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 AO, is pleased to announce the winner of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research 2015 and the winners of the Panel Awards for Early Career Research 2015.

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 2015 RECIPIENT

Dr Philip Batterham, The Australian National University

Dr Philip Batterham is an outstanding early-career mental health researcher. He has published 85 peer-reviewed papers, including more than 60 since attaining his PhD in 2011. Dr Batterham has been the recipient of considerable NHMRC funding, including an Early Career Fellowship (2012), a Career Development Fellowship (2015), and Chief Investigator for five Project Grants and one Centre of Research Excellence. He was awarded the Commonwealth Health Minister’s Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research in 2015. His research has produced novel methods for assessing mental health problems in the community, tested online programs to reduce the burden of mental illness, and developed stigma reduction programs. He is taking a leadership role in research translation, and was the lead author for the NHMRC Case for Action on translating mental health research findings into better community-based services. Dr Batterham is already an international leader in research in suicide, depression and stigma.
Panel A – Dr Jessica Gerrard, University of Melbourne

Jessica Gerrard has developed an original body of work drawing on sociology, history and education. She studies social change and education as a site of emancipatory possibility, in political movements, among the unemployed and in Australian school reform. In doing so she has generated fresh thinking about class, gender, social movements, authority, and empowerment. The quality and impact of her work has been recognized by scholarships, distinctions, publication prizes, and the highly competitive McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowship, awarded to scholars whose research is of highest quality and innovation and most able to generate new interdisciplinary collaborations at University of Melbourne. Her publications include an important monograph (and another in preparation) and 15 articles in highest rated journals across her three fields. Her active contributions to the next generation of social sciences include convening new conferences, many forms of public presentation, doctoral supervision and editorial work, and extensive international invitations and papers.

Panel B – Associate Professor David W. Johnston, Monash University

Associate Professor David W. Johnston has developed a highly relevant, exciting and innovative research agenda into social economic and health relationships by bringing together large scale surveys, economic theory and modern econometric techniques. His work impacts on scientific research frontiers and is of intrinsic interest to policy analysts. The most cited paper demonstrates the inadequacy of widely used self-assessed health in health research and reveals important research gains to be made by exploring relationships between objectively and self-assessed health measures. Other well cited papers relate child health to adult health and economic outcomes. David is perhaps the first to use social surveys to explore the high propensity for adverse mental health outcomes to move across three generations. David is a natural leader, Vice president of the Australian Health Economics Society and Convenor of many Australian health conferences. He holds an ARC Discovery Early Career Research Award and has received three ARC grants.

Panel C – Associate Professor Andrew Phillips, University of Queensland

Andrew Phillips is one of the outstanding international relations scholars of his generation. He received his PhD from Cornell University in 2008, and was awarded the Esman Prize for the Best Dissertation in the Department of Government. A revised version, published by Cambridge University Press in 2011, won the Crisp Prize from the Australian Political Science Association for best book published by an early career scholar. In 2012, the
Australian Research Council awarded him a DECRA fellowship, and in 2015 he published (with Jason Sharman) his second book in the prestigious Cambridge Studies in International Relations book series. Dr Phillips’ articles have appeared in many of the field’s leading journals, including International Studies Quarterly, Survival, Millennium, and The Pacific Review. He has held continuing positions at both the ANU and the University of Queensland, and in 2014, only six years after completing his PhD, he was promoted to Associate Professor at UQ.

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