

Fichter Award Committee

(updated 2023)

The Fichter Award Committee “will solicit applications, judge their merit, and allocate the funds available” for Joseph H. Fichter Research Grants “within guidelines established by the Executive Council. The Committee will also triennially review the topic area [for the grants] and make recommendations to the Executive Council.”

The awarding of grants is quite clear cut. Guidelines for applicants are posted on the website and distributed by the Executive Officer at the ASR Annual Meeting and at other conferences, such as the RRA/SSSR conference. The members of the committee may choose to distribute the guidelines elsewhere. Publicity usually begins in October. At that time, the Executive Officer confirms the content of the submission forms with the committee Chair and opens a submission box on the ASR website.

Grant proposals are due by February 1. The Chair collects the applications and distributes them to the other members of the committee. Because all applicants for the Fichter Research Grants must be members of the Association, the Chair should consult the ASR Member Directory on the website to verify that each applicant is a member before distributing the application.. Awards are announced by April 1.

After the committee makes its decision, the Chair will notify *all* the applicants of the committee’s decision and will send notice to the Executive Officer of the names of each awardee, the amount of money awarded, and a copy of all of the applications. In the letter to the awardees, the Chair should advise the awardee to contact the Executive Officer of ASR for information about how the funds will be dispersed. Neither the Chair nor the awardees are required to attend the ASR Annual Meeting, but if they are present, the Chair or another member of the committee will be asked to announce and recognize the awardees. Normally the amount of the award is not announced.

Administration of the funds is in the hands of the Executive Officer, who follows the policies described on the website. The Chair should make no commitment to a grantee regarding disbursement procedures.

The flow and level of grant applications varies significantly. How the grants are awarded is entirely within the discretion of the committee, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per proposal. Often proposals are only partially funded. The committee may choose not to distribute all of the available funding, if it decides that some of the proposals were not worth funding or not worth funding in full.

The topic area is currently defined as “sociological research on women in religion or on the intersection between religion and gender or religion and sexualities.”