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Our Years As Editors

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Our Years as Editors

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In August 2009, members of the scholarly NGO Sociologists Without Borders/Sociólogos Sin Fronteras (SSF) met in San Francisco. The American chapter of SSF was entering its eighth year, while its journal *Societies Without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences* was ending its fourth year. Brill, the publisher of *Societies Without Borders*, was sorry to report that it would no longer publish the journal due to budget cuts. Initially this news was tough to take. However Judith Blau, *Societies Without Borders* co-editor (2006-2009) and President of SSF (2003-2011), had the vision to see a new beginning for the journal. A bad economy provided us the opportunity to reach a wider audience without charging fees. *Societies Without Borders* would break free from commercial publishing and academic conventions and emerge as an online, open source journal.

Under our leadership, the journal went online in Winter 2009. Bringing the journal online was no small task—we learned new technologies, promoted the journal with the help of our friends and colleagues, became hack page setters and copyeditors, and did our best to wear so many hats. Editorial assistants were key to our success along the way—John Pruitt systematized the processing of submissions, Brian Gresham improved our presence in search engines as he diligently shepherded our growing number of submissions, Jen Sturman cleaned up our digital storage, and Erin Cournoyer asked crucial questions about Google Scholar. Silke Martin and Heather Zellers worked tirelessly to invite submissions. The result? *Societies Without Borders* is receiving a healthy number of submissions and we have a fantastic network of reviewers contributing their efforts to the journal. Page views of *Societies Without Borders* are growing by leaps and bounds! During our first full calendar year online, 2010, we had 7,196 page views. In 2011, that number nearly doubled: 13,976. Growth continued into 2012 with 15,565 views. We see a dip in our numbers for 2013, to 12,565 views. However, our subscribers have grown to nearly 400 and the site has been viewed in over 125 countries. Looking back on our five years, we see a

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trend of growth in our submissions and readership. You, our colleagues, have contributed generously to this growth with your time, encouragement, and steadfast support.

It is now August 2014, and SSFers will again meet in San Francisco. *Societies Without Borders* is in the midst of its ninth year and it is time to welcome a new team of editors. We ask you to join us in welcoming and cheering the new editorial team, Bruce Friesen and Brian Gran. They look forward to continuing to work with you as they take *Societies Without Borders* to new heights.