



J. Wallace Borchert
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
Haaren Hall, Rm. 520.22
524 West 59th Street
New York City, NY 10019
T. 212-393-6410
jborchert@jjay.cuny.edu

July 31, 2018

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Lee Scholar's Support Fund Report from the Chair to the Board of Directors

2017-2018 Lee Scholars Support Fund Committee:

Chair Jay Borchert; **Members** Cristina Cielo, Michael O. Johnston

President Fernandez and Members of the Board of Directors,

This year, aside from the busy nature of our work making it difficult for the committee to come together to select recipients and to allocate funds, certainly a yearly obstacle, the committee was concerned about the lack of applicants for Lee Scholar's Support Fund funding. While we had seven applicants in total, two were not eligible, and thus we made an award to each of the five eligible applicants. Those who had not previously been awarded Lee Scholars Support Fund support, combined with those who clearly demonstrated need, were at the top end of our funding levels. Those with previous awards and who had less need, including one awardee who was receiving funds held over from last year's cycle, were awarded less money. It was a pretty straightforward process and all went well once we all cleared our schedules for the short time it took to organize the applicants, make our individual decisions, and for me as Chair, to resolve the discrepancies in each of our decisions to a collective agreeable set of allocations.

Again, however, we were concerned about the lack of applicants for this monetary award. When thinking about ways to perhaps improve our performance here and to draw in more applicants, one idea stood out over others. That idea is to select one or two institutions per country to serve as an institutional home for Lee Scholars Support Fund information. These "homes" could then promote the Fund to their colleagues at their institution and at other institutions in the area. Establishing a home of sorts for the Support Fund in these various countries could serve to promote active engagement and continuity of engagement based on year by year support. There are various ways that this might be organized and carried out, and those are for the Board to decide. However, we believe that by having an organized and continuous presence in other countries, at the institutional level, may be of great benefit to the viability and reputation of the Lee Scholars Support Fund and the Society.

We thank you for allowing us to be of service and look forward to an active and engaged meeting in Philadelphia!

Sincerely,

Jay W. Borchert

Chair, Lee Scholars Support Fund