



Attending Navigating the ASA Annual Meeting: Experiences and Takeaways from a First-Time Attendee

TANG Lin

For me, attending the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) for the first time was a remarkable experience towards the end of my PhD journey. Held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 2023 Annual Meeting offered a unique opportunity to connect with fellow sociologists, gain insights into groundbreaking research, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and even present my own research.

Planning for the schedule

The ASA Annual Meeting offered a diverse array of concurrent sessions and presentations, making it essential to strategize one's schedule. Scheduling conflicts were nearly inevitable, especially with the International Chinese Sociological Association (ICSA) Annual Conference taking place in Philadelphia at the same time. With hundreds of panels, workshops, and discussions to choose from, navigating this expansive program required careful planning.

To optimize my experience, I found it beneficial to prioritize sessions aligning with my research interests and goals. Before the conference, I carefully reviewed the program, identifying sessions directly related to my research. This approach helped me create a schedule that ensured I wouldn't miss the most relevant content. Additionally, I diversified my schedule to meet the selection criteria for the Student Forum Travel Awards, valuing participation in diverse events with distinctive focuses and formats.

While I prioritized sessions aligned with my research, I remained open to spontaneous opportunities. I discovered that some of the most enlightening moments occurred when I ventured into sessions initially off my radar. Exploring topics outside my comfort zone exposed me to refreshing perspectives on contemporary societal issues.

Presenting at the roundtables

Presenting my work in a roundtable session, where presenters and attendees engage in focused discussions about closely related research topics, provided valuable lessons.

It is important to note that the ASA Annual Meeting offered two primary formats for presenting research: paper sessions and roundtable sessions. Paper sessions featured 4-5 individual presentations followed by a brief Q&A. Similar to conventional conference panels, paper sessions were facilitated by essential devices such as laptops, projectors, and microphones. In contrast, roundtable sessions embraced a more interactive and discussion-based approach. They featured multiple presenters and an audience seated together in a banquet hall, with over 15 tables of scholars sharing their research simultaneously.

To read Lins full article, please click [here](#).

Life-saving Tips for Thesis Submission

Anita Venanzi

As my thesis' first draft submission to the Graduate School Office (GSO) took place from the 9th to 14th of June 2023, and took the resemblance of a bureaucratic nightmare very early on. Embarking this Odyssey, I thought, at least I could collect information that would avoid some stress to the next sailors! Some of these "conventional procedures" may be different for those subjected to the "new procedures" regime, but for the few survivors of the old one ... good luck! However, if you are reading this, it is official, I have not only submitted my thesis, but graduated and, most importantly, survived to tell the story. In self-assessed order of ensuing adrenaline rush:

1. Check your latest TAS_1 form:

Even though it says "If the proposed date for thesis submission is beyond your expected graduation date, your expected graduation date will be extended automatically to the date you propose to submit thesis", they WILL make you update it in case you submit your first draft before the date you have declared.

For example, thinking this form was talking about final draft I had written July rather than June: they had me resubmit the whole thing, which had to be signed both by my supervisor and the Head of the Graduate Division.

2. Most of the forms I needed were NOT downloadable from the GSO website.

If the bug is solved, great! If not, they can be sent to you by our PhD administrative staff for reference, but ... it's not their job! So be nice to them while notifying the bugs you encounter to the GSO and/or the IT desk.

3. You CAN change your thesis title upon submission but:

- The TAS 2 form is longer than a regular A4 paper sheet, so the last section won't be printed: it is advisable to handle the whole thing digitally.
- The Veri Guide submission certificate will carry the old title, but this won't be considered an issue upon final draft submission.

To read Anita's full article, please click [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Job Ads

- Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Zukunfts Kolleg of the University of Konstanz, Germany. **Deadline for Applications: October 10, 2023, 11:00 am** [[See the ad](#)]

✓ Call for Applications

- PhD Workshop in Networks and Political Economy, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. **Deadline for Applications: October 30, 2023** [[See the ad](#)]