

NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE YOUNG MICROMORPHOLOGIST PUBLICATION AWARD (YMPA) (*August 2022*)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Time is passing and also standards to evaluate scientific work requires to be updated. Commission 1.1 awards two prizes: YMPA for young micromorphologists and Kubiëna medal to reward an outstanding carrier in soil micromorphology. In Commission 1.1 we have analysed past editions and we have realized that the criteria for these awards have been very subjective and a bit out of date. This is why with the help of both the two established Award Commissions for delivering YMPA 2021 and Kubiëna medal 2022 and engaging our Commission 1.1. community (see newsletter July 2022) we have implemented and agreed - at last WCSS Commission 1.1. business meeting in Glasgow - new criteria which will be followed for next awards. Needless to add that the awards Commission will always be in charge of establishing scores and corresponding ranks but in the framework of better framed criteria.

DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE OF AWARD:

- 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 published research that is an outstanding contribution to the principles, methodology, or application of micromorphology.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA:

- 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

EVALUATION OF THE PUBLISHED RESEARCH SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD

A. Main Criteria:

- 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.

- Congruency of Research with Soil Micromorphology: reflecting on the scope of the research, vis-à-vis the field of soil micromorphology.

For instance rank categories may be the followings: Soil Micromorphology is Primary Focus of Research > Soil Micromorphology Substantially Supports the Research > Soil Micromorphology is an 'Extra' Dimension of the Research

- 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 ramework 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).;*

- Methodological/Interpretive Rigor: Considers the appropriateness and effective description of research design, methodology and interpretation of results.

- 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 Criterion: *this additional criterion is much less important than the main criteria, but it is important to ensure a good presentation to the Committee.*

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.

For instance rank categories may be the followings: 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.

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

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.