SSJ Outstanding Article Award Committee Report

Submitted by: Parissa Safai
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SSJ Article Award Committee Members:
Rachel Allison (Mississippi State University); Dewitt King (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Mitch McSweeney (York University); and Steven Ortiz (Oregon State University). The committee composition met every criterion identified in the NASSS 2017 PPM save the following: "One committee member should be a prior or previous year winner so that they are familiar with SSJ and can serve as acknowledgement of contribution to NASSS scholarship." No prior award winner was able to serve on the committee. However, the size and diversity of the committee, including representation from two graduate students (King and McSweeney), was satisfactory and met the spirit of the PPM's guidelines.

The committee reviewed SSJ's 2017 volume (#34), which consisted of 28 articles. In our first round of evaluation, one publication ranked highest among committee members. This top ranked manuscript was: Cheryl Cooky's *"We Cannot Stand Idly By": A Necessary Call for a Public Sociology of Sport* (issue 1, pp. 1-11). The committee discussed this result as well as the guidelines within the PPM, and agreed that the top-ranked article meets the current eligibility requirements in the NASSS PPM for the SSJ Outstanding Article Award. The specific guidelines regarding eligibility are:

1) Eligibility for consideration of the SSJ Outstanding Article Award is determined by date of publication of articles. That is, articles must have been published in the calendar year preceding the year of the award.
2) All articles published in a given volume for a year would be considered. For example, in 2003, the eligible articles would be all the articles published in 2002.
3) All authors who publish in SSJ are eligible (i.e., NASSS members and non-members).

Committee members agreed that the NASSS Executive Board should revisit the eligibility criteria for this award, specifically around whether only "regular" research articles should be considered. While past practice has been to not consider such publications as book reviews, editorials, or research notes for the SSJ Outstanding Article Award, this has not been explicitly identified in the NASSM PPM. Furthermore, committee members agreed that, given the relatively recent decision to publish the NASSS Presidential and Ingham Addresses, such publications also require deliberation by the NASSS Board as to their eligibility.

Committee members also agreed to identify one article for honourable mention. There was a tie for next highest ranked article and the committee members deliberated between the two. Following discussion and review of the two

publications, the committee selected the following for honourable mention: Adam Love, Bianca Gonzalez-Sobrino, and Matthew W. Hughey. *Excessive Celebration? The Racialization of Recruiting Commitments on College Football Internet Message Boards* (issue 3, pp. 235-247). The committee invites the NASSS Executive Board to also discuss the issue of ties in this award category with the aim of more clearly explicating guidelines regarding ties between publications in the PPM.