2018 HK SSJ Early Career Researcher Report

The 2018 HK SSJ Early Career Researcher is given annual to the early career researcher (defined as someone no more than seven years removed from conferral of doctoral degree) "in recognition of significant scholarly contributions to the sociology of sport field."

The 2018 committee was composed of NASSS Past-President (by rule) Theresa Walton-Fisette, SSJ Associate Editor Kim Toffoletti, and senior editorial board member C. Keith Harrison. Nominees were adjudged on the basis of the following criteria:

- 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.).

The committee reviewed three eligible nominations and after vigorous discussion via email over the course of the summer months unanimously selected a winner (Dr. Joseph Cooper, University of Connecticut).

Although the process itself worked fine insofar as a winner was unanimously selected (as has been the case in each prior year), two items for discussion are warranted:

1. Do the criteria upon which the award is based need to be updated or amended to provide more guidance to the award committee members? This question arises out of what should 'count' (or does count) more between candidates (e.g., number of publications versus publications in higher impact journals; grant money versus public sociology; publications in sport-specific journals versus generalist journals; etc.). (NOTE: the committee does not have a consensus on what this should be, only that it would be a good point of discussion among interested parties, i.e., NASSS executive board and SSJ editorial board).
2. Should there be a proviso in the award qualifications to account for 'stops' in one's calendar or to extended the eligibility criteria, such as for parental leave, extended health crises, etc. (NOTE: The committee agrees that 'yes', documented accounts should be considered)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Giardina, PhD
Editor, *Sociology of Sport Journal*