

FHAANZ 2008 Postgraduate Awards

Recognizing that in the contemporary world, film and media are significant forces that shape a nation's identity and the way we understand it, the Cultures, Histories and Identities in Film, Media and Literature Research Network of the University of Otago (Film, Media, Literature or FML) at the University of Otago, in conjunction with the Executive of the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand (FHAANZ), propose to sponsor two awards for postgraduate research. These awards will fall within the broader mandate of the Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand, which is to foster research that "may encourage the interchange of ideas between people whose work in any way concerns the relation between film, video and history".¹

The two awards shall be:

- (1) for the best unpublished MA thesis in the area completed between 1 July, 2006 and 1 July 2008
- (2) for the best unpublished PhD thesis in the area completed between 1 July 2006 and 1 July 2008.

The purpose of these awards is to encourage and foster excellence in postgraduate research in the mandated area of the Association.

¹Constitution, Film and History Association of Australia and New Zealand, as amended on 3/12/00

The awards will be announced at the opening of the Biennial Meeting of the Film and History Association in 2008. Recipients will receive a modest honorarium (tba) and a certificate provided by the FHAANZ Executive.

Conditions

1. A complete copy of the thesis must be received by the Department of Media, Film and Communication, University of Otago, by 15 August, 2008, on disk. Candidates will receive e-mail notification that their material has arrived.
2. Submission of the thesis indicates that the applicant agrees to abide by the judgment of the Postgraduate Awards Panel. The only grounds for questioning a judgment of the Panel are procedural errors. In the case of alleged procedural errors, the applicant or interested party should in the first instance address the Convener of the Panel. If the candidate is not satisfied with the Convener's response, he or she may appeal to the Executive of FHAANZ. The decisions of the Executive on procedural matters and all other matters pertaining to the Postgraduate Awards are final.
3. The thesis must be submitted in Word for MAC or in R-T-F format on CD-Rom or DVD and must conform in format to the regulations for thesis submission of the University at which the degree was completed. Entries in

other formats or late entries will not be accepted. Only one submission per disk is permitted. Disks will be not be returned to the candidate and will be erased and re-cycled at the end of the judging process.

4. The disk must be clearly labelled. The label must include the following information:
 - the applicant's name
 - short title of the thesis
 - the applicant's e-mail address
 - the thesis supervisor(s) and co-supervisor(s)
 - the date on which the thesis was accepted as fulfilling the requirements for the appropriate degree
 - university at which the degree will be/has been conferred
5. The thesis must have been examined and have been accepted by 1 July 2008 but not before 1 July 2006. In the case of a dispute, candidates must furnish evidence that the examination process is complete, has been successful and falls within the stipulated time-frame. The Panel reserves the right to reject a submission if it has not been successfully examined within the stipulated time-frame.
6. Applicants must at the time of the thesis' completion be MA or PhD candidates (as applicable) in a recognized university located in Australia or New Zealand or in a partner university of a university located in Australia or New Zealand, working closely with that university. In the case of candidates from a partner university, proof of significant Australian or New Zealand involvement (usually the participation of a supervisor or co-supervisor from an Australian or New Zealand University) in the candidate's research may be requested. Failure to provide such proof upon request may disqualify a candidate.
7. A thesis that has already been submitted or accepted for publication, or published, is not eligible.
 - In the case of an MA thesis, no portion of the thesis may have been submitted or accepted for publication, or published. (Exceptions will be made for conference presentations, or publications in conference proceedings.)
 - In the case of a PhD, no more than 20 % of the thesis may be submitted or accepted for publication, or published.

Postgraduate Research Awards Selection Panel

Members of the Panel:

- Convener: a representative from the Film, Media, Literature Research Network (convener, or nominee)

- A senior scholar with broad experience in terms of vetting and evaluating scholarly work to be appointed by the FHAANZ Executive (He or she may also serve as Convener of the Panel at the request of the Convener of the Film, Media, Literature Research Network.)
- An expert from the field of Film Studies, Film and Media Studies, or Cinema Studies, to be appointed by the FHAANZ Executive
- An expert from the field of History, to be appointed by the FHAANZ Executive

The FHAANZ Executive will give consideration to issues of balance and diversity in making its appointments to the Panel.

Administrative support to the Panel will be supplied by the Department of Media, Film and Literature, University of Otago

Procedures

1. The Panel will decide upon the procedures by which it will evaluate the submissions with a view to the fact that the number of submissions and the composition of the panel will change over time. The Panel should, however, document its evaluation and decision-making process and be prepared to report on that process should it be asked to do so by the Executive, in the event of inquiry about procedural error, for example.
2. Any conflicts of interest must be declared as they arise. Once a conflict of interest is declared, it is up to the Panel to decide whether the conflict of interest is pertinent and to put safeguards in place in order to make certain that no submission is advantaged or disadvantaged and that the good name of the Panel is protected up to, in extreme instances, requesting that the Executive appoint an additional panel member.
3. The Panel has the right to call upon the expertise of other FHAANZ members or other scholars to assist in its deliberations, as it deems appropriate. In particular, it has the right to appoint an expert to assist in establishing a short list in the event of an unmanageable number of submissions. If such an expert were appointed, he or she would receive a modest honorarium, to be determined by the Panel and the FHAANZ executive. The FHAANZ Executive would be responsible for providing the honorarium, in such as event.
4. The Panel also has the right to decline to assign an award in the absence of an appropriate submission.
5. The Panel will protect the privacy of named individuals in its communications with other panel members and external experts.

6. The Convener of the Panel (or a delegated representative) will announce the winners of the Postgraduate Awards at the opening of the Biennial Meeting of the Film and History Association, at which point he or she will also briefly describe those attributes of the winners' research that lead the Panel to award the prizes. Winners will be contacted a week before the FHAANZ meeting.

Submission Address in 2008:

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Contact us at phaanz2008@otago.ac.nz, attention Professor Hilary Radner, if there are further questions.

