



Western Social Science Association

Call for Papers

Western Social Science Association (WSSA) 2012 Student Paper Competition

Students affiliated with the WSSA can win **\$500**, a free one-year subscription to the *Social Science Journal*, free conference registration at the April 2012 WSSA conference in **Houston, Texas**, and the opportunity to present your paper at that conference. Each winning paper will also receive one room/2 nights free lodging. WOW, what a deal!

Competition Guidelines - Papers are judged based on a) advancement of knowledge, b) appropriateness for a broad social science audience, c) development and implementation of valid research design, d) definition and significance of topic, e) analysis of findings and discussion of their implications and f) clarity and cogency of writing. Undergraduate and graduate papers are evaluated separately, and multiple authored papers will be considered separately if quality papers are submitted. Authors of high quality papers that are not chosen for the award are eligible to receive an Honorable Mention Award, a \$100 cash award, and free conference registration.

Paper Requirements

- **Papers, including bibliography, tables, figures, appendices and other supporting materials cannot exceed 25 pages. This requirement will be strictly enforced; papers longer than 25 pages will not be read.** Abstracts and cover sheets are not counted in the page count.
- The paper packet must include an abstract (not to exceed 200 words), with the title of the paper, but NOT the author(s)/affiliation(s).
- All pages must be double-spaced and in 12 pt font, with one inch margins.
- Papers may not be theses or dissertations previously presented or published, and papers are to be written solely by students; papers co-authored with faculty or post docs will not be accepted.
- **All submissions must be endorsed through submission of a cover sheet that is signed by the student and faculty advisor. The cover sheet is available through the WSSA Website. Papers without the sponsoring professor's endorsement will not be accepted.**
- Authors may wish to consult the *Social Science Journal's* style guide for formatting information.
- Winners of the student paper competition are expected to attend and present their paper in order to receive their cash award.
- The paper and the cover sheet discussed above are to be submitted by EMAIL and must be received on or before **January 15, 2012**. Please EMAIL the paper as a Word file and a scan of the cover sheet with faculty signature and endorsement to the chair of the WSSA Student Paper Committee by the 15 January 2012 date:

Christopher Brown, Ph.D.
Department Head, NMSU Department of Geography
New Mexico State University
PO Box 30001, MSC MAP
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
575-646-1892 (Office), EMAIL: brownchr@nmsu.edu

Submission Cover Sheet
Western Social Science Association (WSSA)
2012 Student Paper Competition

Student's name: _____

Department and university affiliation: _____

Address where student can be contacted: _____

Student's phone number and EMAIL address: _____

Student Endorsement: By signing below, I affirm that the paper I am submitting is original research, has not been presented or submitted elsewhere, and is not part of a completed dissertation or master's thesis. This is work I have done on my own and is not co-authored with a faculty member or post doc.

Student's signature: _____

Faculty Endorsement: By signing below, I affirm that the student signing above is a student in our department currently pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Also, the paper the above student submitting is original research, has not been presented or submitted elsewhere, and is not part of a completed dissertation or master's thesis. This is work the student has done on his or her own and is not co-authored with a faculty member or post doc.

Sponsoring faculty member's signature:
