The RGK ARNOVA President’s Award is presented to Jiahuan Lu, Associate Professor at Rutgers University-Newark’s School of Public Affairs and Administration. His project is ambitious and fulfills the purpose of the award which is to encourage innovative, foundational research in the field of nonprofit and philanthropic studies.

Dr. Lu’s proposed project “Black Lives Matter, Stop Asian Hate,...: Do Nonprofits Make a Difference?” will integrate data sources and literatures to examine the roles and functions of nonprofits in preventing hatred and racism. Dr. Lu will synthesize findings from published studies on the community-level effects of nonprofits. He also will look at the size of the nonprofit sector in communities to see if size relates to level of race-motivated hate crimes. He plans to use a 10 year longitudinal dataset on 100 US metropolitan areas to test hypotheses.

Dr. Lu’s project is timely and has theoretical and practical promise to increase knowledge about influences on equity and inclusion, and hate crimes. It also addresses a classic question in nonprofit studies: What difference do nonprofits make? The award committee shares Dr. Lu’s desire to have findings from his project that inform policy debates and practice.

The award selection committee is composed of former ARNOVA Presidents, Joe Galaskiewicz, David Hammack, and Mary Tschirhart. The committee commends all those who submitted proposals for the award and wishes them well with their research projects. Our evaluation criteria included methodological rigor, potential contribution to theory, creativity, feasibility, and capacity.