



The Society Pages Student Editorial Board

Fall 2020

Sociology 8090: Sociology & Its Publics

Fridays, 10 – 11:15 am, Synchronous via Zoom

Professors Doug Hartmann and Chris Uggen

Overview

Students in this workshop will serve as the graduate student board for *The Society Pages*, an online social science journalism project housed at the University of Minnesota. Participation is based on application. In addition to experience and qualifications, the board is selected so as to involve students from different stages in the program, substantive interest areas, and methodological specialties. Most participants are expected to make a year-long commitment to the project, though membership will rotate on an annual basis.

Objectives

- **To deepen students' substantive research expertise** by engaging cutting edge sociological scholarship. Students will unearth the most interesting findings and best evidence from new research in their areas of study. This provides students with a broader vision of the sociological field and offers an opportunity to diversify their reading in the prelim and dissertation processes.
- **To develop writing and communication skills** in addressing academic and non-academic audiences. Grad board members regularly write for the website, and our supportive, professional editorial team gives direct feedback designed to improve these skills as the pieces are published online.
- **To gain deep, practical appreciation of the process of editorial decision-making and public scholarship.** *TSP* had almost 11 million unique page views last year. Working with the site allows students to engage in critical and constructive discussion of the field of sociology, while participating in a collaborative public outreach project by shaping and improving the site as an online vehicle to disseminate great research.

Contributions and Responsibilities

- **Brainstorming and workshopping**
- **Writing / content production for the site**
- **Curation of topical pages**
- **Production teams and special projects:** board members will commit to at least one additional regular feature, production task/team, or special project appropriate to their interests and skills.

Grad Board Production Checklist

1. *Archival Pitches*

Before each board meeting, review the TSP archive (in-house content and online partner sites like **Contexts** or **Sociological Images**) to identify timely posts connected to current popular culture, political conversations, or public policy developments to revive on social media; members should contribute at least one archive pitch per week.

2. *Writing for the site*

- Board members will be expected to produce 2-3 **Discoveries** posts, depending upon seniority (2 for new members; 1-3 for returners, depending upon other commitments). Pitches and deadlines are scheduled in advance—3 pitches per Discoveries period.
- **NEW:** to enhance dissemination, we will ask board members to provide the following for each new piece of content: one summary sentence or pull quote; key words/tags; suggested links to supplementary graphics, data sources, or related TSP content.
- **There's Research on That (TROT)**

3. *Curate a topics page*

* Processes to be discussed; work goals to be collectively determined.

4. *Work on one of the following special projects / production teams* (returning members with specific leadership roles and responsibilities in parentheses as known or proposed)

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|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - TROTs (Mahala) | - Teaching TSP (Erika) |
| - Discoveries (Jillian) | - Sociable Podcasts (Christine) |
| - Social Media (Neeraj) | - Applied/Engaged Sociology (OPEN) |
| - Sociological Images (Evan Stewart, off site) | - OTHERS TBD |

5. *Board Group Project(s): could include "Wonderful/Wretched" Project; Op-Eds initiative; sociology in public spaces; next generation of public sociology, etc.*

Friendly Reminders: TSP fosters a culture of supportive cooperation dedicated to producing rigorous, quality reporting of social science research. To best achieve this, we work to maintain the following policies.

Deadlines: The course functions as both an academic seminar and as a working editorial board. We will often work under tight deadline pressure and we will often disagree about the appropriate course of action.

Confidentiality: What happens in seminar, stays in seminar — students must keep authors' names and other identifying information strictly confidential.

Attendance & Production: We expect that students attend each weekly meeting or make arrangements with Doug and Chris and spend 3-5 hours per week producing content for the site.

Weekly Workflow

Friday 10-11:30 Grad board meeting, online via ZOOM

Friday meetings are where all of the ideas happen. Fridays are when you can pitch new ideas for TROTS, Discoveries, and special features and where you will workshop drafts with the board. This can include, for example, coming in, on the weeks you are assigned, come in with discovery pitches, and each week preparing archival pitches. We will also leave room for students to pitch other ideas (TROTS, other kinds of content, special projects content). We will also incorporate some readings and topical discussions along the way.

Pre-Meeting: Every board member comes in with:

- Pitches for the week: TROTS, TSP archive, social media, etc.
- Any writing they've produced for the week
- Individual plans and priorities for the week ahead

Meeting Schedule

- Welcome
- Quick round robin on archive pitches
- Discussion on Doug & Chris' Topic for the Week/Workshop Discovery and TROT Pitch Time
 - Discoveries Pitches
 - What's in the news for TROT?
- Check In
 - What are you writing (or focusing on) for next week?

Post-Meeting: Friday Afternoon-Monday Morning

- Every board member makes changes post-workshopping, then uploads their weekly post to the shared folder on Google Drive
- Graduate Editor to review post for
 - Formatting & Writing feedback: does the post follow TSP form? Does it need rewriting to make the argument clear or to match TSP style?
 - Content feedback: are the ideas clear and direct? Do they capture the research well?
- Section editors return posts for further work, or pass them on to the Editors' folder for review

Mondays 11:00 Editors meeting (Doug, Chris, Mahala; Neeraj if/as needed)

Mondays are a big day at TSP. Monday is the day when new drafts and ideas get discussed, edited, and approved by the editors. This means that **all new content for the week will need to be sent to the Editors' folder by 10:30 am on Mondays** for discussion and approval. If you do not get a draft in by this time, it will likely not be discussed until the following week. Once the editors discuss your piece, they will either get back to you with revisions and comments or, if it is ready for posting, they will hand it off to Allison for final editing, illustration, and posting. On Mondays the editors will also review weekly analytics and social media reports from our undergrad interns and send you all ideas for links to add to your topics pages.

Thursdays: Weekly Roundup Production (Allison)

Posted on Friday mornings

Beats and Research Coverage: Grad board members will work as individuals or in small teams to cover research in each of the following topical areas. They may split the responsibilities for site engagement and journal coverage.

All Beats - Everyone keep an eye on the following journals for work in your areas of interest and specialization:

American Sociological Review
American Journal of Sociology
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Social Problems
Social Psychology Quarterly
Socius

Other all-purpose, general sociology journals include:

Annual Review of Sociology, *Social Currents*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociological Science*, *The Sociological Quarterly*

Current Beats / Topical Pages

Inequality (including stratification)

Demography
Social Science Research
Sociology of Education

Crime (including law, criminal justice, and deviance/delinquency)

Criminology
Crime and Delinquency
Deviant Behavior

Culture (including mass media and popular culture)

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Poetics
Sociology of Sport
Media, Culture and Society
Qualitative Sociology

Politics (including public policy)

American Political Science Review/American Journal of Political Science
Public Opinion Quarterly
Politics & Society
Mobilization and social movements

Gender + Sexuality

Gender & Society
Sexualities
Journal of Marriage and Family

Race (including ethnicity and migration)

DuBois Review
Ethnic and Racial Studies
Journal of Migration Studies
Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

Health and Medicine

Sociology of Health and Illness, *JAMA*, *JHSB*

TSP Semester at a Glance: Initial Schedule and Weekly Topics

September 11 (Week 1)

Review responsibilities and assign roles, goals, and semester scheduling

September 18 (Week 2)

Discovery Pitches I

Workshop: “Sociable” Podcast Project (Delp)

September 25 (Week 3)

Discovery Pitches I, continued

Workshop: Wonderful/Wretched Series

October 2 (Week 4)

Empirical and Emancipatory Sociology and the Future of the Discipline

October 9 (Week 5)

The “Big Tent” of Society and TSP’s Place(s) Therein

October 16 (Week 6)

Discovery Pitches II

Op-Eds: Initial Discussion and Mini-Workshop

October 23 (Week 7; American Mosaic Project Mini-Conference)

Discovery Pitches II, continued

October 30 (Week 8)

Workshop: HOLD for board projects (new or ongoing)

November 6 (Week 9)

Workshop: New Directions in Sociology Publishing (guest participant TBA)

November 13 (Week 10)

Workshop: HOLD for board projects (new or ongoing)

November 20 (Week 11)

TSP, Public Soc, and Professional Development [alumni guest(s)]

November 27 (Week 12): NO MEETING—Thanksgiving Break

December 4 (Week 13)

Discovery Pitches for Development over Winter Break

December 11 (Week 14)

Winter Break Discovery Pitches, continued

December 18 (Final Week)

NO MEETING

Annual TSP Holiday Party (TBD)

Statement on COVID-19

We find ourselves in the midst of a challenging and unpredictable moment. Many of you will be trying to learn in less than ideal circumstances, but our editorial team will be right there with you throughout the semester. We will stay in close contact about particular challenges you may be facing and will do our best to adjust the course as needed to meet your needs. Please let Doug and Chris know the difficulties you encounter and what we might do to support you this term.