

Lifetime Achievement Award

(updated 2023)

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Contributions to the Sociology of Religion was created in 2017 to recognize a career or a long period of contribution to the sociology of religion as an intellectual discipline. The two criteria are, first, having made “*major intellectual contributions, theoretical or empirical,*” to the discipline, and second, having made “*contributions to the organizational or professional thriving of the sociology of religion.*”

The recipient of any year’s award is selected by a committee of three persons, each of whom serves a three-year term. The terms are staggered so that each year one member leaves the committee and a new member is appointed. Ordinarily, a member chairs the committee in the second year of service.

The Committee begins soliciting nominations for the award each January. Nominators must be members of the Association though candidates need not be. Once a person is nominated, that person’s candidacy remains active for five (5) years and will be considered by the Award Committee each year during that period. Instructions for nominations are posted on the ASR website; they include a list of six or seven names with contact information of people who might be asked to participate in a special ASR session at the August conference giving a retrospective of the nominee’s work and contribution.

The deadline for nominations is the first of May. Nomination materials are to be uploaded to the Association’s website; from there they are transferred to a secure Web depository to which only the committee members and the Executive Officer have access. Once they are available, the Chair directs members to consider each of the nominations and its supporting documentation. After a week or two of review, the Chair schedules a meeting of all members and conducts an exchange — either “live” online or via e-mail — during which the committee assesses the candidates. The Chair will give members the opportunity to share and defend their choices and rationales. While this discussion is vigorous and full, the committee often comes to a consensus in short order. Once that agreement is achieved, the Chair of the committee conveys this information to the Executive Office and to the recipient of the honor.

The Chair, in conjunction with the Executive Office and the Program Chair, will then organize a session for recipient that reviews and celebrates the winner's contribution to the sociology of religion. Ideally, this session will be ready for inclusion in the program by mid-June.