The Paula Kantor Award for Excellence in Field Research recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in the fields of gender equity and the empowerment of women, girls and other marginalized communities. The award includes a cash prize of $2,500.

In the spirit of Paula’s legacy of supporting applied research to advance the economic and social well-being of women, this award will be presented to a young professional female researcher who is contributing to the global evidence base supporting policies and programs that build gender equity. The researcher must be conducting field research that is relevant to ICRW’s mission and taking place in low-income or otherwise marginalized communities worldwide. This award will be presented to a young female researcher who is a citizen of a country located in the Global South and is contributing to the global evidence base supporting policies and programs that build gender equity.

Criteria for eligibility

- The award is open to women researchers under the age of 40 who are citizens of countries located in the Global South;
- The research or body of work may be conducted in any country, including the United States, but must take place in low-income or otherwise marginalized communities, with a primary focus on gender equity and women's and girls' empowerment;
- The social science research should contribute to filling gaps in evidence, which are important to understanding the best solutions for improving the lives of women, girls and other marginalized populations. The research methodology may utilize quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods;
• Outcomes of the research should have been shared with the research community, and/or with relevant stakeholders with respect to the nominees’ work.
• Findings should have been disseminated through relevant reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, multi-media campaigns or similar communications channels. Co-authored publications or joint dissemination activities are also permissible.
• Research that is being undertaken as part of an advanced degree requirement is not eligible. For research of this nature, please see ICRW’s Mariam K. Chamberlain Dissertation Award.

Guidelines for nominations

• Nominations must be made by a third-party. Researchers cannot nominate themselves;
• The professional work for which a nominee is being nominated must be based primarily in a low-income or otherwise marginalized community;
• For nominations to be considered, the nomination form and the questionnaire highlighting the nominee's contributions and why they're deserving of the award must be fully completed. Responses on the questionnaire should be focused and succinct and document the impact and relevance of the nominee's contributions. A curriculum vitae and biography must also be included in nomination submission.

Selection Committee

The nominees will be evaluated by an initial screening panel appointed by ICRW and the nominees who pass this screening will be shortlisted for evaluation by an independent selection committee of development practitioners, academics and researchers, business professionals, policy experts, and civil society leaders with deep knowledge of the field of gender and international development.

Evaluation criteria for the award

The selection committee will evaluate submissions based on the following:

• The nominee's use of a robust research methodology following ethical protocols for conducting research;
- The nominee's use of innovative practices within the program’s activities and their implementation, and measures to ensure sustainability;
- A strong gender-focused conceptualization of research/body of work, with appropriate and relevant data gathering techniques, analysis, and interpretations. This exercise may or may not be linked to a specific programs or evaluation.

**Past recipients**

**2021 recipient:**  
Dr. Farhana Rahman, Fellow, Harvard University Asia Center and Co-founder, Silkpath Relief Organization

**2020 recipient:**  
Dr. Jabulile Mary-Jane Jace Mavuso, Research Associate, Critical Studies in Sexualities and Reproduction, Rhodes University, South Africa

**2019 recipients:**  
Dr. Jocelyn Kelly, Director for the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s Women in War program

Dr. Otibho Obianwu, Program Officer, International Women’s Health Coalition

**2017 recipient:**  
Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga, founder of Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Bolivia

**2016 recipient:**  
Dr. Eunice Muthengi of Kenya, a researcher with the Population Council in Kenya

**Inaugural recipient:**  
Dr. Soumya Gupta of India, a post-doctoral fellow with the Tata-Cornell Agriculture and Nutrition Initiative at Cornell University

**Deadline & Award Process**

The deadline for nominations is **11:59 p.m. EST, Thursday, March 24, 2022.**
Nominators should complete the nomination form and questionnaire and submit the additionally required documentation electronically in PDF format to awards@icrw.org by the March 24th deadline.

The award committee will evaluate the nominees and their work and select the winner, who will be notified and whose name will be announced on the ICRW website along with a short abstract of their work. We hope to notify the award winner in late April/early May 2022.

For additional information and to download the nomination form, please click here.

For more information about the Paula Kantor Award, please contact awards@icrw.org.

For more information on International Center for Research on Women, please visit www.icrw.org.