Call

"Academy of Sociology Award for Best Dissertation" 2027

For the fifth time, the Academy of Sociology (AS) is awarding its biennial prize for the best dissertation in the field of analytical-empirical sociology. The prize money is 1,500 Euro.

Eligibility criteria

Researchers whose doctoral thesis (in German or English) was successfully defended between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026 are eligible to apply.

Referees and dissertation advisers of outstanding analytical-empirical candidates are invited to encourage their doctoral candidates to apply. Membership in the AS is not required for application.

Submission deadline and guidelines

Submissions should be sent to

dissertationspreis@akademie-soziologie.de

by 31 January 2027 (midnight CET).

The following documents are required for submission (as separate PDF files in the attachment of the application email): (1) the dissertation, (2) a 3–5-page summary of the dissertation (incl. half-page abstract), (3) published articles from the dissertation (if applicable), and, if possible, (4) the referee reports. The summary should outline the topic of the dissertation, its research design and methodology, its main findings and arguments, as well as its central conclusions. In addition, it should also include the table of contents of the dissertation.

Selection procedure

A committee consisting of AS board members Martin Abraham and Rolf Becker as well as two members of the Academy of Sociology will select the best dissertation from all entries. Central assessment criteria are (1) the originality of the research question and the analytical-empirical conceptualization; (2) the precision and rigor of the theoretical reasoning; (3) for empirical work: the quality, accuracy, and transparency of the empirical research design as well as a wide range of data and methods; (4) the scientific and, if applicable, practical impact of the results; (5) coherence (of a cumulative dissertation). Applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process by the end of April 2027.

Award ceremony at AS Conference

The winner of the Dissertation Award will be awarded at the AS conference in Mannheim, Germany, June 23–25, 2027. The winner will be given the opportunity to present the dissertation in a plenary session at the conference. Costs for accommodation and travel as well as the conference fees will be covered by the Academy of Sociology.