ASSA announces the winner of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research and Panel Commendations for Early Career Research

The President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Professor Deborah Terry, is pleased to announce the winner of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research 2014 and the winners of the Panel Awards for Early Career Research 2014.

The Academy honours Australians in the early part of their career who have achieved excellence in scholarship in one or more fields of the social sciences from a shortlist of four outstanding early career researchers for the Panel Commendations for Early Career Research (one from each panel of the Academy) from whom will be selected one exceptional researcher to be the recipient of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research.

PAUL BOURKE AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH 2014 RECIPIENT

Associate Professor Emma Kowal, Deakin University

Associate Professor Emma Kowal (Melbourne U PhD 2007) is an outstanding cultural and medical anthropologist. Her work as a doctor and public health researcher in Indigenous health settings has powerfully shaped her anthropology of Indigenous Australians and their health, and of science and technology studies. Awarded an NHMRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in 2007, and ARC Discovery Early Career Research Award in 2012, she has recently been appointed to Deakin University. Her 78 publications include a forthcoming monograph (Trapped in the Gap: Doing Good in Indigenous Australia. Berghahn, New York, 2015). She is a catalytic colleague, Convenor of the Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network, editor of Postcolonial Studies, and Deputy Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics, ANU. She is an outstanding early career researcher with a national and global influence.
RECIPIENTS OF THE PANEL COMMENDATIONS FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH IN 2014

Panel B – Professor Richard Holden, University of New South Wales

Richard Holden is an outstanding early-career scholar showing uncommon leadership in the fields of law and economics, contract theory and political economy. Through a series of papers he has significantly advancing understanding of gerrymandering of electoral boundaries. Granted his PhD in Economics from Harvard in 2006, he commenced his first academic job at MIT, moved to the University of Chicago in 2009, and to UNSW as a full professor from 2011. He is a Fellow of the U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research and an editor of the Journal of Law and Economics. Most academics strive their whole careers without such recognition. Richard has already made prodigious research contributions, published in leading international journals, such as the American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Politics, and the Journal of Economic Perspectives. He is a recipient of an ARC Future Fellowship, 2013-17.

Panel C - Professor Penelope Edmonds, University of Tasmania

Dr Penelope Edmonds is an outstanding early career historian whose performance over the past eight years has situated her at the forefront of international scholarship in the field of colonialism in nineteenth-century Australia and the British Empire. With strong links to the museum sector, and training in the field of heritage studies and material conservation, Penelope Edmonds’ multi-disciplinary approach to settler colonialism and its impact on Indigenous peoples has resulted in a steady stream of books, top-tier journal articles and book chapters. Her reputation was enhanced with the publication of ‘Urbanising Frontiers: Indigenous Peoples and Settlers in 19th-Century Pacific Rim Cities’ that emerged from her award-winning PhD thesis and attracted excellent reviews. The national and international esteem in which she is held for her theoretical depth and originality will be strengthened further with her forthcoming book, Settler Colonialism and (Re)Conciliation: Trust, Violence, and Performing the Settler Colonial Compact (Palgrave, 2014). Penelope Edmonds’ exceptional abilities have been recognised through the award of an ARC Postdoctoral Award, an ARC Future Fellowship and promotion to the level of Associate Professor at the University of Tasmania.

Panel D - Professor Brendan Zietsch (University of Queensland)

Professor Brendan Zietsch has already made a considerable impact in his fields of research, very early in his career. His innovation has been to apply highly developed expertise in behavioural genetic analysis to understanding the evolutionary bases of human behaviour, including personality, mate preferences and formation, and sexual behaviour. This approach has led to numerous important publications in the fields’ top journals, which have repeatedly gained the attention of both the international media and
world-leading researchers. Importantly, he has translated the interest of leading academics into fruitful and ongoing international collaborations in which he takes a leadership role. Furthermore, in the short time since being awarded his doctorate, Brendan has established a lab with four high-quality PhD students and an exceptional post-doc under his supervision as well as various Honours thesis students and research assistants, which at such an early career stage highlights his outstanding leadership potential.

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