

**Arts Researchers and Teachers Society
Graduate Research Awards 2013**

Dear Colleagues in ARTS:

It is my honour to announce the recipients of the Arts Researchers and Teachers Society (ARTS) Graduate Research Awards (doctoral and masters) for 2013. These awards are offered by ARTS, our Canadian Association of Curriculum Studies (CACS) Special Interest Group (SIG), for a completed scholarly project, thesis or dissertation in the area of arts research and teaching. The work must be completed within two years prior to the year of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE) conference where the awards are given. Graduates of Canadian universities or Canadians who have studied abroad are eligible for the award. Applicants for these awards must also be members of CSSE, CACS and ARTS.

Applicants for the awards submit a pdf copy of the signed committee acceptance of the dissertation/thesis/project, an abstract of 1000-1500 words, as well as a pdf of, or a link to, the full dissertation/thesis/project.

As President of ARTS, it was my responsibility to coordinate the process for the review. A minimum of three reviewers are required. I invited fifteen colleagues to serve as reviewers. Seven colleagues were able to accept this invitation. Four of the reviewers were able to review submissions in French. I am deeply grateful to our colleagues who served as reviewers, and, on behalf of all members ARTS, I offer them our sincere gratitude for the incredible amount of time and care they brought to their reviews. The names of the reviewers are kept in confidence, and they do not communicate with each other during the process. After confirming that the submissions were completed within two years prior to the year of the CSSE conference, I sent the abstracts to all reviewers with a timeline for completion of the first stage, which is a rating scale with comments. When submissions score high and are close in scores, the reviewers are provided with ratings and/or comments from other reviewers. This process is to ensure that the final decision expresses the will of the committee of reviewers. This process may continue until a clear final decision is made. The president of ARTS does not participate in making the decision.

The recipient of the ARTS Doctoral Graduate Research Award for 2013 is Dr. Terrah Keener. Dr. Keener's doctoral dissertation, completed in 2012 at the University of South Australia, is titled *See Me, Hear Me ... Queerly Visible: Conversations about family and school with non-heterosexual parents and their children*, and was completed with the supervision of Dr. Vicki Crowley. This award comes with \$300.00 to help support travel to the ARTS Annual General Meeting held during the CSSE Conference.

The following are selected comments from the reviewers regarding Dr. Keener's submission:

This [submission] addresses crucial topics for arts education, the larger educational field, and society.

There seems to be a dynamic of sensitivity and activism throughout this inquiry. The study is well designed to give the art making aspect a valid role in expressing ideas that have significance to the questions. The findings have relevance not only in arts education but also across the range educational sites and institutions.

This dissertation is an important and timely challenge to teachers and administrators, calling them to acknowledge the perpetuation of heteronormative ideology in schools.

Provocative and timely work contributing to the momentum for queering our schools.

The reviewers felt so strongly about the quality of another submission for the ARTS Doctoral Graduate Research Award for 2013 that an honourable mention is being given to the work of Dr. Nané Jordan. Dr. Jordan's dissertation, completed in 2011 at The University of British Columbia, is titled *Inspiriting the Academy: Weaving Stories and Practices of Living Women's Spirituality*, and was completed with the supervision of Dr. Daniel Vokey.

The following are selected comments from the reviewers regarding Dr. Jordan's submission:

[T]he artistic creative work is integral throughout the study – design, methodology, analysis. The inquiry is extremely well grounded in the pertinent literature thus situating the inquiry within the spiritual but aligning well with educational and social concerns.

Beautifully articulated holistic possibilities for pedagogy!

This abstract beautifully weaves narrative with academic content. The work demonstrates significant complexity and thoughtful theoretical review to substantiate the framework. The use of the red thread metaphor works well to tie the stories and the journey.

The combination of a marginalized topic, a unique combination of research approaches, and excellent writing (both artistic and expository) make this an important piece of work.

The recipient of the ARTS Masters Graduate Research Award is Ms Chantal Laurin. Ms Laurin's mémoire, completed in 2011 at Université du Québec à Montréal, is titled *Vers une approche interculturelle de l'enseignement de l'orchestre à cordes de la première secondaire*, and was completed with the direction of madame Nicole Carignan. This award comes with \$200.00 to help support travel to the ARTS Annual General Meeting held during the CSSE Conference.

The following are selected comments from the reviewers regarding Ms Laurin's submission:

The author's assertions that more appropriate selection of materials for music education will contribute to greater empathy and appreciation of the culture of others is an important contribution to the growing scholarship on this issue.

A well-articulated thesis in traditional research format contributing to intercultural dialogue through the arts.

[T]he analyses appear to be based on a complex array of factors and the work offers an endorsement including reasons to promote secondary school orchestra.

I offer my personal congratulations, and well as congratulations on behalf of the members of ARTS, to the award recipients.

I express, once again, deepest gratitude to the reviewers. As well, my gratitude goes to Dr. Monica Prendergast, Vice-President of ARTS, and Dr. Pauline Sameshima, former President of ARTS, for their wise advice and collegial support throughout this process.

Respectfully,

John J. Guiney Yallop, PhD
President, Arts Researchers and Teachers Society