



The [Feminist Sociology Research Cluster](#) provides both a communications hub and meeting places for feminists within sociology to share ideas and research, to discuss common concerns within the discipline and also to converse with feminists across disciplinary lines. The Feminist Sociology Research Cluster would like to recognise outstanding scholarly work by researchers whose papers contribute meaningfully to feminist sociological theory, methods, praxis, and/or social justice-oriented scholarship. Papers should demonstrate original insight, rigorous inquiry, and alignment with feminist principles and epistemologies.

In 2026, we will be hosting two award categories, and we encourage submissions in both French and English. Papers are due by April 30, 2026.

**Feminist Cluster Best Conference Student Paper Award** - For eligible papers authored by student members of the CSA approved for presentation at the annual CSA conference.

**Feminist Cluster Early Career Scholar Conference Award**- Early Career scholars (post-docs or untenured and members of the CSA) may be recognized for their paper or presentation associated with their participation in the annual CSA Conference.

The CSA is committed to the values and principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization (refer to our Operating Standards and Principles on Equity). We recognize and honour the intersectionality of equity-based identities and therefore invite and encourage the nomination (including self-nomination) of members from marginalized groups, including Indigenous peoples, racialized persons, persons with disabilities, persons who identify as women, and/or 2SLGBTIQ+.

## Eligibility

- Canadian Sociological Association membership in good standing is mandatory.
- For Student Award
  - Undergraduate Student
  - MA Student
  - PhD Student
- For Early Career Scholar Award
  - Postdoc
  - Assistant Professor (untenured)
  - Associate Professor (untenured)
- For the student award- sole-authored papers, co-authored with another student, or co-authored with a faculty member.
- Presentation in a Canadian Sociological Association Conference-hosted session (either virtual or in-person) is mandatory.
- Maximum words or pages (e.g. 10,000 words or 40 pages, single-spaced).
- Full papers only – research proposals will not be accepted.
- Nominated paper status- unpublished and not yet approved for publication.

All submissions should be sent to Natalie Snow at [nsnow@niagara.edu](mailto:nsnow@niagara.edu) by **April 30, 2026** and include:

- Nominee name(s), email address(es), affiliation(s) (academic institution), and student level(s) (Undergraduate, MA, PhD) or career level
- Session in which the nominee is participating in at the CSA Conference
- An anonymous version of the paper for blind review
- Details regarding the 'e. Paper Status criteria response'

## **Adjudication Process**

### *Role of the Award Committee*

- The Award Committee consists of 4 members of the Feminist Cluster.  
All members must self-declare conflicts of interest prior to receiving submissions.

### *Paper Distribution & Blind Review*

- The Award Coordinator anonymizes all papers.
- Each paper is assigned to two independent reviewers.
- If reviewer scores differ by more than 10 points, a third reviewer is assigned to ensure fairness.

### *Evaluation*

- Reviewers evaluate papers using the official rubric (below).
- Reviewers provide both numeric scores and qualitative comments.
- Reviewers submit scores within the designated timeframe (usually 2–4 weeks).

### *Final Deliberation*

- Discuss any discrepancies the Award Coordinator compiles scores and comments.
- The committee meets (in person or virtually) to review high-scoring papers
- Select a winner and optional honourable mention(s)

### *Decision-Making Principles*

- Decisions are based on aggregate scores, but qualitative discussion is permitted to break ties or contextualize excellence.
- The committee aims for consensus, but a majority vote may be used if needed.
- The winner must score at least 75% overall unless exceptional circumstances apply.

### *Announcement of Award*

- The winner is notified by email and announced:
  - At the Canadian Sociological Association conference
  - On relevant websites, newsletters, or social media channels

**Evaluation Rubric (100 Points Total)**

**Category 1 — Contribution to Feminist Sociology (25 points)**

Criteria	Points
Demonstrates clear alignment with feminist sociological theories, methods, or commitments	0–10
Critical engagement with feminist scholarship and intersectional perspectives	0–10
Articulates the feminist contribution, intervention, or innovation offered by the paper	0–5

**Category 2 — Originality and Scholarly Significance (20 points)**

Criteria	Points
Addresses a novel or underexplored research question	0–10
Demonstrates theoretical, methodological, or empirical innovation	0–10

**Category 3 — Theoretical Engagement (15 points)**

Criteria	Points
Quality and depth of theoretical grounding	0–5
Clear articulation of conceptual framework(s)	0–5
Effective synthesis of existing literature	0–5

**Category 4 — Methodological Rigor (15 points)**

*(Applicable to qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods, participatory, and critical methodologies)*

Criteria	Points
Appropriateness of methodology for research question	0–5
Transparent and ethical approach, including reflexivity	0–5
Quality of analysis and clarity of findings	0–5

**Category 5 — Quality of Writing & Organization (10 points)**

Criteria	Points
Clarity, coherence, and logical flow	0–5
Grammar, style, and readability	0–5

**Category 6 — Social Justice Orientation & Ethical Reflexivity (10 points)**

Criteria	Points
Attention to power, equity, and positionality	0–5
Ethical, reflexive, and socially responsive research practices	0–5

**Category 7 — Overall Impression (5 points)**

Criteria	Points
Overall scholarly excellence and impact	0–5

**Reviewer Score Sheet (Template)**

**Paper ID:**

**Reviewer:**

**Date:**

Category	Max Points	Score
Contribution to Feminist Sociology	25	____
Originality & Significance	20	____
Theoretical Engagement	15	____
Methodological Rigor	15	____
Writing & Organization	10	____
Social Justice & Ethical Reflexivity	10	____
Overall Impression	5	____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	____

**Qualitative Comments (required):**

- Strengths:
- Areas for Improvement:
- Recommendation (Winner / Honourable Mention / Strong Paper / Not Recommended):