Committee Members: Tanya L. Saunders (DID NOT PARTICPATE), Ferzana D. Havewala, Doug Meyer, Beth Schneider (DID NOT PARTICPATE), Ronnie Steinberg (DID NOT PARTICPATE).

This year we received sixteen submissions. The papers were varied in topic and many represented important contributions to the social science literature. The committee was asked to rank the papers in order of preference. The committee was charged to base their rankings on the extent to which each submission:

1. Addresses contemporary issues of women’s justice locally, nationally, and globally
2. Brings a fresh perspective to women’s inclusion in global society and advances new theoretical directions discussing women and social justice
3. Is theoretically informed and possess an empirical orientation.

Given the volume of papers and their quality, it was a challenge to rank many of the papers. Among the three committee members who participated, the selected paper was the first choice for 2 people and the second choice for 1 person.

This year’s award winner is Susila Gurusami’s “Working for Redemption: Formerly Incarcerated Black Women and Punishment in the Labor Market.” This piece is published in Volume 31, Issue 4 of Gender & Society.

Though this paper meets and exceeds to criteria for the award, it is exemplary in that it draws upon existing theories about racial capitalism and intersectionality to advance the author’s emergent theory of intersectional capitalism. Further, this work gives insights into the mechanics of the contemporary policing of black women’s bodies, labor and systematic disadvantage to breaking cycles of crime of poverty.

I am pleased with the number of submissions. To my knowledge, this year’s 16 submissions are the most that have been received for this award. However, as chair, I am deeply concerned about the non responsiveness of half of the committee members, one of which is the chair-elect. While I am unsure of the process by which committee members are procured, in the future that process should confirm that members are willing and able to participate. I did reach out to the committee prior to our work beginning, an no one indicated that they could not participate.