

## Erwin O. Smigel Travel Awards Committee Report 2018-2019

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Glenn W. Muschert, Chair Erwin O. Smigel Travel Awards Committee

Date: March 23, 2019

The Erwin O. Smigel Travel Awards were established in 1975 to provide assistance to unemployed and underemployed sociologists. According to SSSP by-laws, applicants for Smigel travel awards must be sociologists with an advanced degree who are not full-time students and who are not fully employed (list of criteria below). The committee had \$1,500 to allocate with \$500 as the maximum amount that can be granted to any one recipient. The 2017-18 Erwin O. Smigel Travel Awards Committee application deadline was midnight (EDT), March 15, 2019. Committee members for this year, were Glenn W. Muschert, Chair, Melinda A. Mills, Chair-Elect, and Giovanna Follo.

These were the Smigel Award guidelines: 1) The Smigel Award monies are to be used to help pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists' transportation to and registration fees for the SSSP meeting; 2) Applicants must be current SSSP members who are presenting a paper at the main SSSP meeting (rather than at an adjacent workshop or meeting) or participating as an SSSP elected or appointed officer or committee member; 3) A maximum of \$500 dollars is to be granted to any one recipient. Persons unable to attend the meetings MUST return all monies to SSSP.

The Committee received three valid online applications for the Smigel Award, and thus divided the \$1500 equally among the three applicants. Michele Koontz provided the Committee with a spreadsheet of the applications that included information about each applicant. The Committee advised Michele Koontz of our decision in late March and she contacted applicants and recipients to inform them of the Committee decision.

Several students and a foreign scholar inadvertently applied to the Smigel Fund this year. These applicants were deflected to the appropriate awards for student travel and foreign scholar travel, respectively. In addition, one applicant self-identified only as disabled, without reference to employment status. When asked to clarify employment status, the applicant withdrew. Given such confusion, the Committee recommends the following:

### **ACTION: Amend the verbiage for the Erwin O. Smigel Award Guidelines.**

Currently reads:

“Erwin O. Smigel Award Guidelines: 1) the Smigel Fund monies are to be used to help pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists' transportation to and registration fees for the SSSP meeting; 2) applicants must be SSSP members who are presenting a paper at the main SSSP meeting (rather than at an adjacent workshop or meeting) or participating as a SSSP elected or appointed officer or committee member; 3) a maximum of \$500 dollars is to be granted to any one recipient.”

Proposed change:

“Erwin O. Smigel Award Guidelines: 1) the Smigel Fund monies are to be used to help pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists’ transportation to and registration fees for the SSSP meeting (students must apply to the Lee Student Fund and foreign scholars must apply to the Lee Scholar Support Fund); 2) applicants must be SSSP members who are presenting a paper at the main SSSP meeting (rather than at an adjacent workshop or meeting) or participating as a SSSP elected or appointed officer or committee member; 3) a maximum of \$500 dollars is to be granted to any one recipient.”

Respectfully submitted,

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