

CRTC Prize for Excellence in Policy Research: Terms of Reference

Purpose

- Recognize and honour the most promising research articles in the communications and information fields.
- Promote scholarly excellence in the communications and information fields.
- To raise the profile of student and graduate activity in graduate programs of Communications across Canada as well as that of recent graduates.
- Stimulate research by graduate students and post-doctoral candidates to enhance CRTC's evidence base in the communications and information field.
- Promote a new generation of researchers working on issues of interest in the communications and information field, in order to obtain greater insights representing the public interest.

Description of awards

Each award includes:

- Three monetary awards (Master's: \$1,500, Doctorate: \$2,500, Post-doctorate and researchers: \$1,000);
- Travel to Canadian Communications Association (CCA) conference in Calgary in 2016 and the International Institute of Communications (IIC) conference 2016 in Ottawa;
- Publication and translation of the winning papers 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 at a Canadian university in communications or a related field, 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-doc candidates in the communications or the information field (including permanent residents and landed immigrant students), affiliated to a Canadian university.
- Students must be fully-paid members of the CCA at the time of submission.
- Articles can be submitted in either official language.

How to participate

- Participants must submit their article to the head of the selection committee (Vice-Chair of the CCA) by the deadline as set out in the call for contributions.
- Article 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, university affiliation and degree status.

Deadline

January 15, 2016

Conflict of interest

CRTC employees are not eligible for the program.

Selection committee

- The committee will be made up of three members, including CCA Vice-Chair.
- A CRTC representative will also participate as an observer, but will not have a vote (*ex-officio*).
- 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 2016 annual CCA meeting.

Selection criteria

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

- 1) Engagement in the communications/information field and the public interest:
 - Research makes a clear and direct contribution to the communications and information policy studies;
 - Interdisciplinary work will be readily accepted, but must be linked to communications and information 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 the field of communications and information 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 the communications and information 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 the communications and information field.
- 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.

Proposed themes for the 2015 competition

This competition aims to stimulate new thought and research in the communications and the information field. Multiple disciplinary and methodological approaches are often required to address current and future issues in the communications and the information field. Participants are therefore encouraged to work on diverse multidisciplinary research issues and topics.

However, for participants who are interested in exploring subjects more directly related to communications policy issues, the CRTC proposes the following topics as an example:

- Canadian content:
 - Emerging models for funding, producing and distributing Canadian content;
 - Social and economic impacts of media concentration.
- Accessibility:
 - Accessibility of telecommunications services (access and cost) and social and economic impacts of the digital divide;
 - Implications of new technological trends such as the “Internet of things”;
 - Socio-economic and socio-cultural impacts of ongoing and future technological changes.
- Privacy:
 - Evolution of the concept of privacy in a connected world;
 - Phishing, identity theft, malware: risks and safeguards;
 - Internet governance: possibilities and challenges;
 - International cooperation: on what aspects? Using what mechanisms?
- Civic engagement:
 - Stimulating civic participation and engagement in complex regulation issues;
 - Regulation in an open system.

For more information on the CRTC, visit: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/home-accueil.htm>.