

NARST 2018 Outstanding Doctoral Research Award

First Call

The NARST Outstanding Doctoral Research Award Selection Committee invites all current NARST members who completed a dissertation within the 15 months prior to September 15, 2017 to submit an expanded ten-page abstract to the committee for consideration for the 2018 NARST Outstanding Doctoral Research Award. Submissions are to be sought from as wide a field of candidates as possible to be inclusive of gender, age and ethnicity.

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 early November.

The committee welcomes doctoral dissertations from all research perspectives. The ten-page abstract should be structured to describe clearly the following:

- (1) the 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 December 2017, 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. Cory Forbes** at cory.forbes@unl.edu no later than **September 15, 2017**. We regret that the committee will be unable to consider incomplete or late applications. **Please put "ODRA" in the subject line of your email.**

Questions regarding this award should be e-mailed to the Chair of the Committee: **Cory Forbes**.

Cory Forbes (Chair)
Barbara Hug (Co-chair)