

## EARLY CAREER AWARD (ECA)

In order to encourage new researchers in mathematics education, MERGA sponsors an award to an author in the early part of her/his career. The award, for excellence in writing up and presenting a piece of mathematics education research, consists of a plaque and a prize of \$500 and is presented at the annual conference.

Entry for the ECA is by submission of a written paper for presentation at the conference through the Early Bird process. All of the general requirements for regular research papers that have been set out by the editorial committee of the conference proceedings need to be observed. Intending applicants are asked to indicate their entry in the ECA by marking the conference registration forms in the relevant place.

Conditions of eligibility, information about the judging process and the criteria judges will observe are indicated below.

**Please note** that expressing a wish to be considered for the ECA will be taken as an acknowledgment that you satisfy the eligibility criteria in paragraphs 1 – 3 below.

### ELIGIBILITY

1. As the ECA is designed to encourage new entrants to mathematics education research, to be eligible, you must *not*
    - have previously presented 3 or more single-authored refereed papers at education research conferences (e.g., MERGA, PME, AARE etc.); *nor*
    - have previously won the ECA
  2. An entrant for the ECA MUST be registered for the MERGA conference.
  3. Only single authored papers are eligible for entry into the ECA.
  4. All papers entered into the ECA must proceed through the *Early Bird* review process
- The VP(Research)'s decision concerning eligibility will be final.

### JUDGING THE ECA

There are TWO elements to the judging of the ECA:

- the quality of the written paper, and
  - the quality of the presentation at the conference.
1. Only regular research papers that have been reviewed and accepted for presentation at the conference and for publication in the Proceedings will be considered eligible for the second and final stage of the ECA. The reviewing of ECA applicants' papers MUST commence with submission through the Early Bird process.
  2. Final judging will be by a panel of senior researchers in attendance at the conference. At least one member of the judging panel will be present and observe the paper presentation of each ECA applicant (NB. only shortlisted applicants if a shortlist was made). The panel will, as far as is practical, reflect a range of mathematics education research

interests, research methodologies and paradigms, theoretical frameworks and concerns with education practice.

3. When coming to a final decision, the judges will take both the published paper and the presentation into account. However, the published paper will normally carry more weight than the presentation.
4. The criteria for the written papers and the conference presentation will be as follows.

#### **Criteria for the written papers**

- Does the paper address a clearly articulated research question/issue?
- Is this question/issue significant to mathematics education (teaching practice, policy, research, theory)?
- Is there a potential for contribution to advancement of the field of mathematics education?
- Are theories informing the work explicitly recognised and critically discussed?
- Where the paper is based on empirical research, are the data collecting methodologies clear and appropriately chosen?
- Where the paper is directly based on empirical research, is data proficiently analysed and discussed in relation to the relevant scholarly literature?
- Where the paper engages a theoretical discussion or canvasses alternative perspectives relating to teaching practice, policy or theory, are concepts proficiently analysed and discussed in relation to the scholarly literature and does a distinctive, conceptually coherent view, emerge?
- Does the paper have conclusions appropriate to its treatment of themes and/or research findings and discussion?
- Does the paper exhibit: coherence, readability and clarity of expression, accuracy, well chosen grammar, standard spelling, an academic style of presentation?

#### **Criteria for paper presentations**

Does the presentation:

- fit within the time available?
- present a clear exposition of the written paper?
- promote communication by using presentation technologies (e.g., overheads, videos, powerpoint etc.) in a thoughtful and creative way?
- provide good illustrations and respond helpfully to questions?
- demonstrate a grasp of the topic?
- encourage the interest and thoughtful engagement of delegates in the content and topic of the presentation?

The judging panel notifies the VP (Research) of the winning entrant.

The VP (Research)'s decision whether or not to award the ECA will be final.

NB. Depending on the number of entries, and in order to facilitate judging for the award, a shortlist may be prepared by the VP (Research) for the final stage of judgement at the conference. If a shortlist needs to be prepared, the criteria used for selection will be consistent with the criteria for the judging of the written paper as set out below. Every effort will be made to notify authors of the outcome of the shortlisting process before the conference. However, as timelines are very tight, this may not always prove feasible.

Please direct further inquires to the Vice President (Research).