The Social Theory Research Cluster is now accepting submissions for our Best Student Paper Award. In keeping with the cluster's commitment to "bring together sociologists who identify as theorists, whose work engages with theoretical questions, or who simply care passionately about the future of social theory in Canada," the paper must address themes broadly related to social theory.

Up to three recipients will be selected from among all papers submitted, based on student level (undergraduate, MA, or PhD)

Eligibility Criteria

• Primary Author of Submitted Paper.

• Canadian Sociological Association membership in good standing.

• Undergraduate student, MA Student OR PhD Student.

Authorship of Nominated Paper:

• Sole authored OR Co-authored with another student (Undergraduate, MA, or PhD).

• The use of AI is strongly discouraged for any part of the conceptualization, planning, or writing of the paper. Submissions must include an AI statement indicating any and all use of AI for the paper.

Conference Presentation of Nominated Paper

• Presentation in a Canadian Sociological Association Conference hosted session (either virtual or in-person) is mandatory.

• Paper may be presented in any CSA Conference 2026 session (either virtually or in-person).

• Session does not have to be affiliated with the Social Theory research cluster.

Nominated Paper Status

• Full papers only – research proposals will not be accepted.

• Unpublished and not yet approved for publication.

Nominated Paper Format

• 4000–6000 words (for MA and PhD submissions).

• 2500–4000 words (for Undergraduate submissions).

• At this time, only English language submissions can be accepted

Submission Instructions

We will accept submissions by nominators or by self-nomination until the deadline of **April 30, 2026**.

Email a copy of the paper (in PDF) format along with the information below to the current STRC paper award committee (tara.milbrandt@ualberta.ca).

- Include the title, an abstract (200-250 words), and 3-5 keywords. As part of the abstract, include a brief statement about the paper's theoretical contribution.
- Primary author's name, email address, affiliation (academic institution), and student level (undergraduate, MA, PhD).
- Co-author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and student level(s).
- The CSA conference session in which the paper is being presented.
- The author(s) are welcome to self-identify as a member of any equity deserving community.

Adjudication

The paper award committee comprised of faculty members who are part of the Social Theory Research Cluster executive will independently review each paper and rank based on the above the overall quality and theoretical contribution of the paper informed by the criteria listed above. Following this, the committee will meet to make its decisions based on committee members' rankings. If no paper meets the criteria, the award will not be given.

Canadian Sociological Association Equity Statement

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 LGBTQ2+.