

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
(2018-19)

I. BUILDING A RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The mission of the Social Science Research Committee (SSRC) is to advance social science scholarship of Drexel University through an engaging and sustainable research community. A strong research community can facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange, foster a culture of mutual support, and increase opportunities for collaboration between colleagues across disciplinary/departmental boundaries.

Below is a summary of the work we did towards research community building:

Electronic Communications Platform

We have been using Listserv to inform the members (now 309 members) of social science research events and funding opportunities. We are in the process of migrating the list to an Office 365 SharePoint Group, which may more effectively facilitate communication among social science research community members, who can share (1) research events and calls for papers; (2) publications/working papers with potential collaborators; and (3) publication/tenure/promotion experience.

Methodology Workshops

Methodological rigor is important for every social science researcher's scholarship. We accordingly organized the following method-training events:

- (1) Primer on Qualitative Method Workshop (5/7)
- (2) Publishing Qualitative Research Workshop (5/14)
- (3) Webinar on Meta-Analysis (4/23)
- (4) Webinar on Mixture Models for Longitudinal Analysis (5/21)

"Come and Write"

Despite the importance of writing for social science research productivity, faculty members face numerous distractions. To create an atmosphere of "collective writing" and dedicated time to writing, we reserved a room at the law school so that interested researchers can focus on scholarly writing. This event was held every Tuesday from 2:00 to 5:00 (April 30 to June 4).

Civic Engagement Research Forum

Civic engagement is a major theme in most social science disciplines, and a key strategic initiative of Drexel University. To promote/stimulate research on civic engagement, we organized a day-long research forum entitled "Agency in Community: Research Forum on Civic Engagement" on June 10th. The forum consisted of panel discussion, research presentations, and roundtable conversation; more than 60 faculty members and administrative staff attended the forum.

Social Hours

We organized three social hours (2/28; 4/25; 6/10) in which social science researchers casually interacted with each other. We encouraged colleagues in these events to (1) talk to colleagues whom they did not already know; and (2) talk about research.

Other

We co-sponsored a research event, “Mixed Method Workshop with Dr. Creamer”, with the School of Education (primary sponsor) on June 7th.

We collaborated with the Office of Institutional Advancement and held a workshop on funding opportunities from private/corporate foundations on May 28th.

We worked with university-designated vendors to produce two “identity products” – (1) journal and (2) mug. Drexel logo and “Social Science: Research Community at Drexel University” were printed on both products. The journals were given to participants of SSRC events; the mug will be given in the 2019-20 academic year.

** We thank the law school, business school, and library for providing spaces for our events.*

II. FEEDBACK

To collect feedback from the social science research community, we sent a satisfaction survey to our Listserv members. For every event organized by SSRC, more than 80% of the respondents reported “highly satisfied” or “satisfied”. “Come and write” (n = 9) and social hour (n = 11) received the highest number of responses (every respondent reported “very satisfied” for “come and write”; 9 out of 11 respondents reported “very satisfied” for social hour). The respondents also made encouraging qualitative comments.

The respondents also provided constructive suggestions, such as alternating the dates for “come and write” accommodate faculty members’ teaching schedule, having another forum on civic engagement, and holding a “work-in-progress” session in conjunction with “come and write”.

III. 2019-20 PLANS

We will continue the abovementioned activities. Below is a summary of new activities we are planning.

Civic Engagement

We may hold multiple workshops (e.g., definition of civic engagement; how to build trust with the community; cultural awareness in community-based civic engagement research) to further promote social science research on civic engagement.

We will explore the opportunity of collaborating with a scholarly journal to run a special issue on civic engagement research, as well as a potential national/international research conference.

Conference Travel Scholarship

We plan to provide conference travel scholarships to support Drexel social scientists to present their research at high-impact conferences or professional meetings. Strong preference will be given to applicants from academic units that do not provide direct support for conferences. Two awards will be given in the fall term; and two will be given in the winter term (\$1,000 each). Volunteers from the social science research community will serve as award judges. Winners will be provided a certificate or other commemorative award.

Washington DC Bus Ride

Because it is difficult to bring program officers from major federal agencies to come to our campus, we plan to work with the university's DC office to organize a bus ride to Washington. We will invite officers from agencies like NSF and NIH to our DC office and interact with Drexel faculty members in a luncheon session and/or conversation hour. To utilize the benefits of the "focused" travel, we will encourage faculty members to talk to people they have not known about research.

Other

In addition to our qualitative method workshops, the community has expressed interest in exploring the organization of a forum on ethnography. Also, we will continue to explore the possibility of establishing a statistical consulting lab in collaboration with the university's biostatistics center.

We may coordinate with the social and cultural evolution research group at University of Pennsylvania to organize a joint forum on computational social science. We may also organize a writing workshop/retreat to help social scientists write better.

APPENDIX A: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The new social science research committee was formed in February 2019, with the following committee members (2018-20):

Debjani Bhattacharyya (College of Arts and Sciences)

*Brian Daly (College of Arts and Sciences) **

*Kareem Edouard (School of Education) **

Robert Field (Kline School of Law)

*Brea Heidelberg (Westphal College of Media Arts and Design) **

Jordan Hyatt (College of Arts and Sciences)

Hyunmin Lee (College of Arts and Sciences)

Dali Ma (LeBow College of Business; SSRC Chair)

Philip Massey (Dornsife School of Public Health)

*Elizabeth McGhee Hassrick (Autism Institute) **

Janell Mensinger (Dornsife School of Public Health)

Larry Milliken (Library)

Suzanne Rocheleau (Undergraduate Research)

*Kelly Underman (College of Arts and Sciences) **

* 2019-20 only

APPENDIX B: SATISFACTION SURVEY REPORT

(Downloaded from Qualtrics Survey)

If you have attended any of the following events, please rate your experience.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Primer on Qualitative Method Workshop (5/7)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	5
2	Publishing Qualitative Research Workshop (5/14)	1.00	3.00	1.60	0.80	0.64	5
3	Webinar on Meta-Analysis (4/23)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4
4	Webinar on Mixture Models for Longitudinal Analysis (5/21)	1.00	2.00	1.25	0.43	0.19	4
5	Mixed Method Workshop with Dr. Creamer (6/7; primary sponsor: SOE)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	4
6	"Come and Write" (every Tuesday from 4/30 to 6/4)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	9
7	Workshop on funding opportunities from private/corporate foundations (5/28)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3
8	"Agency in Community: Research Forum on Civic Engagement" (6/10)	1.00	2.00	1.20	0.40	0.16	5
9	Social hour (2/28; 4/25; 6/10)	1.00	2.00	1.18	0.39	0.15	11

#	Question	Highly Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Highly Dissatisfied	Total
1	Primer on Qualitative Method Workshop (5/7)	100.00%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	5
2	Publishing Qualitative Research Workshop (5/14)	60.00%	3	20.00%	1	20.00%	5
3	Webinar on Meta-Analysis (4/23)	100.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4
4	Webinar on Mixture Models for Longitudinal Analysis (5/21)	75.00%	3	25.00%	1	0.00%	4
5	Mixed Method Workshop with Dr. Creamer (6/7; primary sponsor: SOE)	100.00%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	4
6	"Come and Write" (every Tuesday from 4/30 to 6/4)	100.00%	9	0.00%	0	0.00%	9
7	Workshop on funding opportunities from private/corporate foundations (5/28)	100.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	3
8	"Agency in Community: Research Forum on Civic Engagement" (6/10)	80.00%	4	20.00%	1	0.00%	5
9	Social hour (2/28; 4/25; 6/10)	81.82%	9	18.18%	2	0.00%	11

If you have suggestions for us to improve any of the activities that you participated in, we would appreciate your detailed feedback (please use the space below).

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I very much appreciate the learning opportunities SSRC provided and I look forward to more future sessions.

The workshops and the writing sessions are great. I finished a journal article by attending several writing sessions.

I really appreciated bringing everyone together for the forum. It was great that Alistair and Erin were present for part of it-- it makes a difference to have support/presence of upper administration. I would like to have that forum again on civic engagement, maybe with a keynote speaker somewhere in the agenda. It was good to have time for networking and meeting others in a variety of departments.

I am very happy to see so much programming this year - for activities in the spring quarter! I would suggest the following: don't schedule two events at the same time reduce the number of Come and Write sessions to once a month (or at most every other week) consider adding a day-long Writing Retreat (9-12 and 1-4) during a break between quarters or some other time - schedule far in advance. People could attend half day or all day.

I really appreciated the Writing Tuesdays. I wish there were more of them--even when I miss a week here and there, it's good to know that I can get back on the writing horse in a community the following week.

Hold there be a sign in sheet for "come and write" on site that includes name and also what project we are working on? This way we can check in on what people are working on and approach people individually during or after writing to collaborate or meet other like minded researchers without interrupting anyone's flow.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Social Science Research Committee, please write them down in the space below.

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I wish your acronym was not SSRC because that is already used by the Social Science Research Council (with whom I work!) so it gets confusing.

Would it be possible to have a works in progress session where individuals could share their research/papers in progress with others and get feedback?

All of the events this year were on a Tuesday or a Thursday at 2:00. I had a T/R class at 2:00 this quarter so I couldn't participate in any of them. Maybe alternating between Tuesdays and Wednesdays or Wednesday and Thursdays would help to boost attendance in consideration of people's class schedules.

Great work! Thank you.

Thanks for organizing all the events. Although I haven't attended most of the events/ workshops due to my own scheduling difficulties, I do appreciate the committee's efforts in promoting the social sciences research and building a community for social scientists on campus.

I really appreciated the happy hour I attended - met colleagues that I would never have met doing similar projects. Thank you for this group and I look forward to participating in the next academic year.

This is a very nice service. I'm sure I'll attend more activities in the upcoming year!