



SAGE Prize for Innovation and/or Excellence

The SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence is awarded annually to one paper in each of the BSA's four prestigious journals:

- **Cultural Sociology**
- **Sociological Research Online**
- **Sociology**
- **Work, Employment and Society**

The prize will be awarded to the paper published in the previous year's volume judged to represent innovation or excellence in the field. Winners will be notified by email and an announcement of the prize will be made at the BSA Annual Conference.

The prize is £250 worth of SAGE books or a free annual individual subscription to a journal of the winner's choice.

All nominees for the prize will receive publicity from the BSA and SAGE Publications, and winners' papers will receive a period of free electronic access to their articles to encourage usage and citation.

Criteria

- The selected papers must have been published in the previous year's volume.
- All papers, including full articles, debates and research notes are eligible. However, book reviews and book review essays are not.
- Individual authors and teams of authors are all eligible.
- A definition of the term 'innovative' has been agreed by the journal editors and is supplied below for use by the judges.

Judging panel

- Three members
- To be appointed by and from current editorial board
- Should not include the editors

Process

- Editors of each journal nominate a shortlist of up to five papers from the current volume. Editors may also choose to supply a short paragraph explaining their reasons for nominating each paper.
- Publications Officer notifies all shortlisted authors of their nomination.
- Judges discuss and select the winning paper.
- Announcement is made at the BSA Annual Conference.
- Nominees/winners are notified of the results and informed of their prize.
- SAGE to arranges prize.
- Nominees and winners are publicised through BSA & SAGE communication channels.

Definition of 'innovative'

Whilst the term 'excellence' seemed self-explanatory, the journal editors felt that the term 'innovative' could be expanded for the benefit of the judging panels. The following definitions have been suggested by the journal editors and are indicative of the criteria judges could use when deciding the winner of the prize. This list is not exhaustive.

An innovative paper:

- takes the discipline of [sociology / cultural sociology / sociology of work and employment] in new and distinctive directions;
- takes a novel look at social phenomena, theory or method (which may or may not have been analysed before), and demonstrates its application to sociology or the understanding of social life;
- moves established debates onwards in a fundamental way, or radically changes the nature of the debate;
- is original and imaginative and makes people think in new ways;
- develops new theoretical, conceptual or methodological approaches to certain subject matters; and/or on the basis of these yields new sorts of empirical data, understanding or knowledge;
- contributes importantly to wider sociology, and possibly also to other disciplines;
- makes connections that have not been made before (between different themes, approaches, subject matters, disciplines, etc.)
- makes a significant contribution to public sociology and social critique

N.B. Individual journals may add one or more specialist criteria if they wish. For example, SRO have proposed 'innovation in exploiting interactivity/online and/or visual resources'.