

Notes on the Book Award Committee

Updated: 10/2019

Step 1. Call for Nominations

The call 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 nominations are also welcome.

The call for nominations should also be posted on other sites, such as Daily Nous, APA, SWIP, relevant listservs or public Facebook groups (Association for Political Theory, ASPP) etc. We accept nominations from anyone (including self-nominations) *except from* the members of the award committee.

Here is an example of the call, with dates used for award given in AY 2019-2020: -----

Each year the North American Society for Social Philosophy honors the best book published in social philosophy during the previous year. The Book Award Committee invites you to nominate a book to compete for the award for 2020. (For the purposes of this award, a book's eligibility is determined by the year of its copyright rather than by the year of its release.)

The Award will be conferred on a book published in 2019 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, and works on ethics that lack a distinctly social component and works on a social topic that lack a substantial philosophical component.

The Award is presented at the NASSP annual conference. The author and Book Award committee members participate in a panel discussion of the book. The comments and author response from the panel are published in *Social Philosophy Today*.

The deadline for nominations is no later than December 31, 2019. Nominations (including self-nominations) should be submitted here:

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

For inquiries about the 2020 NASSP Book Award, please contact the Award Committee chairperson, [add contact information]

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 through the website, the chair should start a spreadsheet with names, titles, publishers of books, date copies are requested, initials of readers who get copies, and initials of readers who are assigned first-round reading. Also, the chair should contact (by email is usually best) the publishers to request 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 are two examples: -----

Dear [publisher],

I am writing on behalf of the North American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award Committee. We are considering books published in 2019 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, email addresses, and mailing addresses of committee members] Sincerely,

Sample CFP Email sent to publishers—general invitation to nominate:

To whom it may concern:

Each year the North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) awards a prize to the best book in social philosophy published in the previous calendar year. (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, and works on ethics that lack a distinctly social component and works on a social topic that lack a substantial philosophical

component.) For the 2020 award we are considering books published in 2019. The winner of the book award is honored at our annual conference and is the subject of a round-table discussion. (The 37th international Social Philosophy Conference will take place July 16 - 18, 2020; it is hosted by Neumann University in Aston, PA.) The round-table contributions are published in *Social Philosophy Today*. All nominated books are displayed at the conference.

Would [PRESS] like to nominate a book (no more than two) for the award? The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2019.

As chairperson of the Book Award committee, I would like to request review copies of that/those text(s). Would you be able to send a copy (or a PDF if you prefer) to each of the committee members? They are:

Thank you for considering this request. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Here is a list of publishers, and of contacts (if known), as of the fall of 2019 [there is high turn-over in this industry, so try to always also use the general department or office email address]:

Cambridge University Press: Vincent Satkovski vsatkovski@cambridge.org;
publicity@cambridge.org

Chicago UP: publicity@press.uchicago.edu, David Olsen dbolsen@press.uchicago.edu

Columbia UP: publicity@columbiauniversitypress.com

Edinburgh UP: marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk

Farrar, Straus, Giroux: fsg.publicity@fsgbooks.com

Harvard UP: Emily Arkin awards_hup@harvard.edu

Harvard Education Press: Laura Cutone Godwin laura_cutone@gse.harvard.edu Rowman &

Littlefield/Lexington Books publicity@rowman.com

McGill-Queen's UP: marketing.mqup@mcgill.ca

MIT UP: mitpress-publicity@mit.edu

Oxford UP: Shannen Bennett awards.uk@oup.com

Palgrave MacMillian: phil.getz@palgrave-usa.com

Penn State UP: crf16@psu.edu

Picador: publicity@picadorusa.com

Princeton UP: Claudia S. Classon Claudia_Classon@press.princeton.edu

Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group: routledgephilosophy@informa.com

Stanford UP: Kendra Schynert kschynert@stanford.edu; publicity@www.sup.org

U of Minnesota Press: ump@umn.edu; Eric Lundgren lundg030@umn.edu

Verso: verso@versobooks.com

Open Book Publishers: Lucy Barnes lucy@openbookpublishers.com

Duke University Press: Emily Estelle Lawrence emily.lawrence@dukeupress.edu

U of Michigan Press: Kathryn Beaton kbeaton@umich.edu

U of Pennsylvania Press: Zoe Gould uppprize@pobox.upenn.edu

W.W. Norton publicity@wnnorton.com

Step 4. Timeline; Divide up the List

To create a time line for the project, work back from the conference date: the author should receive commentaries at least one month before the conference; allow one month for the committee members to compose their respective commentaries.

Each committee member needs a copy of every nominated book (rather than only the books s/he is assigned in the first round). To make the task more manageable, committee members will not read every book. In the first round, each member assesses 1/2 of the books (each book should have *at least* 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 5, allowing for ties, of the books s/he is assigned. The only selection 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, when needed, a short (1-2 paragraph) justification. Hopefully that process and the ensuing discussion will lead to a winner. Because a condition of receipt of the award is attendance at the conference, it makes sense to identify 1-2 runners-up.

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

Step 6. Commentaries and Display

When practicable, 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. Depending on how many committee members there are, the commentaries should be designed to be presented in 10 minutes or so.

The Award Session is usually presided over by the award committee chairperson. A typical order of the program: opening remarks by the chair of the session, the presentation of the plaque, the commentaries, the author's replies, and then Q&A.

Step 7. Submission to *Social Philosophy Today*

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