The Louis Pondy Best Dissertation Paper Award recognizes the best paper based on a dissertation.

To be eligible, the paper must be individually authored by the student. To be considered for the Pondy Award, you must submit your manuscript to the OMT Division through the Academy of Management Annual Meeting online submission system. During this process you need to certify that your paper is eligible for the Pondy Award. Once received, all manuscripts are sent out for anonymous review and rating. The eligibility of the top rated manuscripts is confirmed, at which point they are forwarded to the OMT Division's Research Committee, which determines the Pondy Award winner. The Pondy Award winner is announced at the OMT Business Meeting during the AOM Annual Meeting. The winning paper is automatically nominated for the Academy of Management's William H. Newman Award for outstanding papers based on a recent dissertation. The Newman Award was first given out in 1999.

2018 Louis Pondy Best Dissertation Paper Award

The Enabling Roles of Bureaucracy in Cross-Expertise Collaboration

Pedro Monteiro (EMLyon Business School)

Past Winners

2016 Aruna Ranganathan (Stanford University) "The Artisan and His Audience: Identification with Work and Price-Setting in Southern India"

2015 Mabel Abraham (MIT Sloan) “Explaining Unequal Returns to Social Capital Among Entrepreneurs”

2014 Laura Singleton (Eckerd College) “Understanding the Evolution of Theoretical Constructs in Organization Studies: Examining Purpose”

2013 Murad Mithani (Stevens Institute of Technology) "The Illusions of Power"

2012 Kaisa E. Snellman (Harvard University) “Window Dressers and Closet Conformists: Organizational Decoupling Revisited”

2011 Christopher Yenkey (Cornell University). “Ethnic Homogeneity in a Social Network: Recruiting Investors into the Nairobi Stock Exchange”

Read an interview with Pondy Winner Chris Yenkey.


2009 Dali Ma (University of Chicago). “Bring the Society Back In: Relational Identities in the Creation of Entrepreneurship”

Published as Social Belonging and Economic Action: Affective-Based Social Circles in the Creation of Private Entrepreneurship, Social Forces, 94(1) 87-114.
2008  Elizabeth G. Pontikes (Stanford University). “Fitting in or Starting New? Invention, Constraint, and New Categories in the Software Industry”**


2005  Nina Shah (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). “Change in Institutions: The Decline of the No-Lateral-Hiring Norm among Large Law Firms, 1974-1990”

2004  Sean C. Safford (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

Published as Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: Social Networks and the Transformation of the Rust Belt, Harvard University Press (2009).


2002  Bongjin Kim (Tilburg University). “Adaptation of Corporate Governance to Deregulation: A
Longitudinal Study of the U.S. Banking Industry”

2001 Matthew S. Bothner (Columbia University).**

Published as “Relative Size and Firm Growth in the Global Computer Industry” in Industrial and Corporate Change

2001 Isabelle Royer (Dauphine University). “Stopping Champions of Failing Projects”

Published as “Why Bad Projects Are So Hard to Kill” in Harvard Business Review


1999 Beth Bechky (Stanford University).**

Published as “Sharing Meaning Across Occupational Communities: The Transformation of Understanding of a Production Floor” in Organization Science.


1997 Ha Hoang (Case Western Reserve University). “The Consequence of Network Participation for Acquisition & Alliance Activity in the Biotechnology Industry”


1995  Matthew Kraatz (Northwestern University).

1994  Brian Uzzi (State University of New York at Stony Brook).


1993  Kimberly D. Elsbach (Stanford University).

Published as “Managing Organizational Legitimacy in the California Cattle Industry: The Construction and Effectiveness of Verbal Accounts” in Administrative Science Quarterly.


Published as “Interorganizational Imitation: The Impact of Interlocks on Corporate Acquisition Activity” in Administrative Science Quarterly.

1991  Brian T. Pentland (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
1990  Heather A. Havemen (University of California at Berkeley)

Published as "Between a rock and a hard place: Organizational change and performance under conditions of fundamental environmental transformation" in Administrative Science Quarterly.

1989

1988  William P. Barnett (University of California at Berkeley)

**Denotes dissertation-based papers that also won the Academy of Management's William H. Newman Award.

Have an update to this list? Please email omt@aom.org.