

The Center for Gender and Health Justice
2026 Call for Student and Early-Career Paper Awards
Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

The Center for Gender and Health Justice (CGHJ) invites submissions to our Student and Early-Career Paper Awards Program, which recognizes outstanding scholarship that advances the fields of gender and health justice. CGHJ is committed to addressing gender-based health inequities through interdisciplinary research, education, and community-engaged approaches. The Center's work spans critical areas including sexual and reproductive health, HIV and gender-based violence, digital health innovations, and community-engaged public health research. We welcome papers that reflect these priorities and contribute to advancing health equity and justice across diverse populations. This award aims to elevate innovative scholarship and support emerging leaders whose work advances health equity and justice within California and globally.

Best Graduate Award (2 awards, \$500 each):

- Be a Master's degree student (MPH, MS, or other related degree) OR a doctoral student enrolled at a UC campus during the 2025-2026 academic year.
- For Master's degree-level scholars: We invite submissions in the form of a master's thesis or a real-world, culminating, public health practicum deliverable with a community partner (e.g. policy brief, program evaluation, intervention, white paper, report, publication, etc.). Submissions may also be a first-authored, peer-reviewed publication that has been published after January 1, 2025. We will not accept submissions that are hypothetical or a thought exercise (e.g. future grant proposal) or designed to assess knowledge for a specific course (e.g. final paper).
- For doctoral-level scholars: Submissions may also be a dissertation that has successfully been defended during the 2025-2026 academic year. If you would like to submit your dissertation, submissions must not exceed a 15-page overview of your dissertation research. Submissions may also be a first-authored, peer-reviewed publication that has been published after January 1, 2025.

Best Post-Doctoral Paper Award (1 award, \$500 each)

- Be a post-doctoral scholar (within 2 years of obtaining a PhD) currently employed at a UC campus in any job category.
- We invite submissions in the form of a first-authored, peer-reviewed publication that has been published after January 1, 2025.

Best Early-Career Scholar Paper Award (2 awards, \$500 each)

- Be an early-career faculty member (e.g. Assistant Professor, any track) currently employed at a UC campus.
- We invite submissions in the form of a first-authored, peer-reviewed publication that has been published after January 1, 2025.

If you are interested, please send your submission as one single PDF file to tthomas@ph.ucla.edu.

with a cover letter that addresses the following three components: 1) detailed eligibility for the specific award listed above, 2) description of the impact of your work and how it advances gender and health justice, and 3) how the award will support your career.

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We look forward to reviewing all submissions and amplifying the brilliance of our community in championing gender and health justice in California and across the globe.