

**HK SSJ Early Career Researcher Award  
Committee Report**

**Submitted by Michael Giardina  
Editor, *SSJ*; Chair, Early Career Researcher Award**

The SSJ Early Career Researcher award is sponsored by Human Kinetics, which provides the winner with a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. The award was given for the first time at the 2015 NASSS conference: Holly Thorpe was the inaugural recipient; Brad Millington received the award in 2016.

The 2017 HK SSJ Early Career Researcher Award committee was comprised of myself as Chair, Cheryl Cooky by rule as Past-President, and senior editorial board members Sarah K. Fields and Brad Millington.

This year, the committee received four fantastic nominations for scholars in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and New Zealand. As a whole, the committee was impressed by the depth and breadth of each nominee's research, teaching, and service. The health of our field in the hands of our young, rising academic stars is quite strong.

The process for reviewing the award was explained to the committee members as follows:

1. Each committee member will consider the individual nominations and, per the criteria enumerated in the Call for Nominations (listed below), submit to me via email a provisional ranking (1 to 4, 1 being highest) and comments on each individual. I would like to make this initial step due by May 7th.
2. I will collate these evaluations and distribute them back to the group in anonymous fashion (Member #1 said this, Member #2 said this, etc.), and invite discussion to be open for one week, until May 14th.
3. I will then ask each committee member to give a final ranking of the nominees to me on May 15th, the date the PPM establishes as the 'due date' for the committee to render its decision. This should be a public committee vote, so please email this final ranking to all members of the committee.
4. The evaluative criteria, drawn from the Call for Nominees, is as follows:

In addition to the nominating letter, the Committee shall consider the following in evaluating Award nominees (taken from the PPM):

- 3.3.1 Publication record and other scholarly contributions to the sociology of sport. For example:

- scholarly journal articles, books, monographs, research reports, and so forth that demonstrate an impact on the sociology of sport knowledge base;
- scholarly presentations, invited plenaries, and/or keynote addresses at conferences and symposia;
- public engagement/public sociology (e.g., publishing articles in non-academic venues such as *New York Times*, *Atlantic Monthly*, etc.; *pro bono* work for non-profit agencies, etc.
- other awards the nominee may have received (including, but not limited to, other NASSS awards, e.g., NASSS Book Award, SSJ Article Award, Barbara Brown Student Paper Award, etc.).

At the conclusion of the aforementioned review process—during which time committee members communicated and debated via group emails—a recipient was unanimously chosen. The recipient will be announced at the NASSS business meeting.