



# Sociologists for Women in Society

## Congratulations 2018 The Cheryl Allyn Miller Award Winner

Dear SWS Members,

The 2018 Cheryl Allyn Miller Award Winner is Susila Gurusami.

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) has established The Cheryl Allyn Miller Award for graduate students and recent Ph.D. graduates working in the area of women and paid work: employment and self-employment, informal market work, and illegal work. The award is supported by a bequest from the family of the late Cheryl Allyn Miller, a sociologist and feminist who studied women and paid work.

Susila Gurusami is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto and a sociologist of race, gender, labor, and politics, with particular interests in carceral studies and intersectionality. She is also a former UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow and received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles in June 2017. Her work has been published in *Gender & Society* and *Social Problems*. She is currently working on a book manuscript investigating how Black women navigate state surveillance, regulation, and punishment in their everyday lives after returning home from prison and jail.



Susila published her article, "Working for Redemption: Formerly Incarcerated Black Women and Punishment in the Labor Market," in *Gender & Society* in 2017. This article uses 18 months of ethnographic observations with formerly incarcerated Black women to contend that they are subjected to what she terms rehabilitation labor—a series of unwritten state practices that seek to govern the transformation of formerly incarcerated people from criminals to workers. She reveals that employment is subjectively policed by state agents and must meet three conditions to count as work: reliable, recognizable, and redemptive. She finds that women who are unable to meet these employment conditions are framed by state agents as failing to demonstrate an appropriate commitment to their moral—and therefore criminal—rehabilitation, and consequently experience perceived threats of reincarceration. Building a theory of intersectional capitalism, Susila argues that rehabilitation labor is situated within a broader historical project of making Black women legible to the state through the labor market.

Congratulations Susila! Join us in celebrating with Susila Gurusami at the SWS Summer Meeting Awards Banquet on August 11, 2018 in Philadelphia.