



# Sociologists for Women in Society

## Congratulations 2018 Barbara Rosenblum Award Winner



Dear SWS Members,

Sociologists for Women in Society is proud to announce the recipient of the 2018 Barbara Rosenblum Dissertation Award, Emily Hallgren. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage doctoral research in sociology, anthropology, psychology and related fields on women's experience of breast cancer and other reproductive cancers and the prevention of these diseases. Another goal of the scholarship is to encourage scholars to make this type of research accessible to the public through speaking and publishing for lay audiences.

Emily Hallgren is a PhD Candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research examines the relationships between gender, class, and health. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals including the *American Journal of*

*Public Health* and *Academic Medicine*, and she has presented her work at sociology and public health conferences. She is currently conducting her dissertation research on the economic impacts of cancer on women of varied socioeconomic status in rural Illinois.

Members of the Selection Committee described Emily's mixed method research as: well written, well planned, and "doable." They lauded the inclusivity of the language

that Emily uses in her research and her active avoidance of the term, “survivor,” which can be alienating to those in active treatment or with the incurable, metastatic disease. Emily’s research is noteworthy because she points out that most research on rural women who had cancer tends to homogenise the category of geography (by assuming that all rural women's experiences are the same), ignoring the impact of other axes of difference on women’s experience (on the bases of class, ethnicity, working status, etc.). Emily’s work incorporates nuanced “feminist intersectional lenses” and her understanding of the difference between disadvantage (e.g. rural women) and inequality (poor and working class rural women) is also noteworthy. There is great potential for the intellectual significance of Emily’s work. Her findings could have practical applications for those who are diagnosed with breast cancer and those who are treating and supporting them in terms of how to prepare for and deal with economic consequences.

Thank you to the members of the Selection Committee that included: Ana Porroche-Escudero (Chair), Jan Thomas, Kelly Shanahan, and Ilana Lowy.