

SMH GSR Survey – Summer 2021

The below survey was conducted among the SMH grad student members from late May until the end of July 2021 through a Google Form survey with 8 questions, focused on communication modes, perceptions on diversity and inclusion, ways grad students could support the Society, and feedback on the grad student panel for the SMH 2022 annual conference.

There were 43 responses. The survey was conducted anonymously. Because of this, all answers below are aggregated. However, some broad demographics for context can be gleaned:

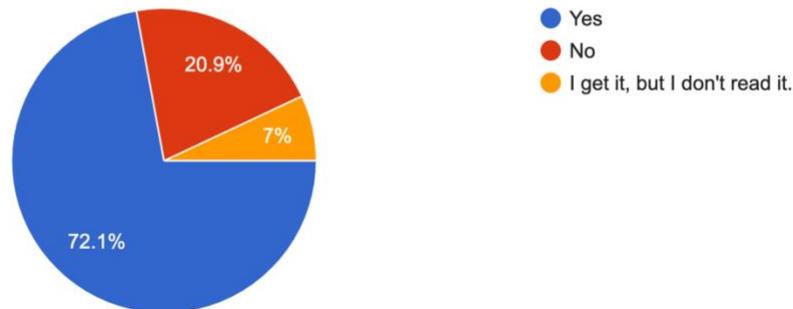
- Schools of respondents:
 - o US schools (29; most frequent was Texas A&M)
 - o Foreign schools (9; e.g., the UK, Caribbean, Philippines, Canada)
 - o Spectrum of top tier, mid-tier, and lower tier programs (e.g., Columbia, Georgetown, Ohio State, UNC-CH, Temple, UVA, King’s College London, Texas A&M, SNHU, Liberty); majority of schools are mid-tier or better programs, with very few online programs, residential terminal MA programs, or lower tier PhD programs
 - o Majority of the students are “traditional” graduate students, with a handful of professional/mature/non-traditional students

Survey Questions:

1. Do you get the SMH emailed newsletter?

Do you get the SMH emailed newsletter?

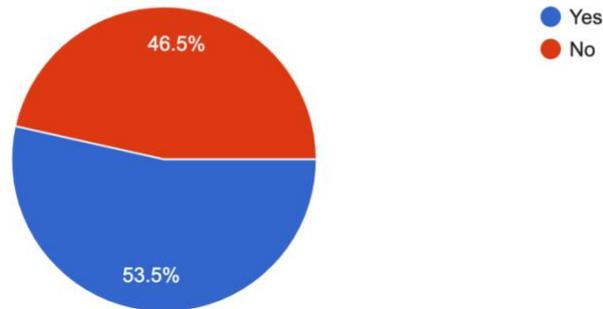
43 responses



2. Are you aware of the SMH Grad Student FB Group?

Are you aware of the SMH Grad Student FB Group?

43 responses



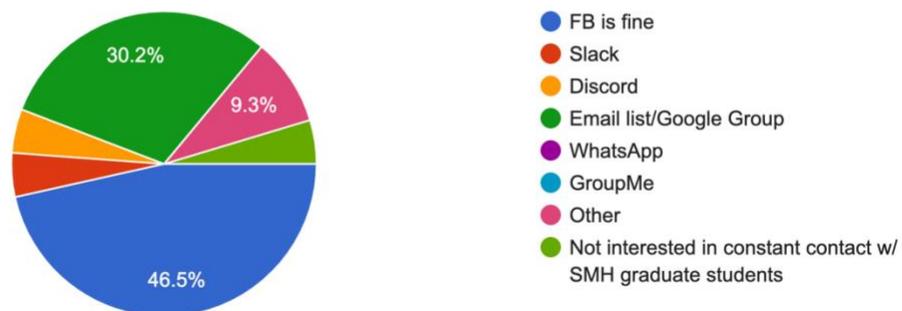
3. If "yes" on the previous, please briefly indicate how much you use it.

Majority of members that are on the FB group participate in a passive manner, largely viewing posts when notified (posts were almost exclusively made by Jessica, the previous GSR). The FB group seems to act mostly as a “billboard” or one-way channel of communication.

4. Is there another platform you believe would better work to connect SMH graduate students?

Is there another platform you believe would better work to connect SMH graduate students?

43 responses



5. Does SMH provide sufficient support for diversity and inclusion? Please elaborate on your answer.

About 10% think SMH provides enough support (particularly in trying to ensure diversity on conference panels). Within that 10%, however, are also a few dismissive comments as to

diversity as something the Society should pursue. Example comment of that perception (for context):

- “The main concern of academia should be the advancement of research, creativity, and knowledge. Diversity and inclusion drives in every university, college, and now, association, take the focus off of that main goal and onto social engineering. Academic rigor, advancement, and support should be the focus of this group.”

About 15% think SMH does well in some areas but has others that need more work. The areas where respondents see the most effective inclusion is in gender (both in individuals as members and participants in SMH events like annual conference panels). The areas where they would like to see more inclusion is in increased diversity of members and panelists beyond gender (e.g., Indigenous, Asian, and Black scholars), as well as the regional focus areas outside of the U.S. that might help draw in those scholars (e.g., scholars of war and conflict in Africa, in East Asia, Southeast Asia). An example comment (including what I think is a great idea re: JMH (which I’ll take up with them sometime in the near future)):

- “In terms of scholarship at SMH conferences, absolutely. In terms of scholarship published in the JMH, there isn’t much diversity or inclusion in what is published. In terms of actual scholars, yes & no; no other organization can bring together service members, scholars, & professionals like the SMH. Still, while in terms of scholarship & careers the SMH is extremely diverse, most scholars do not come from diverse demographics. This is not isolated to the SMH but the field of history in general, some organizations are better than others though. While I think that some of the published scholarship by the JMH could be slightly more diverse I believe there should be a pilot program or proposal to conduct outreach to less represented groups to increase inclusivity to ensure that our organization is representative of scholars and to include underrepresented groups to increase historical perspectives on not just new historical trends, but traditional military history topics and strategic theory.”

The vast majority of respondents (~75%) are new to the organization and did not have enough experience with SMH to comment.

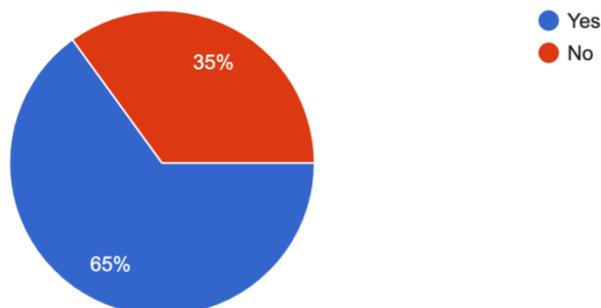
6. What items might be put into place to make participation in SMH activities easier and more useful for your personal and professional goals?

Respondents provided many different perspectives. The list includes: mentorship programs, reduction in costs for the conference/grants for travel, childcare support (some saying on site for annual conference, others a stipend to help cover the costs), continued use of virtual programming, assistance with comps prep and dissertation development. The most frequently mentioned request were funds for travel and more virtual programming (mentorship events, grad student social events, and opportunities to discuss research)

7. Are you interested in participating on SMH committees, if they were open to graduate students?

Are you interested in participating on SMH committees, if they were open to graduate students?
(more info on committees can be found here: <https://smh-hq.org/governance/committees.html>)

40 responses



8. What would you like covered in the #SMH2022 annual conference Grad Student Professional Development panel?

There were so many different perspectives on this, I can't provide a coherent answer. I'll have to sort through and provide a few options to the group before selecting speakers, etc. this fall. That said, an idea that seems to span the entire panoply of comments is to hold a workshop that lays out the full array of SMH programs, opportunities, and resources – this could address desires for more info on completing a dissertation, funding opportunities, research, etc.

For questions or comments on this document, contact the SMH Graduate Student Representative, Nathan Finney, nathan.finney@duke.edu.