



## The Society Pages Student Editorial Board

Spring 2022

Sociology 8090: Sociology & Its Publics

Fridays, 10 – 11:15 am (SocSci 915)

Professors Doug Hartmann (office hours F 11:30 – 12:45 and by appointment) and Chris Uggen (office hours R 1:30-2:45 and by appointment)

Graduate managing editor Mahala Miller (office hours by appointment)

### Overview

Students in this course serve as the student board for *The Society Pages*, an online social science outreach project housed in the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota. The course is run as an active workshop for the site, and 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 rotates on an annual basis.

### Objectives

- **To deepen students' substantive research knowledge and 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. Presentations and discussions with others on the board provides students with a broader vision of the sociological field and expand their own sociological visions.
- **To develop writing and communication skills** in addressing academic and non-academic audiences. 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. (This work can and should also be used to begin to build one's sociological resume, visibility, and networks.)
- **To gain deep, practical appreciation of the workings of media, editorial decision-making, and public scholarship.** Working with the site allows students to participate in a collaborative public outreach project by shaping and improving the site as an online vehicle to disseminate great research and contribute to other forms of public engagement in the discipline.

### Overview of Board Member Responsibilities and Goals

1. Weekly Board Participation

Archive and partner pitches; Brainstorming and workshopping content with the full board; regular reporting and tracking of individual contributions

2. Individual Writing and Content Production

- **Discoveries:** Board members will be expected to produce 2-3 discoveries posts, depending upon seniority (2 for new members; 2-4 for returners, depending upon other work and commitments).
- **There's Research on That (TROT):** regular, ongoing development of items from each board member in consultation with section lead (Mahala Miller). (1 per board member; can be co-authored)

3. Production Teams and Special Projects

Board members are asked to commit to at least one additional regular feature, production task/team, or special project appropriate to their interests and skills. Examples, with returning members with specific leadership roles and responsibilities in parentheses as known or proposed, include:

- TROT supervisor
- Discoveries wrangler (Mason)
- Media tracking
- Sociological Images (Evan Stewart, off site)
- Anderson Health / Suffering / Wellbeing Page (Mahala)
- Analytics, Quality Control
- Teaching TSP
- Applied/Engaged Sociology
- Social Media manager (S)
- Special Features development

**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 sometimes 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 identifying and developing content for the site.

## **Weekly Workflow**

### **Friday 10-11:30 Grad board meeting**

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. We will 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 (from the archives or our partner sites/"Community Pages")
- Any writing they've produced for the week
- Individual plans and priorities for the week ahead

*Meeting Schedule*

- Welcome and Week-in-Review: Weekly TSP Roundup and Media Report
- Board Pitches (from the Archive and/or Community Pages)
- "Discovery" Process
  - Journal and article reviews
  - Pitches and assignments
  - Workshopping drafts
- Final Check In: What are you writing (or focusing on) for next week?

### **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?

### **Mondays 11:00 Editors meeting (Doug, Chris, Mahala)**

Mondays are a big day at TSP. Monday is the day when new drafts and proposals 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 Mahala for final editing, illustration, and posting.

### **Thursdays: Weekly Newsletter Production**

"Weekly Roundup" Posted on Friday mornings

**General Journals to Track (for Discoveries)***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***Areas and Specialty Journals**

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

January 20<sup>th</sup> (Week 1)

Discussion topic: Syllabus review; overview of weekly plan and goals for Spring 2023; reviewing website analytics

January 27<sup>th</sup> (Week 2)

Discussion topic: Preparation for podcast interviews

February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Week 3)

Discussion topic: Public sociology and TSP

Reading/prep: “There’s Research on That: Translating and Sharing Sociology for Public Audiences,” Hartmann, Uggen, and Miller (article for *Sociological Forum*, special issue on public sociology)

Also recommended: “Public Sociology and its Many Modes of Engagement.” Douglas Hartmann, review essay for *Contemporary Sociology*.

February 10<sup>th</sup> (Week 4) NO TSP, sociology department retreat

February 17<sup>th</sup> (Week 5)

Discussion topic: Podcast project: check-in’s and next steps

February 24<sup>th</sup> (Week 6)

Discussion topic: Approaches to public sociology: Sociologists as public intellectuals I

Reading/prep: Writing by Tressie McMillan Cottom, Zeynep Tufekci (TBD)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Week 7)

Discussion topic: Podcast project (as needed)

March 10<sup>th</sup> NO TSP, spring break

March 17<sup>th</sup> (Week 8)

Discussion topic: Approaches to public sociology: Sociologists as public intellectuals II

Reading/prep: Writing by Matthew Desmond, Erik Klinenberg, Patrick Sharkey (TBD)

March 24<sup>th</sup> (Week 9)

Discussion topic: TBD

Note: *Midwestern Sociological Society (MSS) Annual Meeting in Minneapolis (March 23-26)*

March 31<sup>st</sup> (Week 10)

Discussion topic: Alternative media platforms

Reading/prep: TBD

April 7<sup>th</sup> (Week 11)

Discussion topic: Approaches to public sociology: public policy and social change

Reading/prep: “Social Science-Based Pathways to Reduce Social Inequality in Youth Outcomes and Opportunities at Scale.” Nalani, Yoshikakwa, and Carter (2021), *Socius*, 7: 1-17.

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Week 12)

Discussion topic: TBD

April 21<sup>st</sup> (Week 13)

Discussion topic: Alternative media platforms, part 2

Reading/prep: TBD

April 28<sup>th</sup> (Week 14)

Discussion topic: Final meeting and summer planning

May 5<sup>th</sup> (Finals weeks) End of semester celebration, **venue and details TBD**