Congratulations to the ACSP2023 Award Winners

Each of our award recipients have distinguished themselves by making outstanding contributions to ACSP, the Academy and the profession.

A complete history of awards can be found at www.ACSP.org.
Distinguished Educator Award

The ACSP Distinguished Educator Award is presented in appreciation of significant contributions to the field of planning. The awardee is selected from candidates who are nominated by ACSP members.

WINNER: June Manning Thomas, University of Michigan

Professor Thomas is Mary Frances Berry Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Urban Planning and Centennial Professor Emerita of Urban and Regional Planning. She is renowned in the urban planning field and has received numerous awards and honors from universities, professional associations, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Her pioneering and transformative research focuses on how the urban planning profession has dealt with issues of race and social justice. She has produced a substantial and rich body of publications over nearly five decades. Much of her work focuses on the history of planning in Detroit, but with broader relevance, and some of her research focuses on other locations. Nominators cited “Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Detroit” (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997) as a ground-breaking effort documenting how projects developed by urban planners had at best disregarded the needs of a growing African-American population and at worst destroyed black neighborhoods and isolated blacks in poor living conditions. Attempts by planners to improve neighborhoods for all residents were unsuccessful because white residents were unwilling to accept black neighbors. Planners were also shown to be sometimes-unwitting instruments of a racist society in which prevailing institutions obstructed the pursuit of more equitable policies. This seminal work both built on earlier work and provided a base for highly productive and influential future research.

Professor Thomas is also highly regarded for her important role and significant accomplishments in ACSP. In addition to productive service as ASCP vice-president (2011-2013) and president (2013-2015), she was founding chair of the Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG). As part of this effort, she established a highly regarded nationwide mentoring program for junior faculty of color. She has also served on a number of other ACSP committees and is the recipient of two ACSP awards. These include the Paul Davidoff Book Award (1999) for Redevelopment and Race: Planning A Finer City in Postwar Detroit and the Jay Chatterjee Distinguished Service Award (2016).

Paul Davidoff Book Award

The Paul Davidoff award recognizes an outstanding book publication regarding participatory planning and positive social change, opposing poverty and racism as factors in society and seeking ways to address social and place-based inequalities.

WINNER: Michael Méndez, University of California, Irvine

Climate Change from the Streets

This book reflects urban planning scholarship at its finest, addressing Paul Davidoff’s view of planning for justice and equity through the voices from below, or as Dr. Méndez himself puts it, “climate change from the streets.” Méndez’s work embodies community-engaged scholarship, enabling us to think through what it means to work with and for affected communities on one of the most pressing issues of our time. In so doing, he artfully shows both the limits and possibilities of advocacy planning for environmental justice while helping the reader to imagine an inclusive path forward. What incredible and important research by someone with the unique positionality to tell the story. A bullseye on the Davidoff Award criteria. Well done, congrats, and Bravo, Dr. Méndez!

Marcia M. Feld Leadership Award

This award recognizes a Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG) colleague for outstanding leadership within the ACSP organization.

WINNER: Betsy Sweet, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Dr. Sweet has demonstrated significant leadership in a range of ACSP’s interest groups and committees, is well known and well respected, and her service beyond ACSP is noteworthy as a mentor, advocate, and activist scholar. Her leadership and work exemplify the spirit and goals of this award. In particular, her commitment to addressing racial and gender issues within ACSP and the planning discipline more broadly is commendable. From being a founding member of the Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG) to pushing the Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG) to be more aligned with feminist, antiracist, and decolonial principles to serving on the Presidential Task Force for Anti-Racism within ACSP, Dr. Sweet has demonstrated through her actions her unwavering commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive planning field, as well as more equitable and inclusive communities and cities.

RISING SCHOLAR AWARD (FOR TIER ONE PROGRAMS)

Established in 2018, the ACSP Rising Scholar Award recognizes early-career scholars who demonstrate strong potential for a meritorious impact on planning scholarship.

WINNER: Ariel Bierbaum, University of Maryland

Dr. Bierbaum’s research bridges planning, public education, and urban studies, with an emphasis on social justice. The committee was impressed not only with Dr. Bierbaum’s excellent publication and citation record, but also her leadership in advising the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Education on policy and programmatic changes related to housing, school integration, and transportation access. She has secured a number of external grants to support her research, particularly community embedded planning and policy work. Her research is influential, not only in terms of its scholarly impact, but also on policy and on the ground in the communities where she works. Dr. Bierbaum’s colleagues describe her as “one of the most promising rising scholars in the planning field” and as someone who will “provide thought leadership, provocative insights, and applied impact in the years to come.” This committee believes that Dr. Bierbaum’s intellectual contributions in terms of originality, significance, and rigor make her an ideal recipient of the 2023 ACSP Rising Scholar Award.
EDWARD BLAKELY AWARD

Established by the Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG), the Edward Blakely Award is given to a worthy honoree who has supported the cause of social justice, particularly in urban planning or development, for communities of color.

WINNER: Clara Irazábal-Zurita, University of Maryland

Dr. Irazábal is a renowned scholar and educator in urban planning with a focus on improving issues of socio-spatial justice in Latinx, immigrant, and minority communities. Dr. Irazábal’s research has significantly contributed to our understanding of how politics, place and space combine to determine, often poorly, the planning outcomes for disadvantaged communities across the US and Latin America. This important work has resulted in four books and over 150 publications.

Dr. Irazábal’s renown extends to more than just her scholarship. She is also a valued leader, colleague, and mentor in the planning community. At the University of Maryland, Dr. Irazábal is an ADVANCE Professor and the Director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program (URSP) in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP). She has previously chaired ACSP’s Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG), twice, and is an active member of the Global Planning Education Committee (GPEC) and the Global Planning Educators Interest Group’s (GPEIG). She has served on numerous committees for ACSP over the years, ranging from the Best Journal Article Award Committee and Leadership Team to its Diversity Task Force. She has been a willing and selfless mentor to so many young planning scholars of color, for which we are immensely grateful.

Dr. Irazábal has received numerous awards to match this commitment to advancing socially just planning. This includes among others, a Fulbright Scholarship in Costa Rica, being selected as one of 25 International “Women in Social Design, Emergency and Development” by the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) at Barcelona, and receiving the LASA Latino Studies Outstanding Article Award 2021 for “Latinos in Kansas City: The Political Economy of Placemaking” in the Journal of Planning Literature, and the Best Journal Article on International Planning 2017 by the Global Planning Educators Interest Group (GPEIG) of ACSP titled, “Contesting TINA: Community Planning Alternatives for Disaster Reconstruction in Chile” in the Journal of Planning Education and Research. Today, we are proud to be able to add to this recognition of Clara Irazábal as an outstanding scholar and educator on social justice in planning.

CHESTER RAPKIN AWARD

The Chester Rapkin Award for the Best Paper in the Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER) has been awarded annually since 1998. All papers published in the JPER are automatically considered.

WINNER: Dan Milz, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

The Hidden Benefits of Facilitated Dialogue
Volume 42, Issue 1

The 2023 Chester Rapkin Best Paper Award committee reviewed all the articles published in Volume 42 (2022) of the Journal of Planning Education and Research. Selecting one article for this award was a challenging process, given the overall high quality of the papers. Our review was guided by JPER’s focus as a forum for planning educators and scholars (from both academia and practice) to present results from teaching and research that advance the profession and improve planning practice.

We are pleased to recommend Dr. Dan Milz’s paper “The Hidden Benefits of Facilitated Dialogue” as this year’s recipient of the Chester Rapkin Best Paper Award. The paper demonstrates the important role of facilitation in dispute resolution with unique qualitative methodological approaches. The analytical framework of three conceptual categories drawing on hierarchy theory is very interesting and effective in teasing out the hidden benefits of facilitated dialogue in developing a regional wastewater plan in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The paper is well organized, with excellent conceptual and methodological frameworks. The data analysis is sophisticated, the results are effectively presented, and the interpretations are logical. The research also has significant implications for planning practice.

JPER TOP REVIEWERS

Kirk McClure
University of Kansas
Editorial Board

Ruth Steiner
University of Florida
Editorial Board

Stacey White
University of Illinois Chicago
Non-editorial Board

Dwayne Baker
Queens College, City University of New York
Non-editorial Board

PAB OUTSTANDING SITE VISITOR AWARDS

Brenda Case Scheer FAIA, FAICP
Professor Emeritus
University of Utah
Educator

Sue Schwartz, FAICP
Planning Director
City of Greensboro
Practitioner
STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Barclay Gibbs Jones Award for Best Dissertation in Planning
Ariam L. Torres Cordero, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
*The Struggle for a Just Recovery: Insurgent Planning, Transnational Networks, and Colonial Legacies in Post-Disaster Puerto Rico*

Don Schöen Award for Excellence in Learning from Practice
Raquel Ordoñez, of University of Kansas
*Sweeping up the Pieces: The Story of the Lost City of Tenochtitlan*

Ed McClure Award for Best Masters Student Paper
Allie Padgett, University of California at Los Angeles
*A Taco Truck on Every Corner: The Effects of Heightened Enforcement Threats on Street Vendor Legalization in Los Angeles*

Gill-Chin Lim Award for the Best Dissertation on International Planning
Babak Manouchehrifar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
*Urban Planning and Religious Practice: Three Challenges*

Student Travel Scholarship Winners

**Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG)**
Laura Geronimo, Rutgers University
Fariba Siddiqi, University of California, Los Angeles
Jeonghwa Yang, Florida State University

**Global Planning Education Interest Group (GPEIG)**
Vinisha Basnet, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Irene Farah, University of California, Berkeley
Cheng-Kai Hsu, University of California, Berkeley
Richa Vuppuluri, University of Virginia
Priscila Coli Rocha, University of California, Berkeley

**Inclusion (LGBTQIA + Allies)**
Sang-O Kim, Cornell University
Joelle McNeil, University of Waterloo
Aram Yang, The Ohio State University

**Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)**
Hao Ding, University of California, Los Angeles
Donggyu Lee, The Ohio State University
Seungbin Park, The Ohio State University

**Global Planning Education Interest Group (GPEIG)**
Vinisha Basnet, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Irene Farah, University of California, Berkeley
Cheng-Kai Hsu, University of California, Berkeley
Richa Vuppuluri, University of Virginia
Priscila Coli Rocha, University of California, Berkeley

**T-shirt Fundraiser Recipient**
Ouafa Benkraouda, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**ACSP At-Large**
Rachel Barber, Queen’s University
Xiaofan Liang, Georgia Institute of Technology
Clemens Pilgram, University of Southern California
Laura Schmahmann, University of California, Berkeley
Sridipta Ghatak, University of California, Irvine

Thank you to all of the Award Selection Committee members for your service in selecting our winners!