

NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE KUBIËNA MEDAL AWARD (*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have analysed past editions and we have realized that the criteria for these awards have been very subjective and a bit out of date.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. Neddless 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:

The Kubiëna Medal award is conferred by the IUSS Soil Morphology and Micromorphology Commission (originally Subcommission B - ISSS) to commemorate Walter L Kubiëna for his distinguished contribution to soil micromorphology. His works opened up a new dimension to soil science.

This IUSS medal is awarded (once every 4-years cycle) for outstanding and sustained contribution in the discipline of soil micromorphology.

Qualifying Criteria:

The awardees must demonstrate an

A) Outstanding performance in the discipline of soil micromorphology

B) Sustained performance in the discipline of soil micromorphology

All areas of micromorphology including research, teaching and its application to environmental, agricultural, archaeological and industrial problems are considered relevant.

How the Award Commission will implement the above criteria

Preliminary remarks: In this new guideline we aimed to respect the original “Criteria for selection of nominees” given above but (i) we implemented more precise sub-criteria and (ii) implemented additional criteria (e.g. recognition to services to soil micromorphology).

The Kubiena medal evaluation Committee has to implement these (sub-) criteria and has the freedom to establish how to weight them. In general terms, it is suggested that for each candidate the research criteria (below quoted as 1a) must represent the majority of the total evaluation.

Kubiëna Medal candidates do not require to be retired, but the award commission has to remind that this is a prize rewarding an outstanding carrier in Soil Micromorphology thus the award assumes that candidates would be in a ‘later’ stage of their careers.

The evaluation of candidates will be based on the presented documentation (see application package); but the Committee members are free to consult web resources (e.g. WoS, Scopus) to get further insight in the presented applications.

Criteria A. Characterizing “Outstanding Performance in the Discipline of Soil Micromorphology”:

1 Contributions to the Science of Soil Micromorphology:

1a) Advancing the Frontier of Knowledge (Research)

To consider both the quality and quantity of papers (IF and not IF) and books

Evaluation criteria include:

- congruency of research contributions with soil micromorphology
- originality of the research
- use of metrics (n. papers, quality of papers (e.g. journal ranked on impact factor-IF normalised for Soil Science, number of citations, h-index, etc.)
- impacts in soil science and allied scientific communities (i.e. diversity)

1b) Knowledge Translation and Transfer (Technical Innovations and Applications)

To consider the quality and quantity of techniques, technologies and applications

Evaluation criteria include:

- impacts in soil science and allied scientific communities (i.e diversity)
- impacts on land management and policy

2 Contributions to the Promotion of Soil Micromorphology:

2a) Preparing the Next Generation Soil Micromorphologists (Teaching)

To consider the quality and quantity of theoretical courses, skill-training activities, as well as development of relevant instructional materials (e.g. textbooks, reference sections/images)

To consider the quality and quantity of scholars mentored (e.g. supervision of post-graduate students, post-doctoral researchers)

2b) Service to Micromorphology Community

To consider the participation and contribution on relevant committees (e.g. Chair/Vice-Chair of Commission 1.1, organization of ICoSM or other items of similar importance).

Representation of micromorphology in non-traditional forums

Criteria B. Characterizing “Sustained Performance in the Discipline of Soil Micromorphology”:

Eligibility for the Kubiëna Medal does not require candidates to be retired, but it does assume that they would be in a ‘later’ stage of their careers. Accordingly, candidates will be evaluated from the perspective of the effort they regularly focussed to micromorphology during their professional career. This may include temporal continuity (N. of years) of active engagement in soil micromorphology.

Application Package (established):

- 1) Statement of key achievements and career highlights of the nominee (1 page)
- 2) Curriculum vitae detailing career history and publication record of the nominee
- 3) Name of proposer and seconder for the nominee
- 4) Any other relevant information in support of the nominee
- 5) Full address and contact details of the nominee

Additional Considerations regarding the application package:

- Each candidate must be nominated independently. Decisions to potentially jointly recognize more than one individual, would be entirely the purview of the Kubiëna Medal Award Committee.
- Nomination packages should be as specific and succinct as possible, ensuring that the various evaluation criteria are effectively addressed in the statement of key achievements and curriculum vitae

Composition of the Kubiëna Medal Committee and procedures

The Standing Award Committee for Kubiëna Medal shall be composed of at least five members: (i) all recipients of the two most recent Kubiëna Medal competitions (also considering ex -aequo); (ii) the current Chair and most recent past-Chair of IUSS Commission 1.1; and (iii) until reaching the minimum of 5 members additional senior soil micromorphologists will be selected from previous terms chair, past-chair and vice-chair of IUSS Commission 1.1.. Despite the above, in case the number of 5 components is not reached then an electronic election will be performed.

Nominated candidates, and nominators of Kubiëna Medal candidates, will be ineligible to participate on the Award Committee. If one of the Award Committee members becomes a Medal candidate, or the nominator of a Medal candidate, the current Vice-Chair of IUSS Commission 1.1 shall that substitute that individual on the Award Committee.

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