

Young Micromorphologist Publication Award

Current Description

Purpose of Award (established):

- To encourage and promote the use of soil micromorphology by young scientists.
- To be given to one (or more) young scientists (each two-year cycle), for a published research that is an outstanding contribution to the principles, methodology, or application of micromorphology.

Qualifying Criteria (established):

- 1) candidate must be less than 35 years old at the time of acceptance of the article
- 2) candidate must be first author of the publication
- 3) article was published within the preceding 4 years
- 4) article was published in an international journal (not necessarily scientific) with wide distribution
- 5) not restricted to articles published in English language

Application Package (established):

- 1) a pdf file of the paper to be considered for the award
- 2) proof of age for eligibility (ex: photocopy of ID or other document with birthdate)
- 3) a cover letter explaining why it should be considered for this award
- 4) letter(s) of support from senior micromorphologists, outlining the qualities of the publication are also welcome

PROPOSED REFINEMENTS

EVALUATION GUIDELINES:

A. Main Criteria:

1) Effective Contribution of Candidate:

* It is assumed that the submitted publication may have co-authorship. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that the cover letter clarifies the effective contribution of the candidate and specify the contributions of co-authors, who should (when possible) co-sign the letter.

2) Congruency of Research with Soil Micromorphology:

* *reflecting on the scope of the research, vis-à-vis the field of soil micromorphology.*

e.g. Soil Micromorphology is Primary Focus of Research > Soil Micromorphology Substantially Supports the Research > Soil Micromorphology is an 'Extra' Dimension of the Research

3) Originality/Innovativeness of Research:

* *reflecting on the novelty of the research (example ranking below).*

- The originality and innovativeness of this research may transform (cutting-edge) the science and the applicability of soil micromorphology (e.g. *a substantial development of techniques, or novel framework for interpreting soils*);
- The originality and innovativeness of this research may influence the science and the applicability of soil micromorphology (e.g. *refinement of techniques, or novel interpretation of standard characterization of soil*);

- The originality and innovativeness of this research is a modest contribution to the science and the applicability of soil micromorphology (*e.g. application of basic techniques for standard characterization of soil*);

4) Methodological/Interpretive Rigor:

* Considers the appropriateness and effective description of research design, methodology and interpretation of results.

5) Potential Impact of the Research

* *reflecting on the potential contribution of the research*

Here it is expected that the Committee members use more quantitative criteria and consult science metrics such as Citations normalised x publication year, IF rank (percentile) of the Scientific Journal in its Subject Category, etc..

B. Additional Criteria:

1) Quality of presentation (note: assumption is that papers with considerable flaws would not pass editorial review)

* *reflecting on the effectiveness of the paper in conveying the results and ideas.*

e.g. negligible deficiencies in composition, presentation and integration of results, and argumentation of conclusions >> minor deficiencies (don't impact understanding) in composition, presentation and integration of results, and argumentation of conclusions.

COMPOSITION STANDING AWARD COMMITTEE FOR THE YMPA:

* The Standing Award Committee for the YMPA shall be composed of five members: (i) the current Chair and current Vice-Chair of IUSS Commission 1.1; and (ii) three additional established and active soil micromorphologists to be selected through the Commission 1.1 Business Meeting during the WCSS.

* The term for membership on Standing Award Committee for the YMPA will be four years (normally involving two award cycles). Individuals may serve a maximum of two terms (but requiring formal reappointment through the Commission 1.1 Business Meeting during the WCSS) on the Award Committee.

* Nominators of YMPA candidates, will be ineligible to participate on the Award Committee. If one of the Award Committee members becomes the nominator of a YMPA candidate, the past Chair or past Vice-Chair of IUSS Commission 1.1 may be asked to substitute that individual on the Award Committee.

* Deliberations among Award Committee members will typically be through emails and by video conference.

