Getting Into ASA

ANALYSIS OF ASA DATA FROM 2006-2009
Number of Regular Submissions (i.e. Competition) Varies by Year (Locale)

- 2006 Montreal
- 2007 New York
- 2008 Boston
- 2009 San Francisco

- Submissions
- Sessions
- Ratio
Overall estimated probability of acceptance to ASA, by Year (Locale)

- 2006 Montreal: 0.8
- 2007 New York: 1.0
- 2008 Boston: 0.4
- 2009 San Francisco: 0.3
Within year, probability of acceptance varies by popularity of topic

- Estimate number of slots as 4x number of sessions
- So probability equals 4 times number of sessions divided by number of submissions
2006 Average Est Probability of Acceptance to ASA Regular Session Topic by Number of Submissions to the Topic
2007 Average Est Probability of Acceptance to ASA Regular Session Topic
by Number of Submissions to the Topic

Racism & Anti-Racism

Education
2008 Average Est Probability of Acceptance to ASA Regular Session Topic by Number of Submissions to the Topic
2009 Average Est Probability of Acceptance to ASA Regular Session Topic by Number of Submissions to the Topic
Ratio of probability of acceptance to average for the year

Topics with at least 100 submissions 2006-9

- Culture
- Economic Sociology
- Education
- Gender and Work
- Medical Sociology
- Organizations
- Political Sociology
- Social Movements

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0

2006 2007 2008 2009
Ratio of probability of acceptance to average for the year

Topics with 21-34 submissions 2006-9

- Care Work/Caring Labor
- Citizenship, Perspectives on
- Development, Social & Economic/Soc of
- Development, Women/Gender and
- Disability and Social Life
- Disaster
- Ethnography/Ethnographic Studies
- Ethnic Conflict & New Civil Wars
- Fertility/ and Reproduction
- Health Policy
- Homelessness
- Housing/Housing Policy
- Internal Migration
- Islam
- Knowledge/& Intellectuals
- Law, Sociology of
- Methodology, Quantitative
- Middle East /Muslim Societies
- Nations/Nationalism
- Population/Population Processes
- Poverty
- Rational Choice
- Substance Use, Abuse, Treatment
- Transnational Processes
- Violence
- Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations
- Welfare Reform

2006 2007 2008 2009
Cases of submissions with no sessions

- Seem problematic
  - Collective Behavior 2008: 14 submissions! (Regrouped? Error?)
  - Methodology, Qualitative 2008: 8 submissions
  - Method, Feminist 2009: 4 submissions
- Insufficient submissions? (irregularly offered topics)
  - Affirmative Action 2009: 1 submission
  - Human Ecology 2008: 1 submission
  - Microsociologies 2008: 1 submission
  - Panethnicity 2008: 1 submission
Implications for Submitters

- A lot is random, luck
- If your paper qualifies for an unusual & highly specific session, your chances may be high of getting in
- BUT it could also be a “wired” session with pre-planned papers
  - Appropriate to ask a session organizer whether your paper topic would be appropriate for the session (you are trying to get vibes about whether the session is already planned)
- Session organizer initiative and work plays a role
Monitoring the System

- Session organizers cannot see submissions until AFTER the submission deadline.
- Probability of getting in from your second choice is very low, given how the system works.
- It is the second choice organizer who chooses which roundtable to send your paper to!
  - This person may have stopped looking at the web site.
  - You just HAVE to follow up with session organizer and/or ASA to get in a roundtable.
  - Appropriate to say what roundtable you’d like