2019 Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee Report

Submitted by Parissa Safai, York University (Chair)

Committee Members:
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Dunja Antunovic, Bradley University
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Sarah Teetzel, University of Manitoba

I am very pleased to note that we received 11 PhD submissions for this year's iteration of the Barbara Brown Student Paper Award. Unfortunately, we received no submissions at the master's level.

Manuscripts were blinded and sent for review to all committee members. As Chair, I also read all submissions but reserved my rankings and feedback in the event of a tie. Committee members were provided the blinded papers for review on July 15, 2019 and submitted all rankings/reviews by September 3, 2019.

Following NASSS procedures, the submission with the top overall quantitative score (ranking) from the four reviewers was awarded first place. The submission with the next-highest score was awarded an honorable mention. This year, there was a clear top-ranked paper and three papers tied for second. All committee members agreed that the top-ranked paper was deserving of the award. Committee members reviewed the rankings for second place and there was consensus among committee members that one paper was most deserving of honourable mention.

The winner of the NASSS Barbara Brown Student Paper Award was Sekani Robinson (University of California, Santa Barbara) for her paper entitled: *"Black Swans: Black Women in Ballet and the Management of Emotional and Aesthetic Labor*." Honourable mention for this year's NASSS Barbara Brown Student Paper Award goes to Julie Brice (University of Waikato) for her paper entitled: "*The Empirical Challenges of New Materialism: Exploring Methodological Possibilities with Physical Cultural Bodies."* All students were individually notified of competition results in late September including the qualitative feedback specific to their paper from all the reviewers. Students were not provided with their quantitative rankings.

Even though this may be an anomaly specific to this year, attention to the issue of no masters-level submissions this year is warranted. Some suggestions include: surveying graduate students on their perceptions of the competition as well as how to better encourage submissions to the student paper award competition; embedding a small workshop specific to the student paper award competition in the conference to encourage students to submit the following year; and better clarify expectations and criteria for evaluation for the papers. Ind thanks to Brian Gearity for his thoughtful input on this issue.