



Signing Off

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Greetings, ASA Body and Embodiment Section Members,

I write to you, one final time, as your section chair. It has been such an honor and privilege to serve on behalf of this dynamic section with the able leadership of the B&E Council: my right hand, Secretary/Treasurer, Carla Pfeffer; incoming Chair, Laura Carpenter; and Council members, immediate past chair, Abigail Saguy; graduate student representative, Jennifer Haskin; and faculty council members, Kristen Barber; Joanna Kempner; Kate Mason; Michaela Nowell; Heather Laine Talley; and Mary Nell Trautner.

The Council has been very active in developing its Internet presence via our blogs published on our website (<http://sectionbodyembodiment.weebly.com/blog>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/227366640757073/>) and on Twitter (#ASA_Bodies). In addition, our mentorship program continues to grow and thrive. If you haven't yet been involved as a mentor or mentee, please consider signing up! It's a remarkably rewarding and easy way to make new connections within the section and profession. And speaking of section involvement,

let's work to grow the section to 400 members this year! It's a wonderful goal and we can do it!

The B&E Section has been fortunate to partner with other sections again this year in planning the 2015 ASA program. We have two exciting joint sessions, one co-sponsored with the Consumers and Consumption section: "Consumption and Embodiment: Intersections and Identities", and the other co-sponsored with the Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology: "Bodies and Sexualities in Science and Technology Studies". Our section reception in Chicago, a wonderful time to socialize and (re)connect with section members, is co-hosted again this year with the Sexualities section.

Much has transpired in the world over the past year in relation to bodies and embodiment. I summarize just a few of the highlights here. The ongoing struggle for racial equality has played out in the increasingly painful awareness of and protest against police brutality on Black citizens and bodies and has birthed the Black Bodies Matter movement. And awareness about the diversity of transgender experiences has been highlighted by the immense amount of media attention paid to Caitlyn Jenner's coming out, coupled with the critiques leveled by the far more disempowered and diverse experiences of transgender women and men of color who often live in poverty, in the social margins, and in danger. With regard to the body, gender, and sports, scholarly activism has led to the repeal (once again) of sex verification testing in international athletics, allowing Indian runner Dutee Chand and all women with naturally high levels of testosterone to compete in international competitive sports. Diversity in body size and ability is garnering more attention not just in academe, but also in advertising and in a multitude of publications in the ever widening blogosphere. And of great importance, couples in the United States have been federally granted the right to marry, regardless of their sex anatomy or gender identity/presentation.

My own research this year has given me the exciting opportunity to become a research collaborator at the Mayo Clinic, working with colleagues in Family Medicine, Psychiatry and Psychology, and the Mayo Medical School to study medical education and practice in providing care to intersex and transgender patients and families.

In closing, I thank you for allowing me to be your section chair. It has been a deeply rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing to serve the Body and Embodiment section and to helping it thrive and grow in the coming years!

My very best to you,
Sharon Preves