

Call for Papers

BIGSSS Best Paper Award 2026

What kind of papers can be submitted?

The BIGSSS Best Paper Award honors the author(s) of an outstanding academic paper. Papers can be either published in an academic journal or presented at conferences, workshops, or summer schools. Therefore, papers do not have to be accepted or published yet but must have achieved academic visibility either through submission to a scholarly journal or presentation in one of the above-mentioned forms. Papers must be identifiable as originating from BIGSSS, i.e., BIGSSS must be mentioned as an institutional affiliation. Title or cover page, abstract, text, references, tables, and figures should not exceed a total of 15,000 words. The selection committee reserves the right to not consider overly long manuscripts at their discretion.

Who can apply?

All current regular, affiliated, and adjunct doctoral fellows at BIGSSS, as well as recent alumni (those who defend/ed in 2025) are eligible to apply. Both single- and co-authored papers will be accepted. For co-authored papers, co-authorship with doctoral or postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members from BIGSSS or other institutions is allowed, if the submitting BIGSSS doctoral fellow is the first author. Submission is limited to one paper per doctoral fellow.

The application and selection process

All papers that meet the above-mentioned criteria must be submitted by **January 10th, 2026** to be considered for selection. **Please submit your paper along with a short cover letter** (including information about the publication history of the paper and, for co-authored papers, the role of the applicant in the production of the article) to: **bestpaper@bigsss-bremen.de**.

The selection committee will be composed of senior and junior scholars, ideally BIGSSS faculty, postdoctoral, and PhD fellows. Evaluation will be based on the overall quality and originality of the paper. Specific evaluation criteria are determined by the selection committee.

The BIGSSS Best Paper Award will be presented at a BIGSSS event in 2026 (usually the Meeting of Members) and is endowed with 500 EUR.