



Sociologists for Women in Society

Congratulations 2018 Natalie Allon Research Award Winner

Dear SWS Members,

The 2018 Natalie Allon Research Award Winner is Molly Talcott.

The purpose of the Natalie Allon Research grant is to, broadly, advance our sociological understanding and redress of employment discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, or sexual orientation. The Allon Fund has three funding priorities

- Legal fees for SWS Members who are protecting their rights by fighting discrimination cases that are based on sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, or sexual orientation.
- Legal fees to fight cases of institutional discrimination that disproportionately affects women such as threats to tenure, or the exploitation of adjunct instructors.

- Support for research on institutional gender-based discrimination (e.g., discrimination based on sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, or sexual orientation). The research grant will support a range of research, from applied to academic, on issues related to gender, its numerous intersections, and discrimination.

In 2018, we are awarding these funds under the third priority

Molly Talcott is an antiracist feminist teacher-scholar and union organizer. She is an Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles, Associate Vice President of the California Faculty Association (the largest higher education faculty union in the US), and cofounder of LUCI (the Los Angeles Union Cooperative Initiative). She is coeditor of *New Directions in Feminism and Human Rights* (2011). Her two current projects examine academic freedom and worker cooperative organizing, as they intersect with racial and gender justice.

In this pivotal era, where debates abound regarding the rise of neofascism, Molly argues how critical it is



that we explore and document the narratives of those scholars who are experiencing repression for their teaching, scholarship, and organizing both in and beyond the classroom. With the Allon Research Award, Molly plans on documenting the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) women professors who challenge both the epistemic violence within the public university as well as state violence in the larger society. A few of initial research questions include the following: How do BIPOC women professors teaching in the California State University experience academic freedom and un-freedom when their work challenges epistemic violence within the university and/or state violence within the broader world? How do they navigate the different forms of violence (e.g. digital/social media, microaggressive, and institutional) they face within and beyond the California State University?

As a scholar committed to public sociology and to radical, antiracist, feminist change, Molly is open to the ways these stories might be shared, so as to catalyze more complete conversations and organizing projects that aim to foster a stronger public commitment to academic freedom/justice – especially for those who are among the first to be excluded from its promise. This research might result in the formation of a podcast, an accessible media-friendly report, a graphic zine, an article in a web-based higher education journal, and/or be published in the more traditional academic journal article format.