

Notes on the Book Award Committee

Last Updated: August 5, 2015

Step 1. Call for Nominations

This should be sent out in early Fall to all members. There is a form on the website for nominating books. All NASSP members and publishers are encouraged to nominate books. Self nomination is also welcome.

The call for nominations should also be posted on other sites, such as publicreason.net or the Association for Political Theory website, etc. We accept nominations from anyone (including self-nominations) except the members of the award committee.

Here is an example of the call:

Each year, the North American Society for Social Philosophy honors the best book published in social philosophy during the previous year with the NASSP Book Award. The Book Award Committee invites you to nominate a book to compete for this award for the year 2015.

The Award will be offered to the book published in 2015 that makes the most significant contribution to social philosophy. The field is to be construed broadly, to include social and political philosophy, philosophy of law, philosophy of social science, and social ethics. Excluded are anthologies, historical studies, works on ethics that lack a distinctly social component as well as works on a social topic that lack a substantial philosophical component. For the purposes of this award, a book will normally be considered to have been published in the year of its copyright, rather than the year of its release, unless there are exceptional circumstances that warrant otherwise.

The Award is presented each year at our annual conference, where the author receives a plaque and participates in a panel presentation concerning the book. The comments and a response from this panel will be published in *Social Philosophy Today*. The winning book and other nominated books are displayed at the conference and publicized on our website and in our refereed journal, *The Journal of Social Philosophy*.

Please take a few moments and consider which book or books published in 20XX-1 you thought best – then click the link below to send your nomination to this year’s book award committee. You may also click the link if you have questions; it will be sent to the entire committee. To keep the task manageable, the Book Award Committee will need to receive your nominations by December 31, 2015.

The 2015 book award committee consists of [list committee members].

Submit your nomination at:

<http://www.northamericansocietyforsocialphilosophy.org/386-2/>

Step 2. Resend the Call for Nominations

A reminder for nominations should be emailed to all members in late November or early December.

Step 3. The Chair Contacts the Publishers

As nominations are received, the chair should contact (by email is usually best) the publishers to request three copies of each book (i.e., one copy for each member of the committee). An email address for the publisher can usually be found on their website. Look for the marketing / publicity department, or the desk copy / review copy department, or the general inquiry address. If the committee members prefer print or PDF, you should specify that; otherwise, let the publisher know that either format is acceptable.

Here is an example

Dear [publisher],

I am writing on behalf of the North American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award Committee. We are considering books published in 2014 for the award. The following books from your press have been nominated.

[insert list of books from this publisher]

Would you be able to send a copy (or a PDF if you prefer) to each of the committee members, please? They are:

[Insert Names and mailing addresses of the three committee members]

Sincerely,

Here is a list of contacts from past years:

Cambridge
Chicago

Vincent Satkovski
Russell Burk

vsatkovski@cambridge.org
rsburk@uchicago.edu

Columbia	Meredith Howard	mhoward@columbiauniversitypress.com
Edinburgh	Naomi Farmer	Naomi.Farmer@eup.ed.ac.uk
Farrar, Strauss, Giroux		fsg.publicity@fsgbooks.com
Harvard UP	michael_aronson@harvard.edu or kimberley_townshend@harvard.edu	
McGill Queens UP	marketing.mqup@mcgill.ca (Jennifer Roberts)	
MIT	David Ryman	dryman@mit.edu
Oxford	Lucy Randall	Lucy.Randall@oup.com
Palgrave	Jaime Coyne	Jaime.Coyne@palgrave-usa.com
Penn State	Danny Bellet	djb49@ucs.psu.edu
Princeton	Claudia S. Classon	Claudia_Classon@press.princeton.edu
Routledge	Tara Culliney	Tara.Culliney@taylorandfrancis.com
	Alana Landano	alana.landano@taylorandfrancis.com

Step 4. Divide up the List

To make the task more manageable, committee members don't each read every book. In the first round, each member assesses 2/3 of the books (so that each book has two reviewers). The committee can use any agreeable method to decide who reviews which book; but it should take into account areas of expertise, and any conflicts of interest should be declared.

Step 5. Reviewing

For the first round, each member is asked to provide a ranked top 10, allowing for ties, of the books s/he is assigned. The only criterion is: Does the book "make the most significant contribution to social philosophy"?

After those rankings, it might already be clear which book should be selected as winner; but if not, the committee will draw up a short list of 2-5 and each committee will provide a ranking of that entire shortlist plus a short (1-2 paragraph) justification. It is for this reason that each committee member needs a copy of every nominated book (rather than only the books s/he is assigned in the first round). Hopefully that process and the ensuing discussion will lead to a winner.

Ideally the winner should be selected by the end of February. The chair should notify the NASSP President, who will notify the winner.

Step 6. Commentaries and Display

All of the nominated books should be brought to the conference and displayed near the registration table. Please decide as a committee how to do this.

Each committee members is to write up a commentary on the winning book. These should be sent to the author at least one month prior to the conference. They should be designed to be presented in 10-15 minutes.

The Award Session is usually opening remarks by the chair of the session, then the presentation of the plaque, then the three commentaries, then the author's replies, and then Q&A.

Step 7. Submission to *Social Philosophy Today*

We submit final versions (which can be the same as presented or slightly revised) of the commentaries to *SPT* for publication together with the author's reply. The deadline for this will need to be confirmed by the editor(s).