

# Early Career Researchers at Work: A Sociologist's Perspective



**ANTWAN JONES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

# Outline



- Research Background
- Perspectives on Research
  - Research Access
  - Research Collaboration
  - Research Dissemination
- Thoughts on Peer Review Process
- Innovative Models for Publisher-Researcher Collaboration

# Research Background



- **Credentials**
  - BA, Sociology: Duke University
  - MA, Sociology: Bowling Green State University
  - PhD, Sociology: Bowling Green State University
- **Research Foci**
  - Population Health
    - ✦ Morbidities; Health Behaviors
  - Urban Sociology
    - ✦ Neighborhood Context; Metropolitan Areas

# Research Background



- Population Health (selected citations)

- Jones, A. 2012. "Disability, health and generation status: How Hispanics in the US fare in late life." *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* 14(3): 467-474.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10903-011-9500-7>

- Jones, A. & Goza, F. 2008. "Rural, urban and suburban differences in coronary heart disease among Blacks and Whites in the US." *The Journal of Biosocial Science* 40(6): 895-909.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0021932008002769>

- Urban Sociology (selected citations)

- Jones, A. 2013. "Segregation and cardiovascular illness: The role of individual and metropolitan socioeconomic status." *Health and Place* 22(1): 56-67.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2013.02.009>

- Jones, A. 2011. "Income, homeownership and residential assorting among Latinos in the US ." *Advances in Applied Sociology* 1(1): 1-12. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/aasoci.2011.11001>

# Perspectives on Research



- Research Access
  - Google Scholar, GWU libraries webpage, Sociological Abstracts
  - GWU library under budget constraints
    - ✦ Student researchers have different access
      - Students suggest literature searches are difficult
    - ✦ Restrictions of journals and strategies of compensation
      - Open Access
      - Targeted collaborations

# Perspectives on Research



- Research Collaboration
  - Worked primarily with US collaborators
    - ✦ Even in international research
    - ✦ Issue: no medium to engage researchers
      - Usually through conferences, personal networks
  - Again, targeted to other researchers
    - ✦ Tenure is based on first-authored publications
      - Credit sharing with assistant professors
  - Use of technology is increasingly important
    - ✦ Communication, document sharing, “pre-reviewers”

# Perspectives on Research



- Research Dissemination
  - No question that dissemination is “innate”
  - Tenure becomes the catalyst for the outlets
    - ✦ Completed 3<sup>rd</sup> year review: focus on “mainstream sociology” and “hard-core urban” outlets
      - No books, no edited volumes until tenure
  - Open Access has not caught up with academic snobbery
    - ✦ Unranked, considered lesser “quality”
      - International audience/reviewers, recently started,
    - ✦ No funding or budgeting for high publishing costs
    - ✦ Highly accessible!
  - Increased visibility of publications

# Thoughts on Peer Review Process



- Length of time varies by journal
  - Crude: higher impact factor → shorter time to initial decision when reject
  - Longer wait time
    - ✦ More likely for R & R → reject
      - More likely that R & R are not given to same
  - Why this is significant?
    - ✦ Annual review process depends on 12-month productivity
    - ✦ Catch-22 with “traditional” and open-access journal



# Thoughts on Peer Review Process



## The Ideal Editor

- Micromanages the process by selecting reviewers with quick turn around
- Dialogues with reviewers prior to disseminating feedback to author
- Allows for author retort

## Most Editors

- Is proactive but not an efficient delegator
- Do not consult with reviewers / make decisions
- Usually not receptive to author's rebuttal

# Innovative Models for Publisher-Researcher Collaboration



- Publishers collaborating with researchers
  - *Teaching Sociology* and American Sociology Association
- Post-review publishing
  - *Webmed Central*
- Assessing fit by word analysis in abstract
  - Springer
    - <http://www.springer.com/authors/journal+authors/helpdesk?SGWID=0-1723213-12-817204-0>
- Cross-journal connections
  - Instead of rejecting good papers, refer them

# Thank you



**EMAIL: [ANTWAN@GWU.EDU](mailto:ANTWAN@GWU.EDU)**

**WEB: [HTTP://HOME.GWU.EDU/~ANTWAN/](http://HOME.GWU.EDU/~ANTWAN/)**

**TWITTER: [@ANTWANJONESPHD](https://twitter.com/ANTWANJONESPHD)**