

Frequently Asked Questions

SSRIC 2017 Social Science Student Symposium (S⁴)

Thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Gene Geisler¹, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at San Francisco State and a key founding member of the SSRIC, the 2017 Symposium will include three \$5,000 best paper awards, as well as a small amount to defray travel costs for other papers presented.

Best paper awards²: Awards will be in three categories: the McCall Award for best undergraduate paper, the Nesvold Award for best graduate paper, and the Rummels Award for paper demonstrating the best use of quantitative data. Awards will be based only on the written papers submitted, but papers must actually be presented in order to be eligible for an award.

Travel Support: Papers presented at the symposium, but not winning a best paper award, may receive a small amount of money to help defray travel costs, depending upon funds available. Travel support is per paper and NOT per student author.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):

Who is eligible for an award?

Currently enrolled undergraduates, Master's level graduate students including recent graduates presenting work completed prior to graduation (Fall term 2016 or later), and students in the first two full years of a CSU doctoral program. Students may make a presentation without having submitted a paper, but will not be considered for an award. In the case of papers with multiple authors, all authors must be eligible for an award. Papers co-authored by both graduate and undergraduate students will be considered to be graduate papers. California community college students are welcome to present,

¹ This is the fourth year in which, thanks to Dr. Geisler's generosity, these awards have been possible. Prior to 2014, award winners received \$100 each, and there were no travel awards.

² The award for best undergraduate paper is named after Dr. Charles McCall (Political Science, Bakersfield). Charles was one of the SSRIC founders. He was SSRIC Council Chair (AY 1974-75), served on the Council of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, and was ICPSR Council chair. He died in 2013.

The best graduate paper award is named after another of the Council's founders, Dr. Betty Nesvold (Political Science, San Diego). Betty was the very first SSRIC chair (AY 1972-73). Like Charles, she also served on the Council of the ICPSR, and was ICPSR Council Chair. She died in 1992.

The award for the best use of quantitative data is named after Gloria Rummels (Staff, State University Data Center [SUDC]). Until the early 1990s, SUDC served as the "hub" for the data bases, and the late Gloria Rummels helped provide fantastic support for data users. From the time of her death until SUDC was disbanded some years later, Gloria's SUDC colleagues, demonstrating the great esteem in which she was held, funded this prize out of their own pockets.

but are not eligible for awards.

What about papers that have been published elsewhere?

Papers that are published or forthcoming in a peer-reviewed journal (excluding student journals) are not eligible for awards, nor are book chapters.

May a paper be presented at both this and another symposium (such as the CSU Student Research Competition)?

It's fine with us, and with the CSU [Student Research Competition](#). FYI: In 2017, the Competition will be held April 28-29 at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. For other conferences, check with the conference organizers.

Do I need to be present to win?

Basically yes, but see next question.

If a paper has multiple authors, how will awards be allocated?

For best paper awards, at least one author must present the paper at the Symposium, but awards will be divided equally among all authors listed on the paper, including those not actually presenting. For travel funds, the full amount of the award will go to the first author listed on the paper who is among those presenting.

Are papers co-authored by faculty eligible for an award?

No. Only students may be listed as authors, and students must have done the bulk of the work. These are student awards for student work. Faculty advisers are expected to be just that: advisers.

How do I submit a paper online?

Fill out the registration form by the deadline indicated. Include an abstract (100 words or less) of your paper/presentation. To be considered for an award, the full paper must be submitted with the registration. If you don't wish to be considered for an award, you don't need to submit a paper, but still do need to register and submit an abstract to participate and present your research.

Who will select the winners?

Awardees will be selected by a faculty committee appointed by the Social Science Research and Instructional Council. Reviews are done anonymously, and faculty do not review work submitted from their own campus.

What are the length and formatting requirements for papers?

Not more than 20 pages (excluding title, abstract, tables and graphs, and list of works cited), double-spaced, 12 point font, with 1 margins. Tables and graphs should NOT be included within the paper; rather, only as an addendum to the paper. So that members of the Awards Committee can be as objective as possible, do *not* include identifying information, such as author(s) name(s), campus(es), or email address(es), anywhere in the paper or abstract. You are already providing this information through the registration process. MS Word format is preferred, but PDF is acceptable.

Why do we need to provide our mailing address, phone number, and social security number?

When registering, you will be asked for your mailing address and phone number in case we need to contact you and there is a problem with your email. At the Symposium, you will submit the “State of California Vendor Data Record STD 204 (Rev 8-10)” form and the “2017 Withholding Exemption Certificate 590” form so that we can process your travel reimbursement. These forms will be emailed to you following your successful registration for the symposium. Both require your signature.

Do awards have income tax, health insurance, and/or financial aid implications?

We don't give tax or insurance advice; you'll have to check with someone who does. If you have questions regarding your financial aid, check with the financial aid office on your campus.