

The Jerry S. Wiggins Student Award for Outstanding Interpersonal Research 2016

The Jerry S. Wiggins Student Award for Outstanding Interpersonal Research is given annually by the Society of Interpersonal Theory and Research in order to recognize and promote outstanding student research in interpersonal psychology. One award is given for the best student presentation (*talk*) given at the annual SITAR conference.

How to apply?

To apply for the Wiggins Award, students simply indicate their desire to be considered for the award when submitting proposals for the conference as an addition to the regular submission procedures outlined in the SITAR call for conference proposals. These students are automatically enrolled in the Wiggins Award competition upon acceptance of their proposal as a paper (talk). If a student applicant were asked by the Program Committee to present a poster rather than a paper, then they would be eligible for the Poster Award, but not the Wiggins Award.

In addition, all Wiggins Award participants will submit to the Chair of the Awards Committee a copy of their actual slides by 8am on the first day of the conference.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for an award, applicants must:

- Be the first author on a presentation submission that is accepted as a paper (talk)
- Be a full-time graduate student at the time of submission
- Be a student member of SITAR
- Present their talk at the SITAR conference
- Be presenting a talk that reflects the applicants' work and not that of an advisor. If the work presented is in-press, the student must be first author on the article.

SITAR student members can apply for the award multiple times, with the exception that students who receive an award are no longer eligible.

Who are the judges?

There will be an initial vetting of all submissions for the Wiggins Award by the Program Committee. The Program Committee will determine which applicants will be allotted paper presentations and will thus be eligible for consideration for the Wiggins Award. If a student applicant were asked to present a poster rather than a paper, then they would be eligible for the Poster Award above, but not the Wiggins Award.

Before the conference, the Awards Committee approaches members of the society, including past Wiggins Award winners who may still be students, asking whether they would be willing to serve as judges. These judges are primarily non-student members of SITAR, including the Executive Committee, who visit the contending posters and observe the talks. Their identities are only revealed to the other judges and the Chair of the Awards Committee, in order to enable fair and unbiased judgments. The number of judges may not be lower than two.

What are the criteria for the award?

The award is to be adjudicated primarily at the conference based on the actual presentation, although ratings will be compiled and the winner will be announced following the conference. The winner is selected by the judges who consider the SITAR conference submission, the presentation (talk) itself, and a conversation with or questions posed to the presenter, as well as potential contribution to the field.

In the presentation, the judges look for a concise statement of the research problem, a clear statement of methods, appropriate data analysis, conclusions that are warranted by the data, an explanation of why the work is important, and a well-organized and clear presentation. In the conversation with the poster presenter or the observation of the talk, the judges are interested in the applicant's level of understanding of the research, ability to describe the work to non-experts and experts, and the degree to which the work represents the student's own intellectual effort. These criteria are compiled, along with consideration of the abstract from the conference program and judgments regarding the potential for the research to make a contribution to the field.

What does the award consist of?

1. An award certificate
2. A certificate for free registration (non-transferrable) to the next SITAR conference
3. The award winner will be announced in the SITAR newsletter, where the winner will also present his or her research.