



INFORMATION AND CRITERIA

BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize 2026

The BSA is once again seeking nominations for the BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize. The prize is for first, sole-authored monographs within the discipline of sociology, by a UK sociologist in the early years of their career. To be eligible for the 2026 prize, the book must have been published (or be due for publication) between 1st December 2024 and 30th November 2025. Nominated authors must be current, fully paid-up, members of the BSA.

Full criteria are detailed below.

Closing Date: Monday 1st December 2025

Nominations

Nominations are being sought by general invitation to publishers, by circulation to BSA members, and via online promotion. To nominate a book, simply read the following information, download the nomination form from the BSA website, and send four copies of the nominated book to the address below.

Eligibility criteria

The intention of the BSA Board of Trustees in awarding this prize is to encourage new members of the profession, and this principle is used in guiding decisions about the selection and eligibility of books. The general criteria for eligibility are as follows:

- Nominated authors must be current, fully paid-up, members of the BSA.
- The nominated book should be concerned with the discipline of Sociology and clearly engaged with sociological frameworks.
- Nominated authors must have had a UK academic affiliation for at least 3 years. This affiliation may have included a period of study. This period of affiliation does not need to be continuous. (Please note, nominees do not need to hold a current affiliation.)
- The nominated author will be an early career researcher. This would typically be someone who is within 7 years of their highest degree of study. However, we recognise the increasing diversity of career trajectories, and ask nominators/applicants to articulate why they should be considered an early career researcher e.g. those who have spent periods of time outside of academia i.e. due to illness, parental leave, unemployment or employment outside of academia in non-research roles; who may have been employed in academia but in posts with limited or no scope for their own research and writing such as teaching-only contracts. This justification will be considered as part of the review process.
- The nominated book must be the author's first monograph. If the author has previously co-authored a monograph, they are not eligible for the prize. If the author has previously edited or co-edited a book, they are still eligible.
- The nominated book must be a sole-authored book.
- There is an expectation that the author has observed the contents of the BSA's Authorship Guidelines for Academic Papers (adopted April 2001).

- Nominations should comprise the official nomination form (duly completed), a brief curriculum vitae of the author, and four copies of the nominated book.

Judging panel

The nominations will be judged by a Committee of three members:

- President of the British Sociological Association
- BSA Publications Directors

The final composition of the Judging Panel is at the discretion of the BSA Board of Trustees. Judges may nominate others in their place with the agreement of the BSA Board of Trustees.

Judging process

The selection will take place in two stages. The members of the Judging Panel each recommend a shortlist of potential prize-winners. They then meet and discuss their selections to decide a final shortlist of no more than four books from which the winner is selected. The Panel reserves the right not to award any prize. The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.

Prize-giving

The winner will be notified in March 2026 and will be invited to attend the BSA Annual Conference which is to be held face to face from 8th – 10th April 2026. The conference registration fee will be paid by the BSA. During the conference the winner will be presented with a cash prize of £1,000. The prize will be presented at the conference dinner by the BSA President, if the winner is in attendance.

Publicity - Terms and conditions

It is a condition of entry that any publicity for the winning book should refer to the prize as 'British Sociological Association Philip Abrams Memorial Prize'. If the publicity refers to the nature of the prize, it should be stated clearly that the prize is 'awarded annually for the best first and sole-authored book in sociology'. Shortlisted books are permitted to use the BSA company name and logo on their publicity materials. Publishers are requested to contact Jackie Murphy at the BSA to discuss this before use.

For further information:

Please contact Jackie Murphy at: enquiries@britsoc.org.uk or telephone 0191 383 0839.

Please send 4 copies of the book and nomination forms to:

Philip Abrams Memorial Prize,
British Sociological Association,
Chancery Court,
Belmont Business Park
Belmont
Durham
DH1 1TW
UK