

CRTC Prize for Excellence in Policy Research

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- Recognize and honour the most promising research articles in the fields of communications, information, and media studies
- Promote scholarly excellence in the fields of communications, information, and media studies
- Raise the profile of graduate-level and post-doctoral research activity in communications, information, and media studies programs across Canada
- Stimulate advanced research by graduate students and post-doctoral researchers to enhance the CRTC's evidence base
- Promote a new generation of researchers working on issues of relevance to the public interest in the fields of communications, information, and media studies

Description of awards

Each award includes:

- A monetary award (Master's: \$1,500, Doctorate: \$2,500, Post-doctoral researchers: \$1,000)¹
- Travel² to, and accommodation at, the annual Canadian Communications Association (CCA) conference and the annual International Institute of Communications (IIC) conference (usually in Ottawa)
- Presentation of winning papers at the CCA annual conference
- Translation and publication of the winning papers in both official languages on the CRTC's website
- Presentation of winning papers before CRTC commissioners and other federal policy-makers

Who is eligible?

- Students enrolled in a graduate program in communications or a related field (e.g., public policy, law, engineering, information studies) at a Canadian university, and Canadian students (including permanent residents and landed immigrant students) enrolled in a graduate program in communications or a related field in another country
- Post-doctoral researchers (including permanent residents and landed immigrant students) in communications or a related field affiliated with a Canadian university
- Applicants must be fully paid members of the Canadian Communication Association (CCA) at the time of submission of their paper

How to participate

¹ The jury can award the Prize outside of these categories at its discretion.

² Travel fees for winners are limited to domestic flights to and from Canadian destinations.

- Sole-authored articles can be submitted in either official language
- Participants must submit their article to the head of the selection committee (Vice-President of the CCA or their allocated representative) by the deadline as set out in the call for contributions and as indicated on the CCA and CRTC websites
- Articles must be submitted in a readable format, such as Word, RTF or PDF
- Only articles between 6,000 to 8,000 words (bibliography and appendices included) that adhere to recognized scholarly presentation format will be considered
- The cover page must include: the title of the article, as well as the author's name, contact information (i.e., email address, postal address, and telephone number), university affiliation and degree status

Winners will be asked to provide, in the official language of their choice, a short description of any images, including any charts and graphs, appearing in their Prize-winning papers. This text provides alternative information for an image if a user cannot view it online (e.g., because of a slow connection, or if the user uses a screen reader) and is a required feature of all Government of Canada Web publications.

Conflict of interest

CRTC employees are not eligible for the program.

Selection committee

- The committee will be made up of no less than three members, including the CCA Vice-President or their allocated representative
- A CRTC representative will participate as an observer and will not have voting rights (*ex-officio* status)
- Selection committee decisions will be final and without appeal
- Selection committee deliberations must adhere to the principle of collegiality
- Committee deliberations will be completely confidential
- Winners will be announced at the annual CCA meeting
- In the event that there is no winner in a prize category, the selection committee may award that prize to an additional winner in the other categories

Selection criteria

Research projects selected by the committee must comply with the following criteria:

1) Engagement in the communications/information/media studies fields and the public interest:

- Research makes a clear and direct contribution to communications and information policy studies
- Interdisciplinary work will be readily accepted, but must be linked to communications, information, and/or media studies in terms of the theoretical and/or methodological framework

2) Detailed, original approach:

- Stimulating argument and analysis that brings new perspective to the subject addressed
- The research engages and/or challenges existing streams or scholarly debate in the field

3) Contribution to communications/information/media policy studies:

- Research presents clear links to existing research and topics covered
- Arguments and evidence from the work are applicable to and/or challenges other communications scholars in a variety of contexts
- The author makes exciting connections across fields of research and analysis

4) Potential opportunities for other research projects and relevance:

- The work signals the author's potential to make a significant contribution to communications, information, and/or media studies in Canada
- The article opens the door to more in-depth examination of certain subjects or to the development of full research projects on related subjects
- Theoretical or methodological strategies offer new approaches to research in communications, information, and/or media studies

5) Maturity and sophistication of the argument:

- The readability of the work in terms of writing style
- The analysis is clear and does not compromise theoretical complexity.