Award for Best Article in *NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics* 2019

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For the past decade, the American Name Society has bestowed an annual award for the Best Article of the Year published in *NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics*. Articles selected for this prestigious award represent the highest standards in onomastic research. Below is a listing of some of the most recent winners:

> **2018.** Giulia Petitta, Valerie Dively, Mark Halley, Marc Holmes, and Brenda Nicodemus (Gallaudet University, USA) for their article "'My Name is A-on-the-cheek': Managing Names and Name Signs in American Sign Language-English Team Interpretation." *NAMES* 66, no. 4: 205–218.

> **2017.** Jan Tent (Australian National University, Canberra) "Indigenous Toponyms in the Antipodes: A Gazetteer-based Study." published in the special journal issue, *NAMES: Indigenous Names and Toponyms* 65, no. 4: 204–214.

> **2016.** Gerrit Bloothooft (Utrecht Institute of Linguistics, The Netherlands) and David Onland (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) for their article "Multiple First Names in the Netherlands (1760–2014)." *NAMES* 64, no. 1: 3–18.

In years past, this scholarly recognition has been awarded by a small subcommittee of officers who sit on the American Name Society's Executive Council. Starting this year, however, selections were made by the *NAMES* Editorial Board who independently assessed all of the articles that appeared in issues 1–4 of volume 67, in the year 2019. The articles were evaluated on the basis of their scientific rigor, originality, and potential contribution to the field of onomastics. Obituaries, book reviews, and notes were excluded from consideration.

After tallying the votes, four articles emerged as the top contenders for the annual award. In alphabetical order by primary author surname, these articles were the following: "Names and Identities in Courtroom Narratives" by Krisda Chaemsaithong (Hanyang University, South Korea); "The Age of *Aidans*: Cognitive Underpinnings of a New Trend in English Boys' Names" by Lauren MacAulay, Daniel Siddiq, and Ida Toivonen (Carleton University, Canada); "Renaming Me: Assessing the Influence of Gender Identity on Name Selection" by Sharon N. Obasi (University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA), Richard Mocarski (University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA), Natalie R. Holt (University

of Nebraska–Lincoln, USA), Debra A. Hope (University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USA), and Nathan Woodruff (Trans Collaborations); and "A Clash of Names: The Terminological Morass of a Toponym Class" by Jan Tent (Australian National Placenames Survey, Australia) and David Blair (Macquarie University, Australia).

In the second round of voting, these four articles were assessed once again to determine the final winner. After the ballots were submitted and the votes were tallied, the winner of the Best Article of the Year 2019 was "Renaming Me: Assessing the Influence of Gender Identity on Name Selection" by Sharon N. Obasi (University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA), Richard Mocarski (University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA), Natalie R. Holt (University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USA), Debra A. Hope (University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USA), and Nathan Woodruff (Trans Collaborations) featured in NAMES 67, no. 4: 199–211.

Among the many accolades this piece of outstanding onomastic scholarship received, the NAMES Board Members praised this publication for its thematic originality, substantive methodology, and potential to draw attention to an area of onomastic research in need of further investigation. Moreover, the article was highly commended for its insightful yet sensitive exploration of an issue of great relevance for a segment of the world's population that deserves far more scholarly recognition and sociopolitical protection.

As one Board member emphasized, this article has the power to contribute to the protection of human rights, while championing the importance of diversity and self-determination. Indeed, as another Board Member stressed, given the impressively high number of readers who have already downloaded this scholarship, it is clear that this work deeply "resonates with a wider community" and therefore promises to increase societal interest in onomastics—one of the primary goals of the American Name Society. As the winners of the Best Article of the Year award, the authors will be sent a special commemorative plaque. In addition, an in-depth interview with the researchers will be featured on the official website of the American Name Society and in NAMES. A press release about this year's winners will also be made to the general public. As per tradition, the 2019 award will be bestowed during the Society's next annual meeting.

On behalf of the American Name Society, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the NAMES Editorial Board for the time and commitment they invested during this arduous selection process. Given the remarkable variety of articles published in NAMES, selecting a single winner was by no means an easy task. However, as many a Board Member reflected, the diversity of our journal articles serves as an impressive reminder of just how vibrant the field of onomastic research is.

Congratulations again to the runners-up and winners of the NAMES 2019 Best Article of the Year Award!