

NARST 2019 Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA)

First Call

This Award recognizes and rewards an individual whose dissertation is judged to have the greatest merit and significance in the field of science education for that year. The ODRA Committee is now soliciting nominations for the 2019 award from all current NARST members who completed a dissertation within the 15 months prior to October 1, 2018. Submissions are to be sought from as wide a field of candidates as possible to be inclusive of gender, age, geographical area and ethnicity, as well as research perspectives.

Persons wishing to be considered should submit an e-mail with: (1) a ten-page, double-spaced abstract; (2) a five-page abbreviated bibliography; and, (3) a cover sheet, signed by the major advisor/professor/supervisor or chair of the dissertation committee; electronic signatures are acceptable. Alternatively, the dissertation supervisor/director can send an e-mail to the ODRA Selection Committee Chair, endorsing the application and attesting to its accuracy. Nominees who are in a final pool will then provide the full dissertation for review.

Judging will occur in two rounds. The first round of judging will be based on the ten-page abstract. From these, a small group of finalists will be asked to submit one unbound copy of the complete dissertation. The final decision of the committee will be based on the complete dissertation. All applicants will be notified of their status after the first round of judging is completed in December.

The ten-page abstract should be structured to describe clearly the following:

- (1) purpose or objectives of the study;
- (2) conceptual/theoretical framework;
- (3) research approach/method;
- (4) data sources and methods of analysis;
- (5) findings or results;
- (6) conclusions and implications; and,
- (7) significance of the study.

It is suggested that nominees model their abstract after conference proposals submitted for NARST; abstracts should foreground rationale, methods, and results.

Judging in both rounds (for abstracts and dissertations) will be based on the following three central questions:

- (1) Is the question being asked of importance to the community of science educators?
- (2) Is the research approach and its implementation thorough and appropriate for the research question(s)?
- (3) Are the results and conclusions appropriate for the context of the study?

Specific criteria considered in relation to these questions include: the significance of the research problem/area; conceptual/theoretical background; thoroughness of the research approach and methods; identification of conclusions/outcomes and their implications for

science education; clarity and coherence of communication; and overall originality or creativity. In the past, successful applicants have been those able to make a case for the significance of their study to the science education community as a whole; and/or who convinced the reviewers of the originality of the questions asked or methods employed.

Submission Procedure: Persons wishing to be considered for the award must submit an e-mail with the following attachments (in pdf format):

- (1) One file containing a ten-page, double-spaced abstract (margins are limited to 1 inch all around using 12 cpi font);
- (2) One file containing a five-page abbreviated bibliography (spacing your option, 1 inch margins, 12 cpi font);
- (3) one file containing a cover sheet which includes the author's name, address where they can be reached through January 2019, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers, title of the study, the name and address of the institution where the dissertation was completed, a list of the members of the dissertation committee, and the date the dissertation was passed. The cover sheet should be signed by the major advisor/professor/supervisor or chair of the dissertation committee. An electronic signature is acceptable.

Alternatively, the dissertation supervisor/director can send an e-mail to the Chair of the Outstanding Doctoral Research Award Selection Committee endorsing the application and attesting to the accuracy of the information provided in the application. Please note that this is not a letter of advocacy but merely to confirm the information listed in #3, above.

Please note: The title of the study should appear on the first page of the abstract, but the author's name and other identifying information should appear **ONLY** on the cover sheet.

An e-mail with all three attachments, including advisor's signature, must be received by **Dr. Barbara Hug** at bhug@illinois.edu no later than **October 1, 2018**. We regret that the committee will be unable to consider incomplete or late applications. **Please put "ODRA" in the subject line of your email.** Any questions regarding this award should be e-mailed to **Barbara Hug**, Chair of the Committee at bhug@illinois.edu.

Barbara Hug (Chair)
David Fortus (Co-chair)