

Sociologists have received numerous honorary awards from scientific institutions for their work confronting new social trends, problems, and transformations. These awards demonstrate that sociology is critical to scientific understanding and scientific policy. A highly selective sampling of these awards is mentioned in the accompanying chart.

Merit Awards

Recognition of Merit for Sociology

Sociologists have received honorary awards from scientific institutions for their work of continuously analyzing social trends, problems, and transformations. Sociological knowledge is increasingly recognized by policy makers, funding agencies, and private and public officials as key to solving current social problems including terrorism, natural disasters, pandemics, and the decline in civil society. These awards demonstrate that sociology is critical to scientific understanding and scientific policy. Some of these awards include:

National Science Board, Alan T. Waterman Prize

Awarded to **Dalton Conley** in 2005. The National Science Foundation (NSF), the independent federal agency that supports fundamental research across nearly all fields of science and engineering, recognized Conley as one of the nation's top young scientists. The 35-year-old Conley received the 30th annual Alan T. Waterman Award, named for NSF's first director that carries a \$500,000 research award. Dr. Conley's work is the epitome of the kind of research that NSF vigorously supports," said Arden L. Bement, Jr., NSF director.

"His research is filled with new and untried ideas, carved into a creative path toward solving fundamental questions of society. He communicates his findings directly and eloquently, reaches varied audiences, and by so doing, opens new avenues of interest and study, not to mention he keeps government policy makers on their toes."

National Academy of Sciences

In 2007, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) announced the election of sociologists **Karen Cook** for her research on issues of trust in social relations and networks and **James C. House** for his work on social structure and personality. These newly elected NAS members were recognized for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. This brings the total number of active sociologists to over twenty. Membership in the academy is considered one of the highest honors in American science.

American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAA&S)

In 2007, almost 80 were listed as Fellows of the Academy (*Bulletin of the American Academy*, Fall 2005). Their interests ranged from the daily interactions to world systems. Their work focuses on processes from scientific productivity to bureaucratic inertia, social networks to civic life, and segregation to social mobility. It focuses on institutions including education, family, law, religion, and the economy. The 2007 Fellows in sociology were **Bruce Western** for his work on punishment and inequality in America, **David R. Williams** for his work on race discrimination and health, and **Viviana Zelizer** for her work on the interplay of economic activity and personal ties.

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Over 80 sociologists have been appointed as Fellows. In 2005, **Willie J. Pearson Jr.** of the Georgia Institute of Technology was appointed to a fellowship.

Association of American Publishers (AAP), Professional and Scholarly Division

Contexts: Understanding People in Their Social Worlds named best journal in the social sciences in 2003 and one of ten Best New Magazines of 2002" by the Library Journal. *Contexts* extends sociological research to both social scientists and general audience readers.