

**CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAW**  
(Includes Ammendments Approved in 2017 Balloting)

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Article I - Name

Section 1

This Society shall be known as the Eastern Sociological Society

Article II - Purpose

Section 1

This Society shall promote the following objectives: (a) the advancement of sociological research, (b) the effective teaching of sociology, (c) the development of a more vital relationship between sociology and related disciplines and (d) a more adequate use of the methods and resources of the social sciences in dealing with social problems.

Article III - Membership

Section 1

Membership shall-be open to anyone interested in furthering the objectives of the Society. The form and conditions of membership are set forth in the Bylaws.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1

The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Vice-President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary. The President-Elect shall serve for one year and then automatically succeed to the Presidency for a one-year term. The Vice-President-Elect shall serve for one year and then automatically succeed to the Vice-Presidency for a one-year term. The Secretary shall serve for a three-year term. The Treasurer shall serve for a [three|S/ESS1]-year term. The term of the Executive Officer shall be set by the Executive Committee.

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Section 2

The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Society and shall chair the Executive Committee. The President shall perform all the duties assigned to him/her by the Society and the Executive Committee. In the event of absence, resignation, or death, the duties of the President shall devolve upon the Vice-President. The President-Elect shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Secretary, in conjunction with the President and the Executive Secretary, shall prepare agendas for all official meetings of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall also take minutes at all official meetings of the Executive Committee, and 'at the annual Business Meetings, shall transcribe the minutes and send them to the Executive Secretary for preparation and timely distribution to all officers and Executive Committee members.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall review the periodic financial statements received from the Executive Secretary and shall oversee the preparation of the financial statements and budgets to be presented at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the general Business Meetings of the Society.

Section 5

The Executive Secretary shall, under the direction of the Executive Committee, carry on the general correspondence of the Society, receive, have custody of and disburse the funds of the Society, provide periodic financial statements to the Treasurer and all financial information necessary to the preparation of the annual budget, maintain a complete file of the official minutes of the Society as well as of all official correspondence, maintain the membership records of the Society, and be responsible for planning and operating the Society's annual meetings. In addition, the Executive Secretary shall perform such other duties as the Executive Committee or the Society may assign.

Article V - Committees

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall be the governing body and administrative agency of the Society.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the President—Elect, the Vice-President, the Vice-President-Elect, the secretary, the Treasurer and six elected members. The Executive Secretary shall be an ex-officio, member.

Section 3

The term of office of the elected members of the Executive Committee shall be three years. Two members shall be elected each year.

Section 4

The Executive Committee shall have charge of the general interests of the Society, shall be empowered to call regular and special meetings of the Society, and shall select the Society's Executive Secretary. It shall have power to fill vacancies in its elective membership occasioned by death, resignation, prolonged absence, or failure to elect, such appointees to hold office until the next *annual meeting*. The actions of the Executive Committee shall be by majority vote.

Section 5

The Executive Office Committee shall have the responsibility for overseeing the Executive Office and the financial affairs of the Society. This will include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic review of the operation of the Executive Office and recommendations regarding the selection of the Executive Officer. Any action recommended by the EOC (such as selection of a new Executive Officer) will require approval of the Executive Committee.

The EOC shall consist of three people, who will be appointed by the Executive Committee and who will serve for three years. The Executive Committee will appoint one of the three as Chair. The Past President will be an ex-officio member of the EOC.

Article VI - Elections

Section 1

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot by a plurality of the legal votes cast.

Article VII -Meetings, and Sessions

Section 1

The Society shall hold annual meetings at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee, and such other meetings as shall be designated by the Society at its annual meetings or by the Executive Committee. Notification shall be made to the members for all regular and special meetings at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. Where no email address is provided, notification will be made via standard mail service.

Section 2

The term "business meetings" as used in the *Constitution* and Bylaws of the Society, shall refer to a gathering of the Society at which business is transacted and there is a quorum of at least twenty-five (25) members of the Society.

Section 3

Resolutions passed by a majority vote at a Business Meeting are automatically placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee, which must respond during the ensuing twelve months and report its action to the membership at large.

Article VIII- Amendments

Section 1

The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds of those members voting in response to a ballot of the entire membership. The options of voting either electronically or by standard mail ballot will be offered to the membership.

Section 2

Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee, by special committee appointed for such purpose, or upon petition to the Executive Secretary by thirty members of the Society.

Section 3

All proposed amendments of the Constitution shall be circulated to the members of the Society at least thirty days prior to the voting date. The options of receiving voting materials either electronically or by standard mail will be offered to the membership.

Article IX - Dissolution

Section 1

Upon dissolution of the Society or the winding up of its affair so the assets of the Society shall be distributed exclusively to such charitable, scientific, literary or educational organization(s) selected by the Executive Committee and qualifying at the time as tax exempt organization(s) under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations then in effect.

## BYLAWS

### Article I- Membership and Dues

#### Section 1

Membership classes shall be Regular, Emeritus, Associate, and Student. (a) Regular members are persons who have been awarded a graduate degree in sociology or in a closely related field. (b) Emeritus membership, which has all the rights and privileges of the regular membership without further payment of dues or registration fees, is restricted to those who have retired from regular employment, have been members of the Society for 20 or more years, and who make a written request to the Executive Secretary for Emeritus status. (c) Associate membership is open to any person interested in sociology and subscribing to the objectives of the Society. (d) Student membership is restricted to persons who are enrolled or in residence as students in educational institutions, or are actively working toward a higher degree and have not yet completed the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

#### Section 2

All members are entitled to attend meetings of the Society, to receive its publications, and other communications authorized by the Society, all members have voting rights and are eligible for elective office.

#### Section 3.

Membership dues for the various classifications shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Failure to pay dues will result in suspension of membership privileges.

### Article II - Elections

#### Section 1

- a) The President shall name a Committee on Nominations of five members, within one month of the close of the annual meeting at which he or she takes office. One of the members shall be designated by the President as the Chair.
- b) A call for nominations shall go out to the membership in the Spring Newsletter and on the ESS email list. June 15 shall be the due date for input from the membership.
- c) The Committee on Nomination shall submit a list, nominating two candidates for each office to be filled, to the Executive Officer no later than October 15. All candidates must be members of the Society.
- d) Any 30 or more members of the Society may also submit a nomination for any of the offices to be filled to the Executive Officer by October 15 for inclusion on the ballot.

e) The Executive Officer will provide an appropriate ballot to each member of the Society at least 30 days prior to ballot closing. The option of receiving ballots either electronically or by standard mail will be offered to the membership.

f) Balloting will close on December 15. Only those members of the Society who have paid the prescribed dues for the fiscal year not later than ten days before the balloting closes will be entitled to vote. The Executive Officer shall designate two tellers to count the ballots. In the event that the nominees for any office receive the same number of votes, the Executive Committee shall be polled and the nominee receiving a majority of their votes shall be elected.

g) Until a new officer is elected, the following procedures will be used for filling the vacancy:

*Secretary or Treasurer*

The non-winning candidate from the last election will be asked by the President to serve for the remainder of the term. Should that person not be willing or available to serve, the President will appoint an ESS member to serve out the term, with approval of the Executive Committee.

*Executive Committee*

If a member of the Executive Committee is elected an officer, the seat on the Executive Committee will be treated as a vacancy. These and other vacancies on the Executive Committee will be filled as follows:

The first runner up from the last election will be asked by the President to serve for the remainder of the term of the resigner. If that person is unwilling or unable to serve, the runners-up after that, in decreasing rank order, will be asked to serve. Should no candidates from the previous year's election be willing or able to serve, the President will appoint an ESS member to serve, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

In the next election, additional candidates will be added to the ballot as follows:

*Secretary or Treasurer*

Two candidates to run for the remainder of the term of office.

*Executive Committee*

Two additional candidates will be added to the ballot. Members will vote for three people; top two winners will serve for full 3-year terms, next runner-up(s) will serve for the one or two year remainder of term(s).

h) The Executive Secretary will inform the candidates of the results by email and by letter by the end of the first week in January and will post the election results on the ESS website and announce them to the membership by email by the end of January.

i) The newly elected officers of the Society and members of the Executive Committee shall assume office at the close of the business session of the Annual Meeting after their election. New officers and Executive Committee members shall be expected to attend the Business and Executive Committee meetings at the Annual Meeting, starting with the one at which they assume office, to attend an additional Executive Committee meeting between the Annual Meetings, and to carry out the duties spelled out elsewhere in the Bylaws

### Article III - Committees and Duties

#### Section 1

The President of the Society, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, shall provide a program appropriate to the purpose of the Society for the annual meeting and other stated meetings.

#### Section 2

The Executive Committee shall be convened by the President at least twice yearly, once at the annual meeting and once between annual meetings at a time and place to be designated by the President in consultation with the other members.

#### Section 3

The Executive Committee may create, or delegate to the President to create, such special committees as may be needed to promote the work of the Society.

#### Section 4

The Executive Secretary shall make an annual report to the Executive Committee and to the Society at the regular business meeting covering the operations of the office and the society's budget and financial status as reviewed by a certified auditor.

#### Section 5

The Executive Committee is authorized to approve the expenditures necessary to the transactions of business by the Society and its committees, including the following: (a) necessary expenses of the President entailed by organizing the program of the meetings of the Society. (b) transportation expenses of members of the Executive Committee to meetings of the Committee other than those held at the time and place of the meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society. (c) the necessary expenses of the Executive Secretary in handling business of the Society.

#### Section 6

The Executive Committee may require a registration fee from members and non-members attending sessions of the Society.

Section 7

The Robin Williams Lectureship Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President-Elect and consist of ONE past or present member of the Executive Committee AND ONE OTHER PERSON SELECTED BY THE VP-ELECT. THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK FOR TWO YEARS. IN THE FIRST YEAR, IT WILL be responsible for soliciting and reviewing applications for the next year's Lecturer and choosing the awardee. IN THE SECOND YEAR, IT shall be responsible for publicizing the lecture, soliciting and reviewing the applications from schools, and, with the current Lecturer, choosing two or three campuses to host the current year's lectures. The Robin William Lecturer will also give the lecture at the ESS Meetings in the year of his/her lectureship. ALSO, DURING THE SECOND YEAR, A NEW ROBIN WILLIAMS LECTURESHIP COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS FIRST YEAR OF WORK, CHAIRED BY THE NEW VP-ELECT. THUS, IN ANY GIVEN YEAR, TWO ROBIN WILLIAMS LECTURESHIP COMMITTEES WILL OPERATE IN PARALLEL.

Section 8

The President shall appoint members of the Executive Committee as Chairs of the Awards Committees (Merit, Mirra Komarovskiy Book, Rose Laub Coser Dissertation, Candace Rogers Student Paper).

Article IV Amendments

Section 1

The Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds of those members voting in response to a mail\* ballot sent to the entire membership.

Section 2

Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Committee, by special committee appointed for such purpose, or upon petition to the Executive Secretary by thirty members of the Society.

Section 3

All proposed amendments of the Bylaws shall be circulated by mail\* to the members of the Society at least thirty days prior to the voting date.

\* The term "mail" is considered to include both regular mail and electronic mail according to the member's noted preference. (change 2013)