

## **Suggested Wording For the Criteria and Guidelines**

(with discussion endnotes)

### **PREAMBLE:**

Established in 2007 at the bequest of Joseph B. Gittler, this award is made in recognition of the significant scholarly achievements that a SSSP member has made in contributing to the ethical resolution of social problems.

### **CRITERIA:**

**CRITERIA FOR THE JOSEPH B. GITTLER AWARD** for the most scholarly contributions in the area of “**Ethical Components in the Resolution of Social Problems**”

1. The nominee must have been an active member of the Society for the Study of Social Problems for at least three years prior to receiving the award.
2. The nominee must have produced and disseminated scholarship promoting ethical solutions to social problems over the preceding three or more calendar years.<sup>1</sup> *Ethical solutions* entail scholarship that promotes awareness and/or activism to increase public recognition that social problems and social injustices are ethical issues; and/or scholarship that identifies and promotes societal level responses to social problems and injustices.<sup>2</sup> *Scholarship* may be undertaken from a wide variety of perspectives, including both applied research (qualitative or quantitative research) and normative work (e.g., argumentative, historical, philosophical, textual or theoretical analyses).<sup>3</sup>

### **NOMINATION GUIDELINES:**

1. Any member of the society may nominate one or more persons for the award. Members of the Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee are encouraged to nominate.
2. All nominations must be accompanied by supporting evidence sufficiently detailed for the committee to render a decision (e.g., a resume; media accounts of activist activities inspired by the nominee’s scholarly efforts, testimonials from grass roots organizations or advocacy agencies; or additional supporting description of the nominee’s work, demonstrating that the contributions meet the criteria for nomination). Please include supporting information not covered in a resume. List names of colleagues who would be willing and able to write supporting letters upon request.<sup>4</sup>

## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> This phrasing was decided upon following consideration of two questions. First, is this to be (a) a lifetime achievement award or (b) an award given for the best efforts to promote the ethical resolution of social problems in a given time period? Second, since the guiding statement from the Joseph B. Gittler estate emphasizes the effects of the scholarship, i.e., on how the scholarship “increases public recognition that social problems and social injustices are ethical issues,” should we make some time allowance for the dissemination of the scholarship? We did not reach a definitive conclusion on the first question and have left it open. However, in answer to the second question, we decided that a period of three years should be a sufficient period of time for the dissemination of scholarly work in academic and non-academic venues.

<sup>2</sup> In philosophical discussions, ethics is widely held to be focused upon or limited to personal decisions and individual-level decision-making. Review of various social science associations’ ethics awards and ethics statements reveals a similar individual-level bias. See the Appendix 2 for specific examples. This emphasis is at odds with the mission and vision of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. With this in mind, we recommend language that communicates a broader understanding of ethics.

<sup>3</sup> There was some discussion of what “scholarship” entails, and of how narrowly or broadly scholarship may be defined. For example, at Penn State University, scholarship is conceived of in terms of “the scholarship of research,” the scholarship of service” and “the scholarship of teaching.” From such a broad understanding, activism might be considered scholarship. However, such a broad conceptualization seems rare, and the committee decided it was unlikely that the award’s benefactor conceived of scholarship in such broad terms. Therefore, we have focused on scholarship in more traditional academic research terms, but have explicitly opened the door for a wide variety of scholarly approaches to be considered.

<sup>4</sup> Nomination guidelines are based in large part on the guidelines for the Lee Founders Award.