Guns have a spectacular presence in societies around the world. In recent decades, political and safety debates about guns have spurred an impressive, contentious, yet narrow literature on guns in society. At times these debates limit research, making it difficult to fully see the scope of guns in society. Sociological perspectives on guns often narrowly focus on aspects of this broader reality, such as the efficacy of gun laws on crime rates, guns as criminological or epidemiological risk factors, or the correlates of gun ownership. The broader cultural influence of guns, the common use of guns (for recreation, protection, as well as deviance), the role of the state related to gun rights, and the effects of gun violence beyond criminal justice outcomes are just a few topics that sociologists can provide valuable insights into to move this literature forward in the coming decades.

This special issue, therefore, seeks manuscripts that advance sociological perspectives on the multifaceted role guns play in society and culture. Studies can be historical or contemporary, based in specific countries or cross-/trans-national, and empirically or theoretically-driven. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The intersectionality of race, gender, and other identities in relation to gun research
- Human-technology interactions around guns
- The material culture of guns
- Sociological perspectives on the “gun industry”
- Changes in the use of guns over time
- Socio-legal environments affecting gun ownership and use
- Socio-legal analyses of gun policy and gun rights
- Social movements and activism relating to guns
- The impact of gun violence beyond the criminal justice system
- Advancing sociological theories on the role of guns in social life
- Cross-cultural or cross-national comparisons
- New data and methodological advances relating to gun research

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2021 Special Issue: A Sociology of Firearms for the 21st Century

The selected contributors will be invited to submit a full-length manuscript (up to 45 pages, inclusive of supplemental materials) by September 1, 2020. The papers will then be sent out for peer review, and authors will receive their reviews by mid-October 2020. Revised manuscripts and their corresponding editorial memos must be received by December 1, 2020. Manuscripts accepted for publication will appear in the special issue, which is tentatively slated to be published in June 2021.

Submission Guidelines and Details

Prospective contributors should submit a proposal of no more than six, double-spaced pages, including supplemental materials (tables, figures, references, etc.). In addition, contributors must include some preliminary analyses (up to two, double-spaced pages in length), including data descriptions, sample sizes, tables, figures, preliminary models, etc. Text must be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, and all submissions must include 1-inch margins on all four sides, with pages numbered sequentially. Submissions should be prepared using the ASA Style Guide (Fourth Edition).

Proposed paper submissions should be uploaded as a single document and received no later than 5 PM PST on April 30, 2020 to http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sop. You must note that your submission is for the “Sociological Perspectives on Guns” special issue.