

July 2, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: KATHLEEN J. FERRARO, CHAIR, LEE FOUNDERS AWARD  
COMMITTEE (2008)

Committee Members: Carolyn C. Perrucci, Kathleen Asbury, Ione DeOllos, Jean Elson, Jolan Hsieh, Jennifer K. Wesely. Chair Elect: Carolyn C. Perrucci

By the April 15 deadline, the committee had received one e-mail, from Leon Anderson, indicating intent to nominate David A. Snow for the Lee Founders Award. Dr. Anderson did not submit supporting materials by the deadline, but since I viewed Dr. Snow as a strong potential candidate, I contacted Dr. Anderson to request supporting materials. He provided a complete nomination by the end of April and I distributed his letter of support and Dr. Snow's vitae to committee members via regular mail. Following a thorough review of the materials, all committee members voted in favor of David A. Snow as this year's recipient of the Lee Founders Award.

David Snow's work exemplifies the qualities that the Lees promoted in sociology. His scholarship has helped to shape the ethnographic tradition that emphasizes the dignity and worth of each life, and he has been an active participant in community activism. As Dr. Anderson wrote in his letter of support, Dave's contributions have had a significant impact in three areas: qualitative research, social movements, and social inequality. His work on social movement framing processes is central to contemporary understandings of social movements. He has also developed an international reputation and is in the process of completing an international collaborative study of homelessness in four global cities. In developing his extensive body of work, he has published with and mentored numerous junior scholars and graduate students who carry forward his commitment to scholarship in the pursuit of social justice.

Dave served on the SSSP Board of Directors from 1997-2000 and chaired the C. Wright Mills Award Committee in 1995-96, as well as serving on that committee in 1994-95. He has also served as president of SSSI (1992-93) and the Pacific Sociological Association (1997-98). At the community level, he served for ten years on the Board of Directors of the Primavera Foundation, a progressive Tucson-based non-profit organization that addresses poverty and homelessness. He has also worked with grassroots anti-poverty organizations at his present home in Irvine, CA.

We agree with Leon Anderson that "By any measure, Dave would rank as among the most prolific and well-respected sociologists of his generation." We congratulate him on his extraordinary career and for the honor of recognition associated with receipt of the SSSP Lee Founders Award.