

TO: The Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

FROM: France Winddance Twine, Chair,  
2020 Racial/Ethnic Graduate Fellowship Committee

RE: 2019-20 SSSP Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee Report

DATE: July 15, 2020 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee Report

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Committee members included: France Winddance Twine, University of California-Santa Barbara (Chair); Anthony Peguero, Virginia Tech (Chair-Elect); Jean Beaman, University of California – Santa Barbara; Karida Brown, UCLA, Alicia Brunson, Georgia Southern; Gerardo Marti, Davidson College; Anna Maria Santiago, Michigan State.

#### APPLICANT POOL:

The SSSP Administrative Office received 15 complete applications by the due date. Eight (8) of the applicants identified as Hispanic/Latino; Four (4) of the applicants identified as Black or African American; One (1) applicant identified as Asian or Asian-American; One (1) applicant identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic; One (1) applicant identified as Asian or Asian American and Latino. Fourteen (14) applicants identified as female and one (1) applicant identified as male.

**ROLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** As in prior years, this committee relied heavily on the invaluable support of Michelle Koontz and IT specialist Rachel Cogburn who was actively involved in the process. The administrative staff conducted a call with the chair on January 23, 2020 to discuss the logistics, timeline and platform Slideroom. This was the second year that SSSP used this online application form for this fellowship. It was a great success. The application pool was much smaller this year. The chair reviewed and scored all applicants.

#### SELECTION PROCESS:

The chair emailed all committee members the evaluation criteria, a timeline for the selection process; and links to the Fellowship announcement and application on February 4, 2020. The chair asked the committee members to return evaluations by March 15<sup>th</sup>. With one exception (Karida Brown), all of the committee members completed their evaluations by March 15<sup>th</sup>. After reviewing the applications, the committee decided to award the scholarships to Sadé Lindsay, The Ohio State University (Sociology) and Karina Santellano, University of Southern California, (Sociology). Both awardees are from disadvantaged backgrounds who had to overcome substantial financial and social challenges to pursue their education. Both awardees demonstrated excellence in scholarship, have publications, were actively involved in SSSP as student editors, and a commitment to social justice activism. Sadé Lindsay, a doctoral candidate at The Ohio State University, is engaged in research on the formerly incarcerated and prison program access. Her scholarship reflects her commitment to research that directly impacts on criminal justice and contributes to public policy. Ms. Lindsay has published 2 peer-reviewed journal articles and has

a 3<sup>rd</sup> article under review as well as a forthcoming chapter in *SSSP's Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions for 2020* which draws upon her dissertation research. Ms. Lindsay has been extraordinarily active as a student editor for *Social Problems*. She regularly reviews journal articles and also serves on the student advisory board and the social media committee. Her research has received national recognition. During the past 3 years she has received a number of awards including the 2018 Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the American Sociological Association. Karina Santellano, a doctoral candidate at USC, identifies as a 'scholar-activist' whose research on the commodification and marketing of Mexican American culture has been published in several avenues including peer-reviewed journal articles and in public forums. Santellano also has a distinguished record of public service including being recognized for her work as a mentor at a Juvenile Correction Facility. The College of Arts and Sciences awarded Santellano the *Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Service* for her work as a mentor and her public service. Her career as a scholar-activist and commitment to an academic career is demonstrated by the number of public presentations (8), her dissertation research, her collaborative research and her publications in peer-reviewed journals.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE:** The committee proposes the following action items. In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the committee recommends that the board discuss the merits and feasibility of reducing the scholarship by \$5,000 so that 3 fellowships could be awarded instead of 2. A third fellowship could be awarded to applicants who are conducting research on the impact of pandemics on racial and ethnic minority communities or who are engaged in research on race, inequality and health disparities. The assumption is that the same criteria or inclusion would apply – applicants would have to be advanced to candidacy and have fulfilled other application requirements. This could be a one-time adjustment in response to COVID-19.