boston University/2024)

Brandon Martinez (Providence College/2023)

Damon Mayrl (Colby College/2023)

Dawne Moon (Marquette University/2024)

Olaf Müller (University of Münster/2024)

Agata S. Nalborczyk (University of Warsaw/2022)

Samuel L. Perry (University of Oklahoma/2024)

Richard N. Pitt (Vanderbilt University/2024)

Daniel V.A. Olson (Purdue University/2024)
Rachel Rinaldo, (University of Colorado/2023)
Landon Schnabel (Cornell University/2024)
Philip Schwadel (University of Nebraska, Lincoln/2024)
Evan Stewart (University of Massachusetts/2024)
Jörg Stolz (University of Lausanne/2023)
Iddo Tavory (New York University/2022)
Jeremy Uecker (Baylor University/2023)

Editorial Transition:

After the publications committee's initial call for applications to be the next editor did not produce any viable candidates by the original May 1st deadline, the call was extended until August 1st, 2022. The publications committee, as well as the past and current ASR presidents have done a considerable amount of personalized outreach in an effort to find a new editor. We are hopeful that these efforts will pay off with a viable candidate by the new deadline.

If so, we will proceed with the training of the new editor as soon as possible. Doing so may require the use of some of the professional development funds set aside for the editorial team, but we have not used those funds during the last two years due to travel restrictions, so there should be money available for such expenditures. Given the importance of adequate training for keeping the journal running smoothly during the transition period, I strongly recommend prioritizing resources to ensure that the new editor is provided with adequate training before fully taking over as Editor in Chief on January 1st, 2023.

Associate Editors: The current team of associate editors has been a vital part of keeping the journal running smoothly and efficiently during the tumultuous last two years. They continue to provide critical and timely service to the journal as needs arise. To a person, they have all been responsive, helpful, and efficient in dealing with the variety of issues that arise as part of submission and publication processes.

One critical task for the new editor will be finding new Associate Editors to take on various roles after the transition, including social media promotion.

Book Review Editor: Jaime Kucinkas continues to do a remarkable job in this role, and has consistently selected books and reviewers that showcase the latest and most interesting work in the field. In addition, she is incredibly responsive to author queries, very organized with selecting reviews to feature in each issue, and always punctual with timelines. The hard work of her student, Isabel Rutkey (Izzy), has also been vital to this process.

We are continuing the previous strategy of having a review essay each issue, along with shorter, standard reviews as well. We have also fully transitioned the submissions, evaluation, and production of book reviews into the Manuscript Central system, per the request of OUP.

Editorial Board: Once again, more than any other qualities, the willingness to respond quickly and provide detailed reviews, as well as recommendations for other reviewers, are most appreciated from Editorial Board members. Our board members continue to be highly responsive and helpful. I have continued to recruit board members who had already demonstrated excellence in reviewing for the journal: timely in responding to invitations, timely in turning in reviews, and substantive in their reviews with evidence of detail, rigor, and careful reading of manuscripts.

New board members that were added this year include: Jonathan Coley, Chaeyoon Lim, Landon Schnabel, and Evan Stewart.

In addition, Joseph Blankholm, John Hoffmann, Nicolette Manglos-Weber, Dawne Moon, Olaf Müller, Dan Olson, Samuel Perry, Richard N. Pitt, and Phil Schwadel all agreed to serve another term on the board.

Jim Cavendish, Amy Jonason, and Darren Sherkat all cycled off of the editorial board at the end of their terms in 2021.

Overall, we have an excellent set of scholars in place on the board who represent a diverse range of substantive, methodological, and regional specialties.

ASR Executive Officer: Rachel Kraus continues to be an incredibly effective EO for ASR. She is always responsive to queries, organizes all of ASR's activities, and always keeps things running as efficiently as possible. She also responds helpfully and efficiently to all queries regarding the journal, such as issues with submissions fees and access for members.

Publisher Relationships: Communication between myself and OUP has been fine, although it is worth mentioning that there continues to be a high degree of turnover, both at OUP and their outsourced production group NewGen. This past year our long-standing publisher, Trish Thomas, retired from OUP. I am happy to report that her replacement Sarah Levine, has been excellent. There remain considerable issues dealing with the vast bureaucracy of OUP, but Sarah has repeatedly been able and willing to help us sort through issues efficiently as they arise.

Unfortunately, a ransomware attack on OUP's print publisher Sheridan in April significantly delayed the publication of the spring issue 83(2), putting it about three months behind schedule. This issue has now been resolved, and both 83(2) and 83(3) were published in July, putting us back on the standard publication schedule.

II. Manuscript Flow

The journal continues to be highly selective in accepting manuscripts, with an acceptance rate of **9.6%**. This is a slight decline from the previous year (11.4%).

- 182 manuscripts in total (new and revised article submissions; not including book reviews) were processed between July 20th, 2021 and July 20th, 2022. The total for the previous year was 205, so submissions decreased by about 11% over last year. This decline in submissions is not problematic however, as we still have plenty of high-quality manuscripts and have maintained our high publication standards throughout the pandemic. As noted below, some of this decline is due to holding stricter standards for giving authors an R&R compared to my first year as editor.
- 160 original (new) manuscripts with a submission date on or after July 20, 2021. This is stable compared to last year (162).
 - Focusing on the 156 that have editorial decisions, 141 were rejected (90%), 15 were given “major revision” status (10%).
- 22 revised manuscripts with a submission date on or after July 20, 2021—a decrease of 19 from the previous year. This is partially due to normal fluctuations (e.g., there were 31 revised manuscripts two years ago), but also partially due to a change toward stricter standards for granting R&Rs on my part. In short, in my first year I allowed too many manuscripts to get through to the revision stage that did not end up being publishable. I have since tried to ensure that any manuscripts given revisions have an extremely high likelihood of publication, in order to minimize problems, for both authors and the editorial team.
 - Focusing on the revised manuscripts that have decisions: 13 were accepted (59%), none were given a second “major revision” (0%), 6 were given “minor revision”

status (27%), and none were rejected (0%). 3 manuscripts are still awaiting the resubmission of revisions.

III. Decision Times

Since becoming editor, I have given the role top priority, even above my faculty position. I do work for the journal every day, and keep all processes running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. I respond to messages and queries as quickly and cordially as possible. I make sure that manuscripts do not “get stuck” in the review process by regularly doing “reviewer upkeep” to follow up on outstanding requests to review or overdue reviews. Because of this, I believe we are processing manuscripts as quickly as we can, especially under current conditions.

As always, the lag times in decisions on manuscripts are primarily due to waiting for reviewers to respond to invitations, finding enough qualified reviewers willing to evaluate submissions, and then waiting for reviewers to turn in their evaluations of manuscripts. I continue to expand the reviewer database with scholars whose expertise benefits the journal. I also try to be mindful about not burning out our competent and reliable reviewers. This issue has become even more pertinent during the COVID pandemic. Potential reviewers regularly cited concerns related to the pandemic—ranging from personal illness to childcare issues—as reasons for declining to review manuscripts.

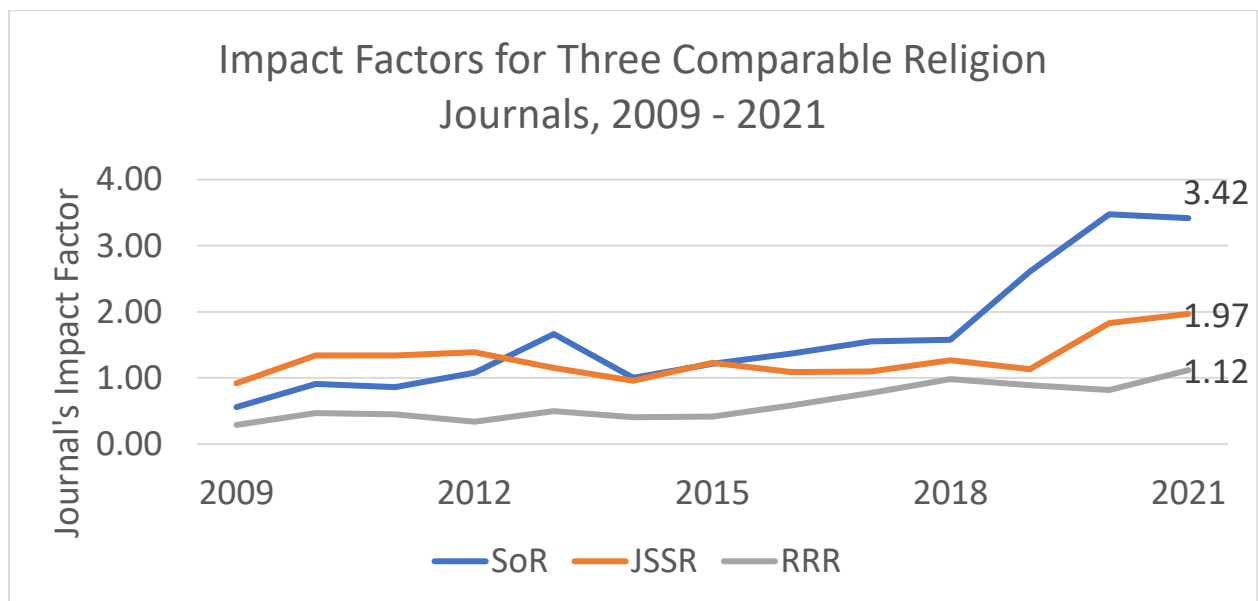
Nonetheless, decision times continue to be very fast. The longest time to decision last year was 115 days, which still returned a decision to the authors within 4 months of submission—quite reasonable, especially by typical standard for peer-reviewed journals.

- o The overall average for all article manuscripts for time from submission to decision was 29 days.
- o Rejected manuscripts (aside from inappropriate submissions, which are rejected very quickly) averaged 28 days from submission date to editorial decision date.
 - This average combines both desk rejections and submissions that are rejected after external peer review. The manuscript central platform does not currently distinguish between these two types of rejection in generating reports, but I continue to ensure that desk rejections are processed within 2 weeks of submission.
- o “Major revision” decisions averaged 61 days from submission date to decision, up from 49 days last year. This is primarily due to a larger number of reviewers asking for (and receiving) extensions on review deadlines.
- o “Minor revision” decisions averaged 39 days, down slightly from 41 days last year.
- Among revised submissions,
 - o “Accepted” decisions average 15 days from submission to decision. This number, however, averages some longer times (major revisions) and many very short times (minor revisions given internal review).
 - o “Minor revision” average decision time is 40 days, again combining some that receive full external review and some that are reviewed internally by the editor.
- The time from acceptance to publication online in Advance Access is about 6-8 weeks.
 - o I have worked diligently to ensure that we do not have a backlog between when articles are published in Advance Access and then appear in print. Specifically, I have worked very carefully with our page budgets from OUP to ensure that I am getting the maximum amount of content published each year, while also not incurring overage fees for ASR. This has worked well, and we currently have a nice flow between submissions, acceptances, advance access, and publication in print that does not have long backlogs at any of the key points in the process.

IV. Journal Rankings

The journal's Impact Factor (IF) stayed essentially the same over this past year, going from 3.48 to 3.42. **Importantly, *SoR* continues to be a “top quartile” journal in Sociology, ranking 32 out of 148 in IF for the Sociology journals category of the ISI rankings.**

The impact factor of *SoR* remains highly favorable in relation to our comparison journals in the field of sociology, as well as to our closest comparison journals in the study of religion. The figure below shows the IF over time for *SoR* compared to the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (ranked 78 out of 148 in sociology) and *Review of Religious Research* (ranked 116), our closest comparison journals. *SoR* has now consolidated its position as the clear-cut leading journal in the sociology of religion, and has become a highly-regarded journal in sociology more generally. In addition, *Sociology of Religion* also remains the top ranked journal in religious studies.¹



The consolidation of the high impact factor for the journal is particularly notable due to the cycling off from the citation counts of an outlier article, which had pulled up the IF considerably, by over one point on its own (see last year's editor's report). This year, the outlier article was not included in the citation counts, yet *SoR*'s IF remained unchanged due to an across the board increase in the average number of citations per article. I am optimistic that we can maintain this momentum into the next couple of years, as none of the articles from our special issue on COVID and religion were included in this year's citation counts, and those articles have all been very well cited so far.

In addition to the well-known metric of IF, which provides a measure of the average number of citations for research articles in a journal, this year Clarivate also included a new measure, the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI). This measure adjusts citations counts for journals relative to their own fields, in order to provide a better, standardized comparison for evaluating the relative positioning of academic journals across disciplines:

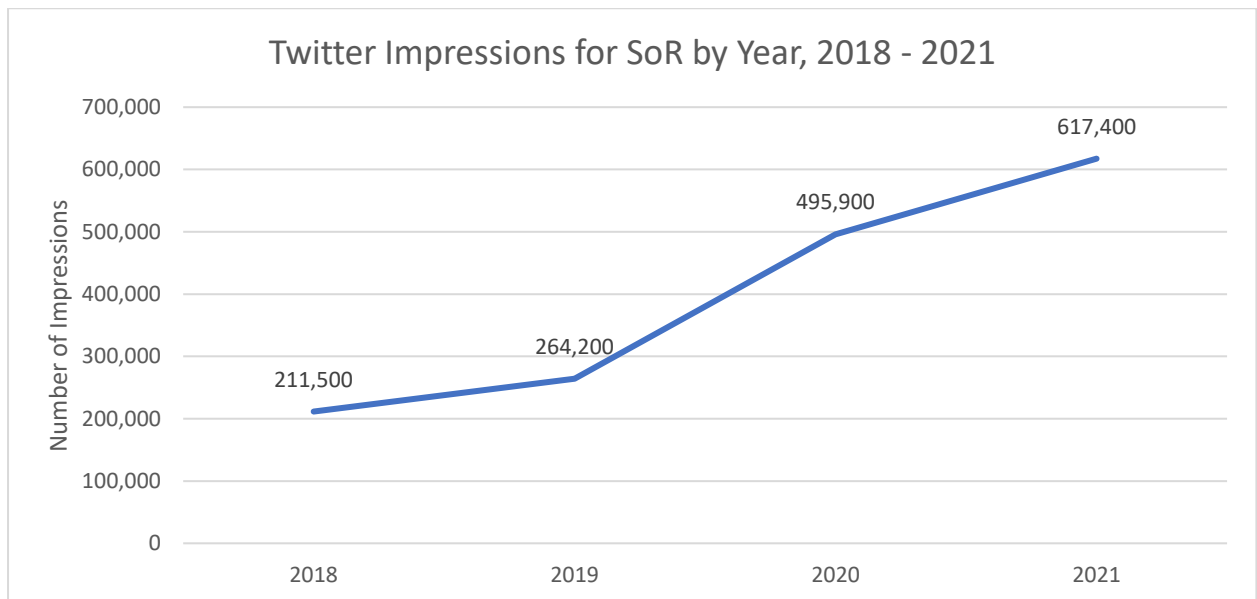
¹ For journal rankings in religious studies, see: <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=1212>.

“By normalizing for different fields of research and their widely varying rates of publication and citation, the Journal Citation Indicator provides a single journal-level metric that can be easily interpreted and compared across disciplines.”²

Using JCI, *SoR* fares even better than using the IF metric. *SoR*'s JCI score for the last year was 4.51, ranking 3rd out of 330 journals in religion, and 3rd out of 209 journals in sociology. Because JCI scores are normalized to 1, the metric can be interpreted thusly: *SoR* has approximately 4.5 times greater citation impact than the average academic journal, across all fields. In short, the more comprehensive measure now being used by Clarivate shows *SoR* in an even stronger position than the more rudimentary IF measure.

Overall, a variety of different indicators show that *Sociology of Religion* continues to be a top-tier journal in comparison to similar journals, in comparison to our relevant fields of both sociology and religious studies, and also in comparison to all peer-reviewed journals across disciplines.

An important part of increasing the citations, ranking, and reputation of *SoR* has been an increased effort to use social media for promoting content. Andrew Whitehead has been in charge of this since 2020, and his efforts have been remarkable in this regard. Andrew has more than doubled our reach on Twitter (see figure below), as well as other social media platforms, such as Facebook. Keeping this social media promotion moving is a constant job that requires patience, forethought, and persistence. Andrew has also continued to regularly produce, record, and edit podcasts with authors from the journal. He has also been tireless with his work with OUP, getting freely available articles regularly rotated, and ensuring that the journal is achieving maximum reach through availability on the web. Although it is time consuming, this multi-pronged media strategy has paid considerable dividends for the journal, and we recommend that the next editorial team work to maintain this momentum.



V. Diversity of Authors and Content

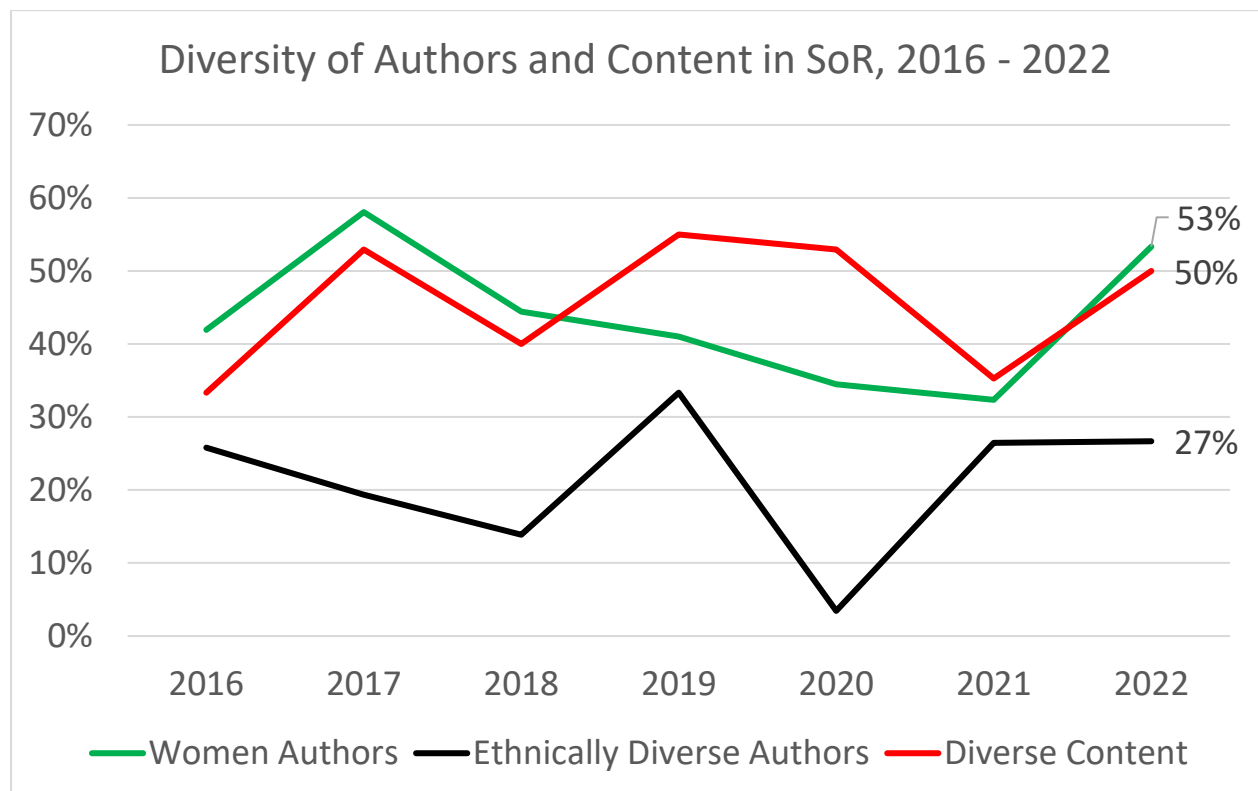
Last year, to provide information on the diversity of (article) authors in the journal over the past five years, I coded all authors since 2016 into categories for white/minority and men/women. I also coded the content of the articles for whether or not they were focused on issues of race, ethnicity, and/or

² <https://clarivate.com/blog/introducing-the-journal-citation-indicator-a-new-field-normalized-measurement-of-journal-citation-impact/>. For more information on the calculation of JCI, see: https://clarivate.com/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/05/Journal-Citation-Indicator-discussion-paper.pdf.

gender and sexuality (or not). I have updated those numbers, including what will be published throughout the rest of 2022.

Overall, gender diversity of authorship (53% women authors in 2022) and coverage of substantive topics involving diversity have increased (50% of articles published in 2022 covered diverse content), while the ethnic diversity of authors has remained stable (27% ethnic minority authors in 2022). This is good news regarding gender, as there was concern that the research delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic would disproportionately affect women, and correspondingly that gender diversity among authors would decline. Thankfully this has not been the case thus far. The journal also continues to show a strong commitment to the coverage of substantive topics related to diversity, with half of our content devoted to such issues.

The area in need of the most improvement remains increasing the ethnic diversity of authors. While it is encouraging to see the increases in author diversity from last year sustained, more work remains to be done to increase the ethnic diversity of authors published in the journal. Special issues devoted to issues involving race and ethnicity, as well as increasing the diversity of ASR membership are key considerations for direct ways to increase authorship diversity.



Following up on a discussion we had at last year’s council meeting about diversity in the journal, we requested that OUP add gender and ethnicity fields to the author information collected in Manuscript Central, so that we could get a much more thorough assessment of diversity trends for submission and reviewing for the journal. This went through several people at OUP, before we received the following final response:

Legal has assessed the collection of personal data from authors, as the request has come from other journals as well—the below is a recent summary in response:

Latest position August 2021

There are current discussions about whether we can collect that information in submission systems. Both EM and S1 are not fully compliant as we cannot fully restrict who has access to that information. People could run a report and find out the

sexuality, gender, race etc. for everyone in the system. Below is the message from OUP Editorial which Phil Bishop recently provided to another customer:

OUP is a signatory to the Joint Commitment for Action on Inclusion and Diversity in Scholarly Publishing, which requires us to work towards collecting and sharing anonymised diversity data.

Unfortunately, the type of data we'd be looking to collect (gender, race/ethnicity etc) is considered protected under GDPR, and there are specific rules regarding how we can process it. Some of those rules we meet (we have a good reason for collecting it, we can give people an opt-out), but the current sticking points are the need to keep access to the non-anonymised data as restricted as possible, and to be able to entirely delete someone's data on their request. We can't meet either of these through Editorial Manager (or ScholarOne) – any data we collect will be associated with an author's personal account, and visible to anyone with admin access, and there's no way to delete these data entirely.

A number of cross-publisher working groups have been set up as part of the Joint Commitment – one of which aims to work with third party submission service providers to allow GDPR-compliant collection of personal data. OUP is represented within these groups by Deborah Dixon and Nikul Patel. We know that Clarivate are looking at implementing a survey mechanism which would solve some of these problems for Scholar One (the other leading submission system), but don't have an estimated implementation date as yet. We don't currently have any information from EM on their solution but we know they are working on something as well.

Our recommendation, therefore, is to hold off on collecting personal data until we have a better mechanism for doing so.

So unfortunately this strategy for tracking diversity was a dead end, due to legal restrictions. We may have to think more creatively about how to track this information, given this roadblock.

VI. Final Considerations

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all of the members of the editorial team, the Executive Officer, members of the Publications Committee, and the past, current, and future Presidents of ASR, as well as our wider scholastic community. The past two years have been extremely challenging in a number of ways due to the ongoing pandemic. With the hard work of many generous and industrious people, the journal has maintained its high standards for both efficiency and rigor throughout the past two years. *Sociology of Religion* is now firmly and clearly established as the leading journal in the field. I look forward to transitioning the journal to a new editorial team, and will do my best to ensure that our successful practices and positive momentum remain in place for the future.