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List of Abbreviations

4S - Society for Social Studies of Science
AAA - American Anthropological Association
AAG - American Association of Geographers
AAAS - American Association for the Advancement of Science
ACM - Association for Computing Machinery
ASA - American Sociological Association
LASA - Latin American Studies Association
SHOT - Society for the History of Technology
SxSW - South by Southwest
UCS - Union of Concerned Scientists
Introduction

The 4S council sought research and recommendations based on the practices of other scholarly societies in areas such as member engagement, dues and benefits, revenue, internationalization, and other key matters of concern. In particular, the council sought answers to the following questions:

- How many members does the society have and what are annual membership fees?
- What is the fee for annual conference registration?
- Does the society own/support journals?
- What are member benefits?
- How does the society generate revenue?
- If the society is an international society, how is this organized and put into practice?
- What is the theory and practice of the society’s involvement in public sphere debates?
- What is the society’s online presence?
- How is the society organized? How are leadership positions decided and supported?
- How engaged are society members?

Additional issues, mostly taken or adapted from questions put to specific 4S committees, were also included in this research:

- How have other scholarly societies approached the issue of diversity, particularly in a transnational context?
- What can be done to engage undergraduate students?
- How have other scholarly societies built infrastructure to archive their own history, encouraging scholarship on this history while providing for efficient and transparent routine operations?
- What strategies social media strategies have been used by other organizations that seem relevant to 4S?
- What have other scholarly societies -- from different disciplines -- done that has supported and vitalized their members and community?
- How do other societies incorporate institutional members?

I have attempted to provide information and recommendations pursuant wherever possible, but for the sake of clarity this report has been structured around a few broad sections. Questions about internationalization, for example, were approached as a concern cutting across categories rather than a standalone section.

The council also provided a list of societies and organizations that it was particularly interested in learning more about in relation to these questions, to which I have added LASA. Because LASA is also an international and interdisciplinary social science association, I believe it is particularly helpful to include in this study. The full list of organizations include:

- American Anthropological Association
- American Association of Geographers
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Sociological Association
- Society for the History of Technology
- Union of Concerned Scientists
Unfortunately, little information was available about the Citizen Science Society, as their website appears to have been hacked, and so it was not included in this report. In some cases, some of the organizations on this list were not relevant to the questions being asked. For example, SxSW is not a membership organization.
Membership

4S is a relatively small society, with a total of 1,681 members, and has grown relatively little in recent years. Given STS’s growing importance both as a “discipline” and a sub-field for anthropology, sociology, geography, and political science, the broader public relevance of the discipline, and the international character of 4S, increasing the size of 4S would seem to be an important and achievable goal.

However, it should be kept in mind that while societies like the AGA, ASA, and ASA can count on a large number of departments dedicated exclusively to the discipline in the US and beyond, there are relatively few STS departments. This likely means fewer faculty members and students with STS as a primary disciplinary identity. Trina Garrison¹ identified less than 140 STS departments around the world as of 2015, although this list may not be complete. In contrast, there are 140 departments offering PhD programs in sociology in the US alone, and many more that offer bachelor’s and master’s degrees.² A significant number are located in schools specializing in science and engineering, which in some cases means that the department will have relatively few STS majors or graduate students. Even some faculty members in STS departments may well identify more strongly with a traditional discipline, and register for 4S membership only when attending the annual meeting.

Additionally, the vast majority of 4S members seem to be affiliated with an academic institution as either a student or professional. According to a survey done by the organization in 2018, about 93% of those who responded listed either “academia” or “student” as their profession, while 2.75% indicated that they were “independent scholars” and just over 4% listed other occupations, such as government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or media. However, it should be noted that almost half (48.31%) of members did not participate in the survey, which means it probably does not perfectly reflect of 4S’s membership.

All other societies and organizations examined here have a higher portion of non-academic members, although information was not available in some cases. In part, this likely reflects the fact that some of

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Membership Composition - Percentage

- 4S: 1.00
- ASA: 0.75
- AAA: 0.50
- AAG: 0.25
- ACM (CH): 0.00

Non-Academic: Red
Academic: Blue

4S Member Occupations
Response Rate: 51.69%

- Academia: 72.7%
- Student: 20.4%
- Government: 1.8%
- Independent Scholar: 1.0%
- NGO: 1.4%
- Publishing / Media: 0.8%
- Other: 1.1%

Membership Composition

- 4S (Projected): 0
- AAA: 10,000
- ASA: 12,000
- AAG: 12,000

Non-Academic Members: Red
Academic Members: Blue

4S Members -- Non-Academic
Excludes Academics, Independent Scholars, and Students. Response rate: 51.69%

- Government: 36.1%
- NGO: 22.2%
- Other: 30.0%
- Publishing / Media: 11.1%
these disciplines have a more obvious connection to industry, non-academic applications of the discipline, or primary and secondary education. It could also reflect a lack of awareness or interest on the part of what might be 4S’s potential non-academic constituencies, such as science journalists, those engaged in policy and advocacy related to technoscience (including on environmental issues), and politically engaged scientists and engineers. While this is a minor issue, the language 4S often uses for membership tends not to be as welcoming of potential non-academic members. In the “4S Membership” section of 4S’s “About” page, for example, interested members of the public and researchers for governments and NGOs are listed as kinds of members. However, when explaining membership dues and categories it only refers to “professionals,” which may exclude interested members of the public, “students,” and “scholars,” which may not describe researchers and other working for NGOs or state agencies. This is also the language used in the membership section of the site.

In the sections that follow, I will examine what the reference group of scholarly societies and organizations offer in terms of member benefits, examine some of their efforts to increase diversity, and evaluate the costs associated with membership in each organization as well as their annual meetings. Where appropriate, I will also draw the council’s attention to practices and programs that could be useful for stimulating ideas for 4S.

### Costs

In the charts and figures below, readers should keep in mind that different organizations use different criteria and categories for assigning discounts to low-income members and members from less wealthy regions, and so the figures used are not perfectly comparable. Some societies determine dues based on income, further complicating comparisons. When this is the case, the amount listed reflects the 2016 median income per capita in the US ($31,099). While this is less than ideal, particularly given that many of these organizations are international and that the median income for members of these societies is likely higher, I wanted to provide some basis for comparison. It should be noted that AAA requires membership in at least one section. This means that actual costs of membership, range between $10-$68 more than what is reflected here (or more if one signs up as a “sustaining member” for some sections). Finally, some organizations have more complicated dues structured by country, with members from high wealth, medium wealth, and low wealth countries all paying different rates. In these cases, I selected the lowest rates offered.

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Affordability and revenues are key consideration for expanding and diversifying 4S’s membership. Council members should continue to keep in mind the increasing “Uberization” of higher education in North America and beyond when considering the costs associated with membership, annual meetings, and other events, as it likely means that a significant and growing segment of 4S’s actual and potential membership is underemployed, low-income, and have limited access to institutional funding. Affordability is also important because 4S is an international society that includes scholars from both the global north and south, and thus includes scholars from extremely underresourced regions. Finally, 4S’s interdisciplinary character may mean that a relatively large portion of its actual and potential membership may belong to other scholarly societies, which could strain both personal budgets and available institutional funds.

Fortunately, 4S currently offers a 50% discount ($25) on membership dues for “retirees, un/underemployed scholars, and scholars from non-OECD countries,” as well as students.\(^5\) Currently, almost 15% of 4S’s members registered for “Professional - Reduced” membership. As visible in the chart below, 4S also has relatively low dues in every category compared to the other societies and organizations examined. One possible exception is for members from developing countries, where 4S is the 3rd most expensive displayed. However, the rate is still fairly affordable, and only slightly higher than other societies like LASA. More importantly, many societies offer no special rates for members from non-OECD countries.

Aside from dues, the other major expense associated with participation in scholarly societies is registration for annual meetings and other events. Below, I compare the registration fees associated with annual meeting (or its equivalent) for the reference organizations as well as 4S. For greater clarity, I have

also included a chart that includes only the other scholarly societies focused on the social sciences and humanities. Unless otherwise noted, only the standard rates for each category (i.e., not the early registration rate) is included. Optional events, like outings or banquets, that are not included in the figures used here. Among the organizations examined, 4S’s annual meeting is relatively expensive, at least after ACM and SxSW, which are clearly outliers in terms of both costs and industry orientation, are eliminated.
Because participation in annual meetings is one of the key motivations and major expenses for joining many of these societies, comparing the total costs of dues and conference attendance may be helpful. Below, I have broken down the combined costs by various membership categories. Where no special rate is offered (e.g., no discounts are offered to low-income members), the standard professional rate is used. Unless otherwise noted, standard (as opposed to early) conference registration fees are used. Again, this does not include the extra costs of required section membership for AAA.

4S is relatively affordable for scholars from developing countries, professional members registering early. It is about median (particularly if one ignores ACM) for low-income scholars, and is relatively expensive for professional members registering late and graduate students. For all categories of members, dues make up a relatively small part of the total costs.
Benefits

This section will examine exclusive benefits offered to all professional or student members of the organizations being examined. Those activities or programs that involve connecting with other members based on common interests (e.g., sections), awards, grants, etc., although some of these activities will be examined elsewhere in this report. That also means that open access journals, job boards that do not require membership to access, and other benefits freely available to the public are also not counted here. I have compiled a detailed list of membership benefits offered by these organizations, a simplified chart for easy comparison, as well as a list of the frequency of benefit types offered by the organizations being examined. All of this information was collected from organizational websites. Three organizations were excluded: SxSW and GOSH do not have a membership structure comparable to scholarly societies, and the Citizen Science Society website was not available while research was being conducted for this report.

Membership benefits vary substantially between different societies. If there is something like a standard package, it would include discounted annual meeting registration, a newsletter, a journal subscription, and perhaps discounts on other journals or publications. However, membership comes with benefits as diverse as credit union access, floral products discounts, and organizational email accounts.

Compared to the organizations that the 4S Council was interested in researching, the society offers a modest and standard set of member benefits, which is to be expected given 4S’s relatively small size and budget. Of those benefits offered by other societies, the council may find the following particularly interesting:

- **Joint Membership Discounts**
  
  Some societies, like [AAA](http://www.aaanet.org), offer discounted membership to members of other scholarly societies. In this case, ASA members are eligible for a 15% ($19) discount on AAA membership. ASA members also receive a discount when registering for the American Political Science Association (APSA), and APSA members can receive discounted ASA membership (along with two other societies).
Free / Discounted Educational Opportunities and Events
Both ACM (the Learning Center) and AAAS offer members exclusive access or discounts to various kinds of educational opportunities, often centered around professional development or public engagement and advocacy skills. This content includes online courses and workshops, video lecture series, and special publications. Topics include grant writing, networking, navigating post-graduate school career options, communicating with public officials, instruction on applying new technologies, research ethics, interviewing, and science communication.

Database Access
Several societies include access to specialized databases as a benefit to members, usually offering access to the archives of journals published or sponsored by the society. AAA membership, for example, includes access to Anthrosource, a database of more than 250,000 articles from AAA journals. ASA similarly offers access to all ASA journals on JSTOR, as well as a discount on JSTOR’s JPASS. These kinds of benefits are particularly advantageous to members that are not affiliated with academic institutions (independent scholars, unemployed scholars, non-academic members, etc.), as well as those scholars affiliated with institutions that provide limited access to publications in the field. 4S, however, has only one non-open access journal, to which it already offers online archival access. However, it is likely that many 4S members may have little access to (and in many cases, awareness of) non-4S STS focused journals published outside of their country or region. While it may well prove impossible and is, in all likelihood, prohibitively costly, creating a database of STS journals and other publications around the world (e.g., Tapuya, EASTS, Taiwanese Journal of Studies for Science, Technology, and Medicine) could prove a particularly useful service that both increases the value of membership and fosters international connections within STS. Even if many of the journals are open access, it could still be a useful service for members, and since it would have to be created with the cooperation of regional STS associations and institutions, it could also benefit their non-4S members and expand the readership of the journals that are included.

AAAS offers access to Science Express, which could be another model to consider. Science Express allows members to read articles accepted for publication in Science before they are officially published in the journal (often a month or more before the print edition is available).

4S may want to consider highlighting the 30% discount available for the handbooks of science and technology studies published by MIT Press, and perhaps even offering the latest volume or full set as a benefit for larger donations or sustaining members. If 4S offers departmental membership (see “Institutional Membership” below), print copies of the handbooks could also be included as a benefit offered to new members.

While not exactly a membership benefit, some organizations have special offers for lapsed members that could help retain or attract members. In some cases that involves offering a temporary discount on
membership dues, while in others some “gift,” like a t-shirt or tote bag, is offered. I have included a screenshot from a recent email by AAA offering a 10% discount on membership for both new members and those who have let their membership lapse for two years. The offer expires in one month. The council may want to consider such an effort, perhaps targeted to those who signed up to attend a conference but did not renew their membership. ACM, on the other hand, has an “Ambassadors” program where existing members are rewarded with gifts for signing up new members, and those that they refer are offered discounted membership rates. ASA has a similar program, which it calls the “Member-Get-A-Member Campaign.” In this case, all of the special benefits are for the ASA member that does the recruiting. They get discounts for each recruited member on their ASA dues in the following year, and are entered into a raffle. Unlike ACM’s program, ASA’s is a temporary (perhaps annual) event that lasts about a month and a half.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Exclusive Professional Benefits</th>
<th>Other Exclusive Benefits</th>
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</table>
| AAA     | ● Discounted annual meeting registration  
          ● Access to Anthrosource Database  
          ● Subscription to the journal, American Anthropologist (E)  
          ● Discounted subscriptions for other AAA journals  
          ● Directory of members  
          ● Discounted AnthroGuide print edition and special reports  
          ● Discounted JSTOR subscriptions, ASA membership, and dossier services | ● Discounted merchandise, insurance plans (life, health, and dental, auto, home, pet), car & truck rental, and office supplies |
| ACM     | ● Access to the Learning Center  
          ● Access to the ACM Digital Library  
          ● Electronic newsletters and news/career digests, including a student newsletter  
          ● Subscriptions to the following magazines: Communications of the ACM (E/P), XRDS: Crossroads (E/P, students), & acmqueue (E)  
          ● Discounts on ACM journals and other publications  
          ● Discounted registration for conferences  
          ● Discounts for Endnote and Freshbooks, as well as journals, books, and courses from Books24/7, Applied Computer Research, Charles River Media, CompTIA, Greenwood Publishing/Quorum, John Hopkins University Press, Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, NYU-Poly, Springer Verlag, & Stevens Institute of Technology | ● Acm.org email address  
          ● Discounts on: insurance (life, health, dental, etc.), HP products, FreshBooks, student loan refinancing (Credible), travel (Local Hospitality Inc.), and The Computer History Museum admission /membership |
| AAAS    | ● Subscription to the following journals: Science Books & Films (E) & Science (E/P), which includes a News Digest (ScienceNOW), access to archives, and early access to papers accepted for publication (Science Express)  
          ● Newsletters (AAAS Advances, Science Roundup, Science’s BioMed Roundup)  
          ● Funding opportunity email alerts  
          ● Annual Meeting Registration Discount  
          ● Discounts for courses from the AAAS Career Development Center  
          ● Discounts on other AAAS journals  
          ● Electronic access to special publications, lectures, and other content  
          ● Access to “Ask a Member” (peer career advice Q&A)  
          ● Discounts on books (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press) | N/A |
| AAG     | ● Subscriptions to the journals: Annals of the American Association of Geographers (E), The Professional Geographer (E), AAG Review of Books (E), GeoHumanities (E). Print subscriptions available for the cost of shipping.  
          ● Newsletter (E)  
          ● Discounted annual meeting registration  
          ● Discounts on other AAG journals and books | N/A |
| ASA     | ● One print journal subscription, and online access to all ASA journals  
          ● Access to ASA job bank  
          ● Access to teaching resources database (TRAILS)  
          ● Newsletters (including student newsletter)  
          ● Access to Publishing Options Database, JPASS, & membership directory. Discounted access to ACKS Humanities E-Book Collection.  
          ● Discounts on annual meeting registration  
          ● Discounted AAA & APSA membership  
          ● Discounts on books (Sage) & journal subscriptions (Sociology Compass) | ● Discounts on: merchandise, car rentals, insurance (life & auto), vehicles (Subaru), merchandise (AAAS store, Discovery Store), office supplies, moving services, electronics (Apple, Dell), credit union access and discounts, travel (lodging)  
          ● Society credit card |
| LASA    | ● Access to Project Muse (only for Latin American members), member directory, job bank  
          ● Annual meeting registration discount  
          ● Discounts for journal subscriptions | N/A |
| 4S      | ● Subscription to Science, Technology, and Human Values (E/P)  
          ● E-Newsletter  
          ● Discounted journal subscriptions  
          ● Discounts on MIT Press Books  
          ● Annual meeting registration discount | N/A |
| SHOT    | ● Subscription to Technology and Culture (E/P)  
          ● E-Newsletter (print editions are also available)  
          ● Discounted annual meeting registration  
          ● Discounts from Johns Hopkins University Press | N/A |
| UCS*    | ● Magazine subscription (Catalyst)  
          ● Discounts on UCS publications | ● Discounts on merchandise |

*These benefits are available for an annual $25 contribution.
Institutional Membership

Certain societies offer some form of membership not only to individuals, but also to academic departments and other institutions involved with the discipline. I have compiled a detailed table describing the dues and benefits associated with each society’s program below. Some of these programs are quite large. AAA’s Department Services Program, for example, includes well over two hundred academic departments and museums, while ASA’s Department Affiliates Program includes at least 320 academic departments and research organizations. In addition to generating extra revenue and awareness of scholarly societies, these programs aim to connect and support department chairs, help departments recruit students, and encourage their participation in the discipline.

AAG, on the other hand, focuses on “corporate membership.” While I am not sure it is a full count, there are at least ten corporate AAG members listed on their website. Most are academic publishers or government agencies, and none are academic departments. AAG, however, does have a “Healthy Departments Initiative,” which involves workshops for department leaders and interested administrators as well as various kinds of resources in the initiative’s section of the AAG website. Among other things, it also involves a committee focused on organizing the initiative and providing assistance to department chairs, as well as a listserv for department chairs.

ACM has different categories of membership for academic departments, smaller employers (e.g., startups), and companies. Because it would seem to be the most relevant for 4S, I will only focus on ACM membership for academic departments. Currently, 81 departments are members of ACM, and the only benefit seems to be discounted membership for department faculty.

LASA also offers institutional membership, and is the only society of those being examined here to stratify costs by type of institution, country, and membership level. It also offers different benefits to different kinds of institution at different levels of membership. Because of this complexity I have offered upper and lower ranges of dues by institution type in the table below, and focused on the benefits of top tier membership below. Some of the benefits listed are not available to all institutional types. Most of the benefits are about raising the profile of the institutional member (e.g., advertising, booths at annual meetings, discounted job banks postings). However, departments, centers, and institutes are also eligible to participate in LASA’s Center Director Section, which are described in the following way:

The Center Director Section attempts to fill in a much needed space within LASA for the exchange of ideas, experiences, best practices, etc. At the same time, this section offers practitioners, foundation representatives, and others the opportunity to debate and brainstorm about new perspectives and insights relevant to Centers. This section may also foster collaborative projects, research, and the exchange of information between individuals and institutions.

If 4S chooses to allow institutional memberships, there are several important issues to consider. The council should also consider what the primary goals of institutional membership should be. A different configuration of dues and benefits would make sense depending on whether raising revenue, boosting membership, increasing diversity, or better supporting STS departments is prioritized. It may be worth figure out ways that non-STS departments or NGOs that have a strong tradition of STS-related research and education could participate. LASA, for example, has different levels of membership, and some come with low dues and few benefits. A special focus and targeted resources for social science departments and socially engaged design and engineering programs at colleges and universities that specialize in engineering and the natural sciences could also be worth consideration.
An interesting question that 4S might want to tackle through a survey or citational research is just how fragmented the field is in terms of theory, methodology, and topical interests by national borders and language barriers. While there have been some incredible collaboration in recent years, my guess is that the fragmentation in the field is significant, with few STS graduate student in the US reading, for example, scholarship from Latin America. Another reason for adopting more complex forms of institutional membership--more like LASA than AAA--is to make the program more accessible for departments and other institutions in the global south, and foster international connections and collaborations within 4S. Membership dues, for example, could be reduced for departments and other institutions in non-OECD countries.

Efforts could also be made to extend membership to regional societies like ESOCITE and EASTS, perhaps paired with joint membership discounts, some kind of committee to foster more communication between scholars in different regions, and resources (like a monthly newsletter highlighting STS work from around the world or arranging translations of select articles, books, and other publications) to make the work of these regional societies more visible to all 4S members. This may also allow for a more explicit place for these regional associations in 4S’s governance structure. The 4S council may want to engage with informal conversation with regional STS societies before launching an institutional membership program to better gauge the interests and sensitivities involved.

Departmental membership may also put 4S in a better position to conduct surveys and other research on the state of the discipline, the kinds of graduate and undergraduate education in STS being offered in different contexts, and the needs and challenges of students and scholars in the field. It would be helpful to know, for example, whether the number of STS students is growing at the undergraduate and graduate level, what topics and texts are being used in introductory classes, and how undergraduate STS education differs at colleges and universities specializing in natural science and engineering. Successful and creative programs or strategies used at some departments could also be highlighted by the society, allowing them to inspire similar programs elsewhere. 4S could also provide guidance, resources, and a forum to discuss issues like recruiting majors, arguing for institutional funding, and best practices to department chairs.

Institutional membership, particularly by for-profit organizations and at least some state agencies, may raise important ethical and political considerations. For example, should 4S accept an institutional memberships by foundations linked to the Koch brothers or for-profit colleges? Should 4S accept academic publishers that have been the subject of critiques and even boycotts over the ways they limit access to publicly funded research and charge exorbitant rates to often cash-strapped libraries as members? What about the state agencies or state-supported institutions of governments involved in the censorship (or worse) of scholars and activists, or in severe abuses of human rights? Many, but not all, of these potential issues could be solved by accepting membership only from academic departments and perhaps institutions like museums, libraries, archives, independent or open-access publishers, and academic centers and institutes. It should also be noted that the practice of mailing list rentals and sharing by academic societies does raise privacy issues, and may be resented by some members.

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7 Translations, of course, should not solely benefit members of a small number linguistic communities, but include translations into and out of as many of the languages in which STS work is done as possible. One example of work in this area is the AAA’s Society for the Anthropology of Europe’s Berghahn European Anthropology in Translation Book Series, although it focuses only on translations into English: [http://sae.americananthro.org/sae-berghahn-european-books-in-translation-series/](http://sae.americananthro.org/sae-berghahn-european-books-in-translation-series/).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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| AAA     | • Academic departments\(^9\)  
          • Museums  
          • Allied anthropology firms | $275 | • Discounts on faculty recruitment tools (ACE Job Board, CV/Resume Search)  
          • Free/discounted registration for the Summer Institute for Department Chairs  
          • Table, interview booth, and breakfast for department chairs at the annual meeting  
          • One year of AAA membership to MA, MS, and PhD graduates\(^10\) of member departments  
          • Opportunity for undergraduates to be reimbursed their annual conference fee for volunteering at the event  
          • Participation\(^11\) in the AnthroClub program  
          • Special discounts on AAA membership for those affiliated with member institutions  
          • Student recruitment materials  
          • Print newsletter (Anthropology News) subscription, and a newsletter for department chairs  
          • Free and discounted AAA publications |
| ASA     | • Academic Departments  
          • Research Organizations | Graduate Dept.: $300-$375  
          Undergraduate Dept.: $150-$250  
          Public/Private Research Unit: $150 | • Exclusive webinars for faculty & students, mostly focused on career development  
          • Newsletter for department chairs  
          • ASA Department Portal access, which includes archived webinars, directories, articles and other resources of interests to departments  
          • One year of free membership for first year graduate students  
          • Discount on ASA Guide to Graduate Departments listings  
          • Discount for Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology (TRAILS) subscription for non-members  
          • Discounts for annual department chair conferences and job bank postings  
          • Free print newsletter subscription and copy of the Guide to Graduate Departments of Sociology |
| AAG\(^12\) | Open to "corporations, firms, institutions, libraries, departments, and other scientific, education, and/or business associations." | $5,000 | • Discount on annual meeting booths, tote bag inserts, and registration fees for annual conferences  
          • Pre- and post- annual meeting attendance lists  
          • Four free mailing list rentals  
          • Free advertisement on the AAG website  
          • Free job postings  
          • Five free AAG memberships for employees, and discounts on other employee memberships  
          • Participation in presentations and special sessions at the annual meeting |
| ACM     | Academic departments | $49 for each tenured faculty | 49% discount on professional membership |

\(^9\) AAA accepts departments of anthropology, sociology, geography, criminal justice, culture, and social sciences.

\(^10\) This benefit is only available to those who complete the highest terminal degree offered by their department. In other words, an MA graduate from a department with a PhD program is not eligible.

\(^11\) This program includes support and recognition of undergraduate-led anthropology clubs. Participation in this program does not require institutional membership, but club dues are waived at member institutions.

\(^12\) The website notes that "custom membership packages are also available," and so both the dues and benefits shown here are flexible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LASA</th>
<th>SHOT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Academic Departments</td>
<td>• Universities &amp; colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Centers and institutes</td>
<td>• Museums</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Libraries</td>
<td>• NGOs &amp; Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Archives</td>
<td>• Libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Publishers</td>
<td>• Professional organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Foundations and other institutions</td>
<td>• Industry</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>member</th>
<th>The only mention of institutional members I can find is in the constitution:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic departments, centers, institutes: $350-$2,700</td>
<td>Institutional Membership shall be divided into two classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries &amp; Archives: $204-$2,100</td>
<td>Affiliate Members shall be institutions, universities, colleges, libraries, museums, and nonprofit or public foundations, which are actively engaged or interested in promoting the objectives of the Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishers: $204-$2,600</td>
<td>Associate Members shall be institutions such as professional organizations and commercial or industrial companies which contribute a substantially larger sum annually than do Affiliate Members for the furtherance of the Society’s work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations &amp; Other Institutions: $204-$2,000</td>
<td>Institutional Members shall have no voting privileges in the Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Designate one or more official representatives, with free individual memberships and pre-registration for the annual meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One or more free registrations for the annual meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Center Directors: membership in Center Directors Section for one or more representatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One or more free ads or articles in various LASA newsletters and journals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social media “friendship” and reposts by LASA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discounts on subsidizing LASA membership for graduate students, and discounted individual memberships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mailing list of all LASA members, and one or more emails to all LASA members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free and discounted jobs bank listing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discounts on booths and reception space during the annual meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Book awards submission and books lottery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to accepting institutional membership, the 4S council may be interested in joining other organizations as institutional members. The societies included in this table either do not seem to have a proper place for 4S, such as ASA and AAA, or may not be topically appropriate for 4S membership, such as LASA. This, however, does not preclude less official or ephemeral partnerships, and some of these societies may be open to discussing “custom” forms of affiliation or membership.

However, 4S is already a member of several societies. 4S has been a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) since 2008, for example. ICSU currently has 174 member organizations, which include academic societies, foundations, national academies, and associations (primarily, but not exclusively, focused on the natural sciences). The council describes their mission as strengthening “international science for the benefit of society” by, among other things, fostering international collaboration on research, working with the U.N. and others to inform policy, and promoting academic freedom and access to science on the international level. 4S has participated in ICSU by, among other things, responding to a

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13 I was unable to find additional information on the “books lottery,” and am unsure what it entails.

4S is also listed as a member of AAAS, which currently has other 257 “affiliates.” These include other social science societies like the AAG, American Ethnological Society and the Society for Applied Anthropology, as well as societies in the natural sciences, engineering, and medicine. While there do not appear to be membership dues or specific membership benefits, there are criteria for societies that wish to affiliate with AAAS, as well as a formal deliberative procedure to approve the relationship. There is otherwise little concrete information put out by AAAS about what affiliation entails, although some affiliates (not 4S) have what seem like outdated reports on the website (e.g., The American Physical Society). 4S is also a part of AAAS’s Consortium of Affiliates for International Programs, although this may be previous incarnation of the same program.

4S is also a member of the International Social Science Council, and perhaps other societies and organizations as well. As far as I can tell, there is no clear location on the 4S website where all of these affiliations are listed, and it is likely that relatively few members know about some or all of these affiliation. A good practice might be to list all of these affiliations in the “Society” section of the site to make these affiliations more transparent for members. 4S should also continue to look for opportunities to play a role in organizations and other efforts that can either create opportunities for members, raise the profile of STS as a discipline, and further the key goals of the society.

**Diversity**

As far as I could find, there is no publicly available information about diversity in 4S, and very little about diversity in STS more broadly. The council has recently discussed collecting demographic information in order to understand the composition of 4S’s membership, and how it is changing over time.\footnote{Society for Social Studies of Science. “4S Council Meeting—Fall 2017.” October 11, 2017. http://www.4sonline.org/minutes/3672. Accessed 6/27/2018.} Some of the key questions discussed focused on assessing diversity in an international context, where the categories used in the US or any other country may not be appropriate, and the desire not to overly reify identity categories. The council also discussed the need to be clear about why this information is being collected.

There are several reasons why collecting information about some or all of these issues, either through a survey or optional questions on membership application and renewal forms, could be important. First, understanding the diversity of experiences and attitudes of leadership, membership, and participation in the society and the discipline more broadly is an important, if insufficient, way to combat oppressive and alienating behaviors, policies, and cultures that might limit the field’s diversity. This AAA report\footnote{Hutchinson, Janis, and Thomas C Patterson. 2010. “FINAL REPORT 2010 COMMISSION ON RACE AND RACISM IN ANTHROPOLOGY (CRRA).” American Anthropological Association. http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-aaa/files/production/public/FileDownloads/pdfs/cmtes/commissions/upload/CRRA-final-report-19-Oct-2010-2.pdf. Accessed 6/28/2018.} from 2010, while focused on the context of anthropology departments in the US, can be instructive of the many challenges faced by marginalized communities in academic settings. 4S should not approach diversity as merely an exercise in counting and representation, in other words, but with a larger and stated purpose to challenge oppression, marginalization, and ethno- and androcentrism in the discipline and beyond. 4S needs to be able to identify communities of scholars, students, and other potential members that are not being represented in the membership or leadership in order to initiate whatever conversations,
initiatives, or reforms might be necessary to make the society more inclusive. Most societies approach the issue of diversity not only within their membership, but also within their discipline more broadly. Diversity within STS can lead the discipline to better address some of the most serious questions relevant to science, technology, policy, and culture, and enrich the intellectual breadth and depth of the field. Finally, understanding the membership of 4S may provide opportunities for the society to better serve its membership through adjusting member dues and benefits, creating new forms of public and member engagement, engaging in advocacy on behalf of or important to members, and programming (e.g., annual meeting themes and logistics, other events, the formation of sections or working groups, special publications, etc.).

In the minutes, the council explicitly discussed the following forms of diversity as important considerations for the society:

- Racial diversity
- Educational background
- Intellectual diversity
- Generational diversity
- Diversity of publics

Additional categories that the council may want to consider include the following categories:

- Diversity of gender and sexuality
- Diversity in terms of nationality (residence and origin)
- Inclusion of indigenous peoples
- Inclusion of internally (within a state) marginalized or oppressed peoples (e.g., caste groups, ethnic groups)
- Diversity of class background
- Inclusion of people with disabilities
- Occupation (including questions about contingent faculty)
- Religious diversity

4S may also want to consider the following issues in researching and acting on questions of inclusiveness and social justice:

- Is scholarship focusing on racism, androcentrism or patriarchy, class, colonialism, indigeneity, disability, sexuality, and other issues of particular concern to scholars from underrepresented or marginalized communities sufficiently valued?
- Are scholars, students, and others from outside the US and Europe able to participate equally in 4S? Is their scholarship undervalued in an international context?
- What forms of alienating, discriminatory, or disempowering behaviors, practices, and attitudes exist in 4S settings and the discipline as a whole?
- Are younger scholars, or those who have lack the security of tenure, able to speak freely about the state of the discipline or abusive behavior and practices by senior scholars?
- Does the society accommodate the particular challenges faced by adjunct faculty members, and support their efforts to improve their working conditions?
- What kinds of educational resources could be offered to ensure that STS curricula better represent the international nature of the field, includes diverse thinkers, and speaks to the interests and concerns of marginalized peoples?

17 Absent institutional membership for STS departments, collecting information about the STS as a discipline could be significantly more difficult for 4S than similar activities are for societies like AAA, ASA, and AGA. There is relatively less relevant information already collected because STS majors are often not listed separately in relevant databases (e.g., the U.S. National Science Foundation’s Survey of Earned Doctorates), and because 4S has an international membership.
Are their communities that have been underrepresented in 4S leadership positions, or who face particular barriers to participation in 4S?

In practice, it could be difficult to fully assess all of these questions in a single survey, particularly as the length of the such a comprehensive survey could mean very low response rates. However, some questions could be included in membership signup forms as optional questions (or for questions like occupation, country of residence, required questions), and future surveys could always include “tabled” topics. Some issues, like the diversity of publics with which 4S and STS more broadly interact, may well be better assessed by other means, such identifying writing in non-academic genres that STS scholars publish or tracking citations and mentions of STS scholars and concepts in the literature of other disciplines and non-academic sources. Special reports on particular issues relevant to the diversity of the fields could also lessen the pressure on one survey instrument to address all of these issues, while better addressing the underlying concerns for collecting the information. Finally, in some cases it might be more fruitful to create spaces, programming, and resources that foster certain kinds of diversity and affirmatively include potentially marginalized communities. Some examples of this affirmative approach could include organizing a fellowship or grant program for underrepresented communities or those working on relevant topical areas (e.g., diversity in STEM, genomic reconfigurations of “race,” indigenous STS), fostering the creation of a working group or section for scholars of color or scholars from the global south, and launching public education projects on relevant issues.

One strategy may be to focus less on counting pre-existing categories, and focus more on the key questions that diversity, inclusion, and anti-oppression efforts raise as a longer term effort. In this case, 4S would ask about perceived biases they have experienced in their participation in the society or STS more broadly, whether respondents believe their contributions are valued, their access to leadership positions, the degree to which the discipline takes on issues important to their communities, etc. This could be paired with some limited demographic questions of particular interest, as well as short answer questions to better gauge what particular identity categories are most relevant in the context of 4S. The results would guide further inquiry into the subject. This more “grounded” and iterative approach may be the best suited to address issues of diversity, discrimination, and alienation within the discipline, although it may require a more careful and longer-term effort. Finally it limits the imposition of reified identity categories and is opens a process of learning what categories matter most in the context of an international scholarly society.

4S may also benefit from sparking open discussions among the membership about inclusiveness, diversity, and related issues. ASA, for example, invited members to a lively discussion on social media using the hashtag #inclusiveasa in 2016. Such a discussion may be helpful in figuring out what issues facing underrepresented members need further study or action, and what kinds of identity categories should be centered in surveys and other efforts. Of course, because 4S is an international society some thought should be taken in choosing the platform or platforms used for these discussions. Twitter and Facebook, for example, are censored in some countries where 4S members reside. While there may well be discomfort in discussing these issues in a public forum rather than in surveys filled out individually and in private, an open forum can better engage members, demonstrates a greater commitment to tackle barriers to inclusion, is more open-ended (e.g., members are able to raise and discuss unanticipated issues), and fosters member engagement and connection.
As a large international society, ACM’s materials may be of particular interest. ACM’s SGB Task Force on Full Inclusion Recommendations, for example, focuses on the following key areas: “Accessibility and Disability; Age Equality; Citizen Science, Hobbyists, and Makers; Cultural Equality and Race; Economic Disadvantage; Gender Equality; and, Unconventional Educational Routes.” Their recommendations include simple but important advice when working in international contexts, like remembering not to refer to seasons in connection to the timing of major conferences, to more complicated efforts, like establishing mentorship programs to help non-English speakers prepare papers for publications (as ACM’s journals are published in English). Because the authors believe that “computer Science was built on citizen science (and engineering),” they also seek to include non-professionals in the society and its events, and encouraged ACM Special Interest Groups to help its members participate in makerspace events and publish in venues read by these communities.

One area where 4S could improve in terms of barriers to participation from scholars from certain regions is to create more opportunities for recognizing STS scholarship in languages other than English. Currently, all of 4S’s awards for written work explicitly require that they be published in or translated into English. While it may be logistically difficult if not impossible for the prize committees to consider work published in all languages, additional prizes for STS work in at least one or two of the other languages in which most STS work is published would better reflect the international character of the organization.

There may be an opportunity for 4S to apply for funding for efforts to better understand and increase the diversity of STS. The NSF, for example awarded a $237,000 supplement to ASU’s Center for Nanotechnology in Society for a program that aims to increase diversity in STS and science policy. It has also funded several diversity-related initiatives in geography.

To assist the council in this area, the following table contains links to relevant reports and resources conducted by the societies and organizations being compared in this report. I have included only those reports that are based on surveys, and are focused on the society or situation of its discipline. The following lists are not exhaustive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Reports &amp; Other Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| AAA     | ● Exploring the Relationships of Anthropological Practitioners to Academic Departments (2015)  
          ● Report to the AAA Executive Board Task Force on Race and Racism Survey of the Membership (2014)  
          ● As Anthropology Doctorates Increase in Number and Diversity, So Do Financial and Social Support Needs for Graduates (2014)  
          ● Work Climate, Gender, and the Status of Practicing Anthropologists (2009)  
          ● We’ve come a long way, maybe: Academic climate report (2008)  
          ● Race, Gender, and Mentoring in Anthropology Departments (2004)  
          ● Report of the Committee on Minorities and Anthropology (1973) |
| ACM     | ● ACM SGB Task Force on Full Inclusion Recommendations (2014) |
| AAAS    | ● SEA Change program (2018) |

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| AAG | ● **Handbook on Law and Diversity: Navigating a Complex Landscape to Foster Greater Faculty and Student Diversity in Higher Education** (2010)  
● **Barriers for Women Scientists Survey Report** (2010)  
● **Disciplinary Data Dashboard**  
  ○ **Membership Data Report** (2016)  
● **Geographies of Broadening Participation**  
● **Addressing Locally-tailored Information Infrastructure & Geoscience Needs for Enhancing Diversity**  
● **Diversity Ambassadors**  
● **32 Ideas to Enhance Diversity in your Geography Department or Program**  
● The **AAG bylaws** includes an affirmative action amendment (Section 8) |
| ASA | ● **Diversity in the Elected Leadership of the ASA** (2016)  
● **#inclusiveasa twitter discussion** (2016)  
● **ASA Membership Characteristics**  
● **Trends in Sociology Degrees** (by race, ethnicity, and gender)  
● **Trends in Graduate Enrollment in Sociology**  
● **Changes in Gender Characteristics of the Sociology Discipline and Profession**  
● **Changes in Racial and Ethnic Characteristics of the Sociology Discipline and Profession**  
● **Minority Fellowship Program**  
● ASA has “status committees” on LGBTQ people, women, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities in sociology  
● ASA has several task forces, including one on the situation of contingent faculty |
● **Annual Report (“Membership Report” and “Latin American Research Review” may be helpful in terms forms of reporting by discipline and, to a lesser extent, region)** (2014/2015)  
● **The Otros Saberes Initiative: A Shout-Out for the “Second Wind”** (2014)  
● **Otros Saberes19 Section** |
● **International Scholars Program**  
● **SHOT Asia Network**  
● Women in Technological History (WITH) (no link available, but a description can be found here) |
| Other | ● **ASU leads initiative to increase diversity in fields where science, society intersect** (2014) |

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19 In English, this means “Other Knowledges.”
Finances

Using a combination of annual reports and 990s, I have compiled a fair amount of information about the revenues of most of the organizations that the council was interested in learning about. However, each organization used different formats and definitions, as there were differences in when the latest available financial information I was able to locate was published. In some cases, the available information contained little detail, and in many cases similar expenses or sources of revenue may have been included in different categories. The table below both displays the year that the data presented in this section represents and links to the sources used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACM</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAG</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASA</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASA</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHOT</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCS</td>
<td>2017 (assets from: 2017 990)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because I wanted to make the information as comparable as possible, I arranged it into a number of different categories, which required some interpretation of the categories used by various organizations (often with little explanatory detail). For example, revenue from the rental of office space is here categorized (when possible given the available information) as investment income, although some organizations might lump that source of funding with other sources of revenue. The information in this section should not, therefore, be understood as perfectly comparable, and should be taken with a grain of salt. Despite these severe limitations, I hope the following information does allow for some general insights about how the societies and other organizations raise and spend their money.
Events (Including Annual Meetings) - Expenses vs. Revenue

Revenues (Proportional Breakdown)
4S, largely because of its small size, has relatively little in terms of revenue or assets, although it raises more revenue per member than either SHOT or LASA. 4S can be said to do a lot with relatively little. Compared to other societies, 4S receives a much larger portion of its revenues from the annual meeting. In part, this reflects the relatively low dues/high conference registration fees model that the society has adopted. At least in 2016, however, the amount spent on the annual meeting and other events was only slightly lower than the amount of revenue that events generated. This is also the case for most other scholarly societies, although if the data I have is accurate AAG makes a significant amount of net revenue through events and is an outlier.\footnote{SHOT did not report revenue from events separately, and so a comparison could not be made.}
As far as I could tell from the information available, 4S receives revenue from fewer sources compared to the other societies examined here. In part, a smaller membership and fewer resources means that opportunities for diversification may be limited. However, one area where 4S may be able to find more revenue is to apply for grants to undertake special projects, and find ways to successfully solicit donations. To the extent that accurate comparisons can be made with this data, 4S spends far less on overhead and development than the other societies examined here, including SHOT which is roughly similar in membership size. While this is mostly positive, it may make sense to invest in development and recruitment in order to improve fundraising efforts, help the society apply for grant funding, increase the society's membership, and engage in other efforts that are important to members.

Several of the organizations examined, including AAA and ASA, sell “merchandise” in order to raise what are presumably relatively small amounts of money. This merchandise includes things like t-shirts, branded water bottles and notebooks, “participant observer” bibs, sociology word magnets, special publications, reference publications, brochures about majoring in the discipline, educational DVDs, and posters. It should be noted, of course, that the memberships of AAA, ASA, and other organizations selling merchandise are substantially larger than that of 4S. Some of these societies, like AAA, offer institutional memberships to departments, museums, and other relevant institutions, which might be more interested in purchasing things like educational DVDs, posters, and special publications. Still, selling some kind of merchandise might be a small but helpful increase in revenues, perhaps made more significant if tied to a particular program (like travel grants for low-income annual meeting attendees or efforts to increase diversity in STS).

Finally, the council may want to consider the issue of transparency when it comes to the society's budget. Many societies and NGO publish annual reports with more or less detailed financial information, as well as information about new initiatives, analysis about the effectiveness of existing programs, descriptions of the accomplishments of the society and its members, and updated information about the size and composition of the membership. These annual reports not only improve transparency, but can also be useful when applying for grants or seeking donations. In many cases, the term “annual” is a misnomer, as there is some irregularities in the frequency that some organizations publish these reports. Given 4S's relatively limited resources, it may make sense to publish these kinds of reports every two years or more, and it could take the form of a section of the website rather than a glossy print publications.
Engagement

Members
Rather than attempt to catalogue all forms of member engagement undertaken by the organizations being examined in this report, I will focus on those that might be of interest to 4S now or in the future. Forms of engagement primarily targeting undergraduates or non-academic publics will be discussed in separate sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>● AAA's <a href="#">40 sections</a> are in many cases like scholarly societies themselves, and collect dues. They are based on subfield, identity, and topical/regional interest. There are also ten “interest groups” that do not collect dues, but engage in similar activities. Sections engage in activities and programs including: ○ Listservs ○ Newsletters ○ Journals ○ Conferences ○ Awards ○ Scholarships/Fellowships ○ Sponsored panels at annual meetings ○ Book series and other publications ○ Teaching and other resources ○ <a href="#">Committees and Task Forces</a> - While most focus on questions of governance, planning, and organizing specific programs (e.g., annual meetings &amp; awards), others have focused on topics like: ○ Disciplinary and institutional reform (e.g., the <a href="#">Ad Hoc Commission on Race and Racism within Anthropology and the AAA</a>) ○ Fostering international discussion and cooperation within the discipline (e.g., <a href="#">Committee on World Anthropologies</a>) ○ Encouraging interdisciplinary research and public engagement on key political and socioecological issues (e.g., <a href="#">Global Climate Change Task Force</a>) ○ Increasing the capacity of AAA for engaging in public policy debates and advocacy (e.g., <a href="#">Committee on Public Policy</a>) ○ <a href="#">Anthropology Day</a> - An annual “holiday” where members are encouraged to plan and participate in events, join online discussions (e.g., #whyweanth), and engage in public anthropology education. ○ <a href="#">Photo Contests</a> - Members are encouraged to submit original photographs connected to their research. Winning photos are featured on the society's web page and social media accounts, as well as published in an annual calendar distributed at the annual meeting. ○ AAA’s social media presence, not including efforts specific to sections, includes a <a href="#">Facebook page</a>, a <a href="#">Twitter account</a>, a <a href="#">blog</a>, a <a href="#">LinkedIn page</a>, a <a href="#">Google+ page</a>, and a <a href="#">Instagram account</a>, and a <a href="#">YouTube account</a>. ○ <a href="#">Podcasts</a> - Some are produced by AAA, while some are produced by AAA sections (e.g., <a href="#">Society for Cultural Anthropology</a>). AAA also works with independent podcasters, including those produced by <a href="#">individual anthropologists</a> and those produced by <a href="#">students</a> or <a href="#">others</a> in a department or institute. ○ <a href="#">Webinars</a> - AAA conducts occasional webinars on topical and career development issues, as well as issues like diversity in anthropology. Many, particularly the most recent, also take on contemporary political challenges, like “Im/migration in the Trump Era.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACM</td>
<td>● ACM’s <a href="#">37 Special Interest Groups</a> (SIG’s) are organized around topical interests, including “Computers and Society,” and collect dues. Like AAA’s sections, they operate like smaller societies. They engage in many of the same kinds of activities as AAA sections, but several host “competitions” of various kinds (e.g., the <a href="#">Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery competition</a>) ○ <a href="#">Chapters</a> - ACM has 180 professional chapters and 680 student chapters around the world. Chapters can be connected to particular SIGs or the <a href="#">Committee on Women in Computing</a>, or they can be based</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### AAG

- Interactive Discussion Forums - AAG hosts members-only discussion forums. As I am not an AAG member, I don’t have the access required for an adequate description.
- AAG has **nine regional “divisions,”** each of which organize an annual meeting (in addition to the national AAG meeting).
- AAG has **60 specialty/affinity groups.** These groups are organized based on region, interest, occupation, industry, and identity. They collect dues, organize panels, and host discussions in the forums, among other things. While in some ways similar to AAA’s sections or ACM’s SIGs, they seem much more informal and less like the societies within a society that exist in some of the other organizations being examined here.
- **How To Videos** - AAG produced a few tutorial videos to help members navigate the website and complete basic tasks related to the discussion forums.
- AAG has a presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram.

### ASA

- ASA has **52 sections** that are organized topically, and engage in activities similar to AAA’s sections.
- Opportunities in Retirement Network - While most societies have special rates for retired members, ASA has a network that includes a listserv, special events at annual meetings, a newsletter, a society email address.
- ASA **conducts webinars** on various topical and career development issues for departmental members.
- Speak4Sociology - This blog was developed in order to provide a place for members to speak about issues relevant to ASA, sociology in general, and political or social issues relevant to sociology. It has been over a year since the last post.
- ASA has **guidelines** about how members can petition the society, and bring issues to a referendum of its members
- ASA has a presence on Facebook and Twitter, or at least these are the only accounts listed prominently on their website.

### LASA

- LASA has **38 sections** that are organized by regional or topical interest, and position (e.g., Center Directors). Perhaps the most unique is the Section on Scholarly Communication and Research, which describes itself as “committed to exchanging information and collaborating with colleagues from around the world to explore issues that affect the work of LASA members, keeping abreast of and sharing information about trends in publishing, emerging technologies for scholarly communication, and new sources of information.” Sections collect dues, and engage in many of the same activities as AAA sections.
- Special projects - LASA has received two grants from major foundations to fund special projects by members. The Mellon-LASA Seminars aims to foster collaboration between researchers of other regions with Latin American Studies scholars, explore unconventional geographical lenses for Latin American Studies scholarship, and incorporate new theoretical and methodological perspectives into the field. Members can apply for support from the program. The Ford-LASA Special Projects, on the other hand, funds projects by members to foster more transregional collaboration in Latin American studies, which could perhaps serve as a model for similar efforts in STS.
- LASA has a presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

### SHOT

- SHOT has 13 creatively named **special interest groups** (SIG), mostly organized around topical interest, although there is one SIG that merges regional interest and identity, and another that focuses on early career scholars. There is not much information available to non members, and it seems most do not have websites. However, they roughly carry out the same kinds of activities as sections in AAA and other societies, although some (perhaps all) do not charge dues. As SHOT is the most similar society to 4S in terms of size, budget, and geographical scope, SHOT’s SIGs may be the most relevant model if 4S...
is considering the creation of sections.

- **International Scholars Program** - SHOT has a committee on “internationalization,” and nominates “international” (increasingly meaning outside of the US & Western Europe) scholars to work towards greater recognition of international scholarship within the society, increased participation of scholars from underrepresented regions, and otherwise support “international” scholars within the society.

- SHOT has a presence on Twitter.

While there is some variation, many societies have a presence on LinkedIn, Instagram, Google+ and YouTube, while 4S does not. Expanding 4S’s social media presence could help foster more member (and public) engagement, as well as provide a valuable resource and archive of lectures and other events in the case platforms more focused on audio-visual media.

What sets 4S apart from all of the societies examined was a lack of sections. While the society does have a kind of section for student members, it does not have smaller groups organized around identity or interests. While it is unlikely that 4S could develop the kind of extensive section infrastructures of societies like AAA because of its small size, these kinds of networks or organizations could help better engage members by connecting them with others with whom they share an affinity. Even something as simple as a listserv and some special presence at the annual meeting could help some members find more of a “home” within the society. If there is sufficient interest, ASA’s unique retirement network could also serve as a useful model for keeping retired members engaged, and providing some valuable services to them.

SHOT’s efforts at internationalization may also be a particularly helpful model for 4S as it seeks to foster greater international and transnational cooperation, as well as increase diversity. However, the language (“international scholar”) should probably not be adopted--aren’t we all “international”?

One way to boost member engagement could be to create opportunities for “orientation” shortly after people sign-up. Short videos, a special brochure, or perhaps even member orientation conference calls or webinars could foster better communication with new members and help them better navigate the website, access member benefits, get questions answered, and figure out how to participate. 6S hosts something roughly along these lines twice a year. Webinars and conference calls could also be helpful ways to provide career services, boost recognition of new work in STS (particularly by scholars from underrepresented regions), and foster discussion on important issues in the discipline or beyond. Members could be invited to propose webinars and conference calls, and others could be organized by existing or new committees.

At the polytechnic schools that are most likely to have STS departments, introductory science, technology, and society courses are often the only or one of very few social science / humanities courses that students are likely to take. This is a burden and an opportunity for the discipline, and I believe members could be engaged in this important discussions about the discipline by creating spaces (perhaps through webinars, conference calls, social media, or special features in Backchannel or one of 4S’s journals) for thinking about the degree to whether such classes should focus on: academic research within the discipline; more general critical thinking related to careers in science, engineering, and relevant policy; or focusing more on topics of vital importance taught by social science and related disciplines more generally, like race/racism or gender and sexuality. As a general strategy, inviting broad discussion on these kinds of issues of clear importance to the discipline could help to engage and retain members, as well as provide a valuable service for the STS community more broadly.
As is clear from both a few of the examples listed in this section, as well as the section on diversity, society’s often engage in research, advocacy, and education related to the special challenges faced by its membership, often through the creation of special task forces and committees. If 4S were to engage in more of this kind of activity, there are undoubtedly important questions that would be worth the effort. For example, many recent STS PhD graduates--and perhaps graduates of interdisciplinary social science programs more generally--complain of facing special difficulties in the academic job market. While departments in “traditional” disciplines usually value work in STS as a subfield, some are hesitant to hire those with interdisciplinary degrees. Even some interdisciplinary departments are often said to prefer candidates with a degree in a “traditional” discipline. Engaging members to volunteer to research this question (or other challenges for the STS community), issue a report, and perhaps present the 4S council or community with recommendations for ways to address the concern could be a valuable service to members, and an important form of involvement.

Finally, several societies help to sponsor and provide resources and recognition of independent media efforts by STS departments, students, and scholars, or produce podcasts and other media. Seeking out these kinds of opportunity could be a way to support and raise awareness of these kinds of efforts in the discipline.

**Undergraduates**

6S provides valuable information, communication, and opportunities to participate for graduate students in STS. However, there are few programs and opportunities inviting the participation of undergraduate members. I do not have information for the current numbers of undergraduate student members, and this would be an important piece of information to collect before undergraduate specific programs are considered. However, creating spaces to recognize excellent work by undergraduates, helping to prepare them for graduate school in STS or other relevant career trajectories, and providing opportunities to volunteer and contribute will likely be valuable both for undergraduate members and the society as a whole. Efforts to engage undergraduates should also take into account that this may be an important site of intervention for efforts to diversify the discipline and the society.

Some kinds of programing that may help with undergraduate member engagement include the creation of an undergraduate student journal or other opportunities for undergraduates to publish excellent school papers and book reviews, inviting undergraduates to help write and edit content for Backchannels, an undergraduate student paper (or thesis) prize, and perhaps an opportunity for undergraduates to present or otherwise participate at the annual conference could make 4S a more productive place for undergraduate members.

Undergraduates may also be engaged to help create resources aimed at undergrads and other interested publics on STS concepts or theorists. Short and sometimes silly videos like those produced by the School of Life (e.g., Theodor Adorno), Sociology Live! (e.g., Alienation), and Philosophy Tube (e.g., the State of Exception) can sometimes be useful for students and others as a supplement or refresher, and help to make STS a little more accessible outside of the classroom.

Focusing on undergraduate students may also be a way that 4S could better work with and support STS departments. Many societies provide resources to departments on recruiting students to the major, applying to graduate school, and increasing diversity. Some also help create educational resources, including webinars and speakers bureaus, that may help departments engage with their actual or potential undergraduate students.
Public
Most of the societies being examined here engage in some forms of public education and outreach. For most societies, this takes the form of statements and resolutions on issues related to their disciplines or that will affect their members, and efforts to make members available to media and others to serve as experts. Some publish magazines aimed at broader publics, write amicus briefs, undertake large public education projects, and help connect members with organizations in need of their expertise. In the table below, I have highlighted some of the ways scholarly societies being examined here engage in public education and advocacy, as well as the procedures and policies connected to making public statements. The list is not meant to be exhaustive.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
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| AAA          | ● AAA has engaged in two major public education efforts. The first--**RACE - Are We so Different?**--included a website, educational materials, and a traveling exhibit about race from biological, cultural, historical, and linguistic perspectives. The more recent is **World on the Move: 100,000 Years of Human Migration**. This effort has involved the creation of a website, organized events of various kinds, and has gathered resources for scholars and educators. The project also aims to create a traveling exhibit, educational materials, and interactive media, among other things, in order to reach a broad and diverse publics. Both projects received outside funding and support, and involve partnerships with foundations and other entities.  
● **Guidelines for Consideration of Proposed Public Statements, to include Motions from the Annual Business Meeting** - These simple guidelines adopted by the society could be helpful to think about when 4S should issues statements, and what they should look like. According to the **bylaws**, both members and the executive board can initiate a referendum on statements, resolutions, and other AAA business “at any time upon initiation of the Executive Board or a signed petition of fifty (50) Members in good standing.” In recent years, AAA members **voted** on a member-initiated motion to join an **academic boycott of Israel**. While at times acrimonious, it sparked important discussions about the occupation and the role of anthropology (particularly **archeology**) in the issue, among other things. While the motion was ultimately voted down by the membership, it did result in AAA actions such as a statement of censure and letters to US and Israeli state agencies, as well as the creation of programs for Palestinian scholars and higher education institutions (the full list of actions can be found [here](#)). Resolutions may also be passed by the the section assembly, which is comprised of the representatives of each AAA section.  
● AAA has joined **boycotts of three US states**--Illinois, Arizona, and Georgia--over discriminatory or damaging policies and practices. In practice, this meant refraining from holding events, including annual and section meetings, in these locations. They have also boycotted one company (Coca-Cola) because of labor and human rights abuses, and **issued statements** about issues like immigration, torture, limitations on social science research, the kidnapping and murder of Ayotzinapa Teacher Training School students, and contingent academic labor. AAA has also filed amicus briefs (e.g., **DOMA**). |
| ACM          | ● **Public Policy Council** -- ACM has a public policy councils for the **US** and one for **Europe**, as well as two other on topical concerns. Regional councils allow for more targeted and informed participation in public policy debates, while keeping with the international character of the organization. The US council responds to requests for information from policymakers, presenting findings at policy meetings, publishing public policy statements and reports, organize events on- and offline for congressional staff and others, and helping to keep members informed of new developments (e.g., through its [blog](#)). The US council has a governing council, with both elected representatives and a chair that is appointed by the ACM president, as well as an Executive Committee. Public policy decisions are undertaken through the following procedures established in the **bylaws**:  
    a) the Council holds an in-person meeting with at least one week notice, with a simple majority of
voting members constituting a quorum. A simple majority vote of those present is required for a decision; or
b) an on-line or phone vote of the full Council is taken, with a simple majority of all voting members required for a decision; or
c) in person, by phone, or on-line, a 2/3 majority of the voting members of the EC required for a decision.

The USACM Chair will decide if a vote will be asked of the EC or the full Council, except that the EC must vote on any issue that requires a decision in less than 72 hours from the time voting is initiated.

- ACM also participates in nine policy-related coalitions on issues like STEM education, privacy, and research funding.
- **ACM Distinguished Speakers** - ACM members can apply to volunteer for the program, or nominate others. Event organizers can request particular lectures by particular speakers, and ACM will cover non-local travel costs required. Presumably, most of the requests come from ACM chapters, but non-affiliated organizers can also request speakers through the program.

### AAG

- AAG passed a number of resolutions and policy statements, as well as joined letters to policy makers, on issues like climate change, nuclear war, academic freedom, the travel (i.e., Muslim) ban, taxing graduate student waivers, and other issues. According to the bylaws, the executive committee can prepare policy statements for the council to consider, and statements and other motions can be initiated by a petition of 50 or more members, which may lead to some combination of action by the council, a vote by the attendees of a business meeting, or a referendum.
- **Ask a Geographer** - AAG members, including graduate students, can volunteer to serve as an expert for journalists, state agencies, educators, and others. Unlike the somewhat similar ASA program (below), these volunteers are contacted directly, and their contact information is available on the AAG site. However, AAG staff are available to handle media requests.

### ASA

- **Sociology Action Network** (SAN) - In 2019 ASA will be launching SAN, which will facilitate sociologists volunteering for nonpartisan organizations on discrete projects where sociological expertise is relevant. It will be open to all ASA members with a sociology PhD, and part of the eligibility screening for organizations will consider whether it has the resources to hire a consultant to do the work required.
- **ASA Communication Tools** - ASA maintains a page with advice for sociologists who are communicating to broader audiences, and highlights sociologists who contribute to public discourse through, for example, being interviewed as part of a newspaper story. This includes social media toolkits.
- **Contexts** - ASA publishes a quarterly magazine that aims to be the “public face of sociology.” Articles are written in an accessible way, and cover not only new work in sociology but also respond to current events.
- ASA frequently produces statements and in some cases encourages members to participate in certain kinds of action (like the March for Science) or signs onto letters to policy makers with other organizations (e.g., adding a question about citizenship to the US census). Resolutions can be brought by members by petitioning the council, or initiated and voted on by the council.
- ASA occasionally issues amicus briefs in support of key issues before the US courts.
- **ASA Experts Database** - ASA members can sign up as an expert to speak with journalists on relevant issues. Media requests are filtered through ASA’s Public Affairs and Public Information Department.

### LASA

- LASA has issues statements on issues like ending Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Central Americans, academic freedom and human rights in Venezuela, taxing graduate student waivers in the US, and attacks on Brazilian Universities. According to the bylaws, members can initiate resolutions by petition that are amended at business meetings and sent to an electronic vote by all members. The procedures are fairly detailed and well-thought out (Article VI, 7-8). The Executive Council can also, I believe, pass resolutions.

The STS community has important interventions to make in many public controversies and policy issues,
and a unique position from which to make these interventions. While there are risks to public engagement and advocacy for a scholarly society, it is arguably the responsibility of such organizations to help make sure scholarship is helping to inform wider discourses about relevant issues. It is also an important service for members that will make engagement with 4S more relevant for both scholars and non-academic members.

One issue that complicates public involvement for 4S relative to societies like ASA is its international scope. Focusing on primarily issues arising in the US or the EU would be inappropriate in such a context, but 4S may not have the resources or, in some cases, the expertise to intervene in issues arising in every region of the world. The approach taken by ACM may be helpful. ACM, for example, has separate policy councils for the US and Europe, as well as for some topical issues. While this model may not translate directly to 4S, inviting members to participate in special task forces or committees with topical or regional interests that could recommend statements and other actions to the council or membership might be one way to foster more public engagement.

Of course, official statements by the society are not the only way to engage in issues of importance. In many if not most cases fostering independent discussion, debate, comment, and action by members might be more helpful or appropriate. In other cases, additional actions might be warranted. AAA’s actions on the occupation of Palestine also point to the ways that societies can go beyond statements by, for example, directing targeted resources to marginalized and besieged scholars and communities. In rare cases, 4S may also want to consider creating task forces to work on amicus briefs in relation to legal cases in the US and beyond or calling on members to take some kind of action as individuals (e.g., signing onto a letter, like this one opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline).

In terms of policies for member-initiated resolutions, LASA’s seem to be the most developed. Most of the societies examined here, including LASA, make some provision for plebiscites on statements, resolutions, and other actions. 4S does not have a mechanism for members to vote directly in these cases, although members can propose resolutions, although it does have process for seeking input and advice from members and experts.

Many societies invite media (and other) requests by making members available to serve as experts. 4S does not seem to have such a program. While the member directory could be of some help to journalists, non-members may well believe that do not have access to it since it is housed in the “Members Portal.” It is also not quite clear how members could volunteer for acting in this capacity. Because STS is relatively less known than fields like anthropology and sociology, conducting proactive media outreach if 4S were to launch such an effort could be helpful. For example, rather than waiting for media requests, 4S could send out media advisories to journalists with biographies of and perhaps even short statements by scholars willing to be interviewed. It should also be recognized that many scholars need some training to do this kind of public work effectively. ASA provides excellent resources on its website to help members communicate to different audiences, and related topics would make for excellent webinars for interested members.

Something I have not seen other societies do is offer prizes and awards recognizing the work of non-scholars doing valuable work related to their disciplines. Offering an annual award for outstanding science and technology journalism or activism related to democratizing science and technology, for example, might be one small way to reach beyond academic audiences and recognize excellent work relevant to STS. In some cases, such awards may generate positive press both for 4S and the award winner, and help introduce 4S (or even STS) to new publics.
Archiving Organizational History

In the table below I indicate the ways that some of the societies examined in this report are archiving their records, sharing their histories on their websites, and engaging in other efforts to preserve their histories, such as recording oral history interviews. For some societies, like SHOT, I was unable to find any information about how records were archived, and little to no information about the society’s history was explained online. Most of the societies below came to an agreement with another institution—a university, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History—to archive records. ACM, however, created a committee to preserve and interpret its history, maintain a digital archive, and work on issues related to the history of computing more broadly. Many societies also make more recent information, including tax filings, financial audits, and minutes, available online.

The AAA in particular has sought over the years to ensure that field notes, diaries, and other documents related to anthropology, rather than only association records, are archived and eventually made publicly available (with restrictions to protect the anonymity of informants). 4S might also consider how to solicit donations of these materials for existing or new archival collections. If the society were to find a way to create a network for retired members, based on the ASA model, this could be a particularly helpful group to work with for documenting the society and discipline’s history.

Going forward, it might be helpful to look at ACM’s guidelines and “digital archive” to ensure that contemporary records are being stored properly. 4S might also plan to record key sessions at future annual meetings and make the recordings available online, and perhaps track down any existing recordings of previous annual meetings as well. Efforts have already been made to interview previous 4S presidents, and perhaps a call to members to collect oral histories of other important to the discipline would be a good way to expand the program. Finally, 4S should consider how to deal records such as correspondence by 4S officers and editors. Society’s like AAA do document these records, and they are likely to be some of the most interesting for future scholars. However, they do raise concerns about privacy. The AAA dealt with this issue in the following way:

By definition all records created by elected and appointed offices, or committee members of AAA, while acting in an official capacity were records of the Association. No records less than five years old were to be deposited, and no records less than ten years old were open for scholarly use, except by Association officers, or when otherwise stated. All records would be open to use after 50 years from date of creation.

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Archives and History</th>
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| AAA          | ● Relatively recent AAA annual reports and tax filings are available [on the website](#), as are reports and member surveys, and [reports by sections and committees](#).  
● A brief history of the society is available [on the website](#).  
● The Smithsonian’s [National Anthropological Archives](#) (NAA) maintains AAA records, as well as field notes, photographs, and other archival materials by anthropologists and other anthropological societies.  
● A history of efforts to archive AAA records, as well as anthropological materials more generally, can be found [here](#). |
| ACM          | ● A [brief history](#) of the society is available on the website, which includes a bibliography of relevant |
texts.

- **Annual reports** from the society and many of its subdivisions are archived on its website (2006-2016)
- ACM hosts a **list of past presidents** on the website, with no biographical information.
- **The ACM History Committee** is charged with fostering the “collection, preservation, and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing.” This presentation about the committee is helpful, as is this report that includes some of the history of preservation efforts. Its activities include:
  - A blog
  - A fellowship program
  - Conducting interviews with ACM officials and participants, and encouraging ACM sections (SIGs) to conduct oral history interviews (e.g., SIGMICRO Oral History)
  - Digitizing a computer oral history collection at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History
  - Creating “Guidelines for Data Retention of ACM History Committees Records”
  - Maintaining a “digital archive,” which is more like a place to warehouse material until it can be organized by an archivist

| AAG          | The **AAG Archives** will eventually be housed at the **Geography and Map Division** of the Library of Congress.  
|             | The **Geographers on Film Collection** includes hundreds of interviews with geographers conducted in the 1970’s-1980’s. The Library of Congress has made some available online, and others can accessed in person.  
|             | AAG also has an **honorary historian** (elsewhere called the AAG archivist). This AAG newsletter article provides more context about his work.  
|             | Council Meeting Minutes (2003-present) are available on the AAG website. |

| ASA          | An overview of ASA archival efforts is available here. ASA records are being consolidated at the **ASA Archives** at Pennsylvania State University. A complete inventory of records will eventually be available on the ASA website.  
|             | A video archive documenting some speeches, award ceremonies, and other parts of annual meetings (2002-2017) is available on the ASA website.  
|             | Programs from many past annual meetings are available on the ASA website.  
|             | Two institutional histories were written that cover the period between 1905-2004.  
|             | Lists of past officers are available on the website.  
|             | Recent annual reports (2010-2015) are available on the website.  
|             | Recent ASA Council Minutes, as well as information about where to find older minutes, is available on the website.  
|             | Financial audits from 2002-present are available on the website. |