



July 9, 2018

TO: The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Board of Directors  
FROM: Anthony Peguero  
SUBJECT: 2018 Joseph Gittler Award Committee Report

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Committee members: Anthony Peguero (Virginia Tech), Jessica S. Welburn (University of Iowa), Angela Bryant (The Ohio State University), Kasey Henricks (University of Tennessee), and Rebecca Wiersma (Michigan State University)

The deadline for nominations was April 15, 2018. We received two nominations: Shahla F. Ali and Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl. One of the initial 2018 Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee members, Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl was nominated. She was informed and instructed to recuse herself, which she did. Second, Michele Smith Koontz (SSSP, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager), Héctor Delgado (SSSP, Executive Officer) and Luis A. Fernandez (SSSP, President) highlighted that Dr. Shahla F. Ali is not eligible for this award because “According to the guidelines, all nominees 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” – to which Dr. Shahla F. Ali doesn’t meet that requirement.

The committee unanimously agree to name Dr. Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl the SSSP 2018 Joseph B. Gittler Award winner.

The committee believed a well-deserved honor because as noted by Dr. Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl’s nominators:  
“fierce loyalty and commitment, not only to the cause of social justice, but to her comrades in struggle”  
“a leader among the new generation of scholar activists forging an ethical and humanistic path within sociology”  
“notorious for challenging students in ways that reflect both her writing as well as her activism. She takes students on a journey that allows them to read and reflect upon the research, and then engage in actually being part of the change.”

All of these things, plus Dr. Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl’s many publications and academic honors, and significant mentoring work combined lead the committee to the conclusion that she would be the overwhelming choice for the award.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

I would also like to thank the members of the Committee for their service:

- Jessica S. Welburn (University of Iowa)
- Angela Bryant (The Ohio State University)
- Kasey Henricks (University of Tennessee)
- Rebecca Wiersma (Michigan State University)

Take care,

Anthony A. Peguero (Virginia Tech)

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