

July 16, 2026

2025-26 Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee Report

On March 31, committee members Tracy Vargas, Judith Halasz, and Jason Smith considered the spreadsheet containing the three online applications received for the 2026 Erwin O. Smigel Award. Each applicant met the eligibility requirements. Smigel Fund monies are to be used to pay for three or four unemployed or severely underemployed sociologists' transportation to and registration fees for the SSSP Annual Meeting. Applicants must be current 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. A maximum of \$500 could be granted to any one recipient, and our committee had \$1,500 total in funds.

We arrived at a unanimous decision to award the maximum amount of \$500 to each of the three applicants: Meghna Bhat, Casey Jakubowski, and Natasha Kabir. Based on our review of the materials, we agreed that all of them have demonstrated need as well as their contribution to SSSP and the annual conference.

Chair Tracy Vargas advised the Administrative Office of the committee's decision on April 9 and requested that the applicants be advised of the outcome. Having concluded our work and with no new proposals, we have determined that there was no need for us to hold a meeting in New York City this August.

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