The LSA is now soliciting nominations for this year’s C. L. Baker Award. This award (first offered in 2019) honors the legacy of the late C. L. Baker (1939-1997) and is funded by a generous gift from Baker’s family.

THE PRIZE

The prize will recognize excellence in research in the area of syntactic theory on the part of a scholar who is at the mid-point of a distinguished career. The typical nominee will be at least 3 years beyond tenure and will be on the brink of being promoted to the next major rank past the tenure point – full Professor at many universities, perhaps different in the case of institutions which use the title Professor at the point of tenure. Scholars very recently promoted to that rank are not excluded. The typical nominee will thus be 10-20 years beyond the dissertation. Nominees should be members of the LSA at the point at which the prize is awarded. The winner will receive a $500 honorarium and will be recognized at a ceremony at the Society’s Annual Meeting in January 2022.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The prize is intended to recognize a distinguished and still unfolding research record in syntax, one which meets the following criteria:

- it has had significant impact,
- it is forward-looking and innovative,
- it is empirically careful, and
- it engages the larger intellectual context for research on human language and goes beyond the merely technical in its analyses and proposals.

NOMINATION PROCESS

In the typical case, nominations will be submitted by a colleague or group of colleagues of the nominee, but self-nominations are not excluded. Initial expressions of interest should be sent to the LSA secretariat by August 1st 2021. Full nominations should be submitted on-line to the LSA by September 1st 2021 and should include an up-to-date CV for the nominee and a brief report which makes the case that the nominee’s record in research meets the criteria laid out in the previous section. Details and relevant links concerning the nomination process can be found here.

Nomination proposals will be assessed by a review committee of three individuals appointed by the LSA for that purpose. In the current round, that committee consists of Jane Grimshaw of Rutgers University, James McCloskey of the University of California Santa Cruz (Chair) and Stephen Wechsler of the University of Texas Austin. The review committee will submit a report and recommendation to the Executive Committee of the LSA, whose responsibility it will be to make a final award decision.

The second C. L. Baker Award will be presented at the next Winter Meeting of the society, which will take place between January 6th and January 9th, 2022 in Washington DC.