

Memo distributed by email to sociology graduate students and faculty

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Date: 18 November 2008

To: Sociology Graduate Students & Their Faculty Committees

Re: Annual Funding from Student Awards Committee

From: Professors David Sciulli (chair), Holly Foster, Lu Zheng

The purpose of this memo is to present to everyone all funding possibilities open annually to undergraduate and graduate students from the Student Awards Committee. Ballpark timelines are also included so that everyone can plan ahead. Of course, follow-up memos will be sent as reminders, with hard deadlines, as we approach each funding period.

In capsule, the Awards Committee funds:

- Two undergraduate scholarships, of \$500 each, to “top performing” Sociology majors of junior standing or higher. The Department determines this by highest overall GPA. Named after Bardin Nelson and Robert Skrabanek, these scholarships are announced sometime in April.
- One or more Schaffer awards, of \$500 or more, for graduate student papers and publications. The criteria for eligibility were changed this summer, so consult the Department Web page for the details about eligibility for 2008-09.
- Travel funds in a sliding scale, to be discussed momentarily. These are awarded on a first-come first-serve basis, but sizeable sums are invariably dedicated to ASA participation in late August.
- Any remaining funds will be dispersed as summer research grants (of \$500 to \$1000), with priority given to dissertations near completion for which students have also previously submitted one or more proposals for external funding. In addition, unusual graduate student achievement also qualifies for grants, as determined first by the Department Chair and EC.

The point of the sliding scale for travel funds is to reward graduate students who place their work at the most competitive and visible venues, and thereby to encourage all graduate students to advance their own positional interests (and self-interests) in the discipline. It is **IMPERATIVE** that students contact Professor Sciulli by e-mail **BEFORE** traveling to meetings, as opposed to participating in meetings and then returning with a travel-funding request. We present below the “typical” amount of funding for each category of participation:

- \$500 for papers accepted at an ASA regular session or section session; \$400 for papers accepted at an ASA poster session; \$300 for papers accepted at an ASA roundtable.

- \$200 for papers accepted at a regular ASA “student session,” but this is a one-time opportunity; students who receive this funding once are expected thereafter to enter the regular ASA pool. There is no money for ASA “student session” roundtables because these are unrefereed.
- \$100 or more (up to \$400) for papers accepted for regular sessions at the most visible regional and professional associations listed on the ASA website, as “Aligned Sociological Associations.” Venues where paper acceptance is particularly competitive rather than pro forma and which are well-attended rather than specialized or less visible qualify on the merits for more than the minimum. As examples, papers at the Eastern or Mid-West more than, say, the New England or North Central; similarly, Population, Criminology, Problems, Symbolic Interaction and Law & Society more than Humanist, Rural or Southern Demographic; and, of course, papers at regular sessions of other disciplines’ annual meetings, whether Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, History, Philosophy, Economics or Law – as opposed to any of their regional meetings. All of this is consistent with past Awards practice. Moreover, students are welcome to inform the Awards committee of special circumstances, those that make presentations at professional associations not noted above particularly valuable in their cases.
- As always, papers at SSSA regular sessions receive \$100, but not other types of participation.
- More generally, there may also be funding for round tables or poster sessions at meetings other than ASA, but this is particularly reserved for meetings where regular sessions are limited in number or particularly competitive (the PAA, for instance).
- On collateral meetings: If students are being funded at any level for the ASA, an additional \$100 is awarded if they are also presenting at a regular session of Social Problems or any other meeting held at the same site a day or two earlier than ASA.
- On co-authorships: When students are first author in collaborations with faculty, travel will be funded in the normal way. But second author, third author etc. with faculty will not receive funding. Awards monies are dedicated to student research, not extended to faculty research.

International travel is typically funded outside the Department, with students submitting requests to the Department (Awards) which then passes them along to the Dean of Faculty office. Kindly note: students who travel internationally to meetings without informing the Department first, and instead seek funding afterward, are not likely to receive any funding. Moreover, international meetings which are not highly visible (such as ISA and IIS and their subunits) and refereed and competitive are not likely to receive funding.

All graduate students receive travel support for at least one meeting annually that meets the criteria above. Of course, it is certainly preferable that advanced graduate students present at increasingly visible and competitive venues rather than perpetually at SSSA (which is a matter for each student’s committee). If funds permit, a second travel support is possible, but only at visible, competitive venues.