



Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) established The Cheryl Allyn Miller Award for graduate students and recent PhDs working in the area of women and paid work: employment and self-employment, informal market work, 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.

The 2019 Cheryl Allyn Miller Award Winner is April Hovav. The two honorable mentions are Ethel Mickey and Maria Cecilia Hwang.



Photo of April Hovav

April Hovav recently graduated with a PhD in Sociology and Gender Studies from the University of Southern California. Her dissertation, *The Global Market for Wombs: A Study of the Transnational Surrogacy Industry in Mexico*, examines the relationship between developments in medical technologies and the emergence of new global markets through which women's bodies are leveraged as a potential source of capital. She is the recipient of the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship, the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, and the American Council of Learned Societies/ Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Her article, "Producing Moral Palatability in the Mexico Surrogacy Industry," was published in *Gender & Society* in 2019. The article draws on multi-sited ethnographic research and interviews with over 100 actors to analyze the way tensions between altruism and profit are

managed in the Mexican surrogacy industry. She finds that actors in the Mexican surrogacy industry draw boundaries between altruism and commercialism in ways that both reflect and reinforce power asymmetries based in gender, race, class, and nationality between surrogates and intended parents. Furthermore, she argues, surrogacy agencies draw on notions of maternal altruism to facilitate the surrogacy market in two key ways: by rendering it morally palatable to consumers, and in disciplining surrogates to create a docile and compliant labor force.



Photo of Ethel L. Mickey

Ethel L. Mickey, one of the honorable mentions, received her PhD in Sociology from Northeastern University in August 2018, with a Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is currently a Visiting Lecturer of Sociology at Wellesley College, as well as a Virtual Visiting Scholar for the Association of Women in Science, funded through the National Science Foundation. Her research and teaching interests include gender, work and organizations, and social networks with a focus on high-tech and STEM settings in the United States. Her ongoing research projects focus on understanding the persistence of intersectional inequalities in today's knowledge-based economy despite widespread rejections of discrimination in these industries. Through a qualitative organizational case study of a high-tech firm, including interviews with tech workers and workplace observations, she examines the relational mechanisms undergirding gender, race, and class dynamics in the technology sector. Her research seeks to amplify women's voices to shift the discussion of inequality in high-tech away from "fixing" women and toward an analysis of the networks of exclusion endemic to the technology industry.

In her forthcoming (August 2019) article with *Gender & Society*, titled, "When Gendered Logics Collide: Going Public and Restructuring in a High-Tech Organization," Ethel analyzes the gendered implications of a high-tech startup restructuring and going public. She finds that the flexible organization bureaucratizes, creating conflicting organizational logics that place women at a structural disadvantage and limit their ability to meet ideal worker expectations. The firm's gendered hierarchy, division of labor, and culture centered on a hybrid geek-athlete masculinity together serve to constrain women's relationships with influential organizational actors.



Photo of Maria Cecilia Hwang

Maria Cecilia Hwang, one of the honorable mentions, earned a PhD in American Studies from Brown University and is currently a Henry Luce Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Southeast Asian Studies at Rice University. She will begin her appointment as an Assistant Professor at McGill University's Department of East Asian Studies and the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies in Fall 2019. Hwang's research interests center on gender and sexuality, international migration, labor, and globalization. Her current book project, *Shadow Migration and Gendered Illegality: The Temporary Labor Migration of Filipina Sex Workers in Asia*, examines how the forces of economic globalization and state migration regimes impact the lived experiences of sex workers from the Philippines who circulate across global cities in Asia. Her work has been published in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*, *International Migration Review*, and *International Labor and Working-Class History*.

We hope you will join us in congratulating 2019 Cheryl Allyn Miller Award Winner April Hovav, and honorable mentions Ethel Mickey and Maria Hwang, and that you will make plans to join us for the 2019 SWS Awards Reception to be held on Sunday, August 11, 2019 starting at 6:30 pm at the Hilton Midtown, New York, NY. The Summer 2019 Meeting Registration system is [now open](#) for SWS members to register. Registration includes attendance at the SWS Awards Reception.

Special thanks to the Cheryl Allyn Miller Award Subcommittee Members: Tre Wentling (Chair), Kumiko Nemoto, and Mary Virnoche.