



AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE & EDUCATION  
RESEARCH AWARDS POLICY MANUAL  
REVISED OCTOBER 2014

Current Revisions by Matt Omasta, Ph.D.  
Research Awards Chair 2012-15





# AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE & EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARDS POLICY MANUAL

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## RESEARCH AWARDS MISSION, VISION, & TARGET

AATE believes that research in drama/theatre education is essential to support drama/theatre education programs, as such research informs and influences practice and provides essential data necessary for advocacy in the field.

### VISION

The Research Awards Committee envisions that AATE's Research Awards will promote:

- Recognition on the value of research in drama/theatre education among AATE's membership and society at large.
- A membership that is better-informed of the theories and practices of drama/theatre and education.
- A healthy drama/theatre education research community.
- AATE's recognition as a world leader in drama/theatre education research.

### MISSION

The Research Awards Committee's mission is to:

- Encourage and support research in drama/theatre and education.
- Identify and reward excellence in drama/theatre and education research.
- Develop and deliver programs and activities that provide drama/theatre educators with sound research that can inform their practice along as well as with a sound understanding of research practices.
- Advise the AATE Board of Directors on matters related to research in drama/theatre education.
- Collaborate with AATE's Networks on compatible programs and projects.
- Increase members' knowledge and understanding of the functions of research in the continual development of drama/theatre education.

### TARGET

The Research Awards Committee seeks to serve:

- American Alliance for Theatre & Education membership.
- Students of our membership.
- Pre-service and in-service drama/theatre teachers.
- The research community in general (e.g., AERA, IDIERI, IDEA, ASSITEJ, TYA/USA, ITYARN, ASTR, ATHE)

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## AWARDS

The current awards offered are listed below, and are described in detail later in this handbook:

- The Research Award
- The Distinguished Dissertation Award
- The Distinguished Thesis Award
- The Judith Kase Cooper Honorary Research Award

The Research Awards Chair will submit a list of award winners to the AATE Central Office annually for inclusion on the AATE website.



## RESEARCH AWARDS PERSONNEL

### RESEARCH AWARDS CHAIR

The Research Awards Chair shall be appointed by AATE's Director of Research & Publications in consultation with AATE's Board of Directors.

- When feasible, it is ideal for this appointment to take place at least one year in advance of the newly-appointed Chair taking office.
- In order to foster inclusion and diversity, it is recommended that the Research Awards Chair will not hold office for more than four years in a row. The final decision, however, rests with the AATE Board.

### RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS / JURORS

The Research Awards Chair will form a committee of recognized practitioners with a variety of research backgrounds and expertise in drama/theatre and education research. The Research Awards Committee Members will also serve as Jurors for at least one award subcommittee.

- All jurors should be established researchers and members in good standing of AATE.
- Historically, former research award finalists make up a large portion of the juries.
- The Research Awards Chair shall attempt to ensure gender, ethnic, national, and international diversity in the selection of jurors.
- Jurors may serve on the subcommittee for one award and still submit their own work for consideration for a different award.
- Jurors may not serve on the subcommittees for an award in cases where doing so could create a real or perceived conflict of interest (e.g., a professor who served on an entrant's dissertation committee may not serve as a juror for the Distinguished Dissertation Award.
- Jurors' identities shall not be revealed by themselves or the Research Awards Chair until the completion of Round II of the award process.
- While jurors may serve for an unlimited number of years, in order to foster inclusion and diversity, it is recommended that no juror serve for more than four years in a row.
- At the discretion of the Research Awards Chair, the same set of jurors may jury all awards or the jurors may vary from award to award.
- The Research Awards Committee Members will be listed in the AATE Conference program in alphabetical order, without indication of which award(s) they juried.
- All jurors agree to encourage researchers to enter work for consideration in the Research Awards process and will, as a matter of course, disseminate information about the Research Awards to colleagues and students.
- Should circumstances prevent a juror's compliance with these guidelines, the juror must notify the Research Awards Chair immediately.



## GENERAL ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

- All abstracts and manuscripts of complete studies will be distributed to jurors electronically.
- All jurors agree to return Round I abstract evaluations the Research Awards Chair by the established deadline.
- All jurors agree to return Round II study evaluations **with brief comments** to the Research Awards Chair by the established deadline. The Research Awards chair will share the written comments and questions with the finalists, though jurors will not be identified.
- Jurors' written and oral comments should, at all times, be stated in constructive terms. Jurors are critiquing the work of peers and mentoring recent graduate students. Hence, comments should be phrased with tact, sensitivity, and a genuine concern for the researcher's work and professional development as a scholar.
- The Research Award Chair will tabulate the results of Round II and determine the outcome. The Research Awards Chair will submit the tabulated results to the AATE Board and Central Office.
- The Research Awards Chair reserves the right to consult with the jurors for any particular award before making a final decision.
- The Research Awards Chair, based on the recommendations of the jury, may offer one award, declare ties / co-winners, offer honorable mentions, or determine that there are no winners for a particular award.
- The Research Awards Chair acts as an impartial coordinator of the entire jury and awards process. In the interest of fairness to all candidates, the Research Awards Chair does not discuss any study or offer recommendations until the results of Round II are submitted. In cases of an irreconcilable tie or extremely close results, after deliberation with the jurors, the Research Awards Chair may cast the deciding vote.
- The Research Awards Chair will notify finalists of the results as soon as possible.
- Awardees are invited to present their research during the annual AATE Conference and will receive a ticket for the awards ceremony.

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## ADVOCACY

The Research Awards Committee will submit announcements of its award programs to appropriate educational and theatrical publications where their readerships may be conducting research in drama/theatre and education and / or through electronic list-serves or other appropriate means.

The Research Awards Chair will send the research awards announcements in ample time to meet publication deadlines.

The Research Awards Chair will submit for publication the names of the award finalists and recipients to the AATE central office for inclusion in all AATE publications.



## RESEARCH AWARDS GOVERNANCE

- All AATE awards pertaining to research will be determined by the Research Awards Committee with approval of the AATE Board of Directors.
- Guidelines for each award will be reviewed annually and the Research Awards Chair will make revisions and notify all jurors of the new procedures. These will become part of the AATE Research Committee Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Criteria for each award will be reviewed annually and the Research Awards Chair will make revisions and notify all submitters of the new criteria. These will become part of the Research Awards Committee Policy and Procedures Manual.
- The Research Awards Committee may meet formally at the Annual Conference, or by electronic means.
- All committee members (including the Chair) may make motions and vote on changes to Research Awards Policies & Procedures.
- Final approval of changes to Research Awards Policies & Procedures rests with the AATE Board of Directors.
- The Research Awards Chair may recommend changes in policy to the Board throughout the year. The Research Awards Chair will poll the Research Awards Committee prior to forwarding these recommendations.
- Each year all jurors will receive a revised copy of the Research Awards Policy Manual.

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## RESEARCH AWARD CHAIR GENEALOGY

Joyce Wilkinson

Jeanne Klein

Joe Norris, 1995-1996

Laura McCammon, 1996-1998

Johnny Saldaña, 1998-2000

Manon van de Water, 2000-2002

Christine D. Warner, 2004-2009

Manon van de Water, 2007-2009

Gustave Weltsek-Medina, 2009-2010

Lorenzo Garcia, 2010-12

Matt Omasta, 2012-15

Mary McAvoy 2015-



## RESEARCH AND DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION / THESIS AWARD OVERVIEW

The American Alliance for Theatre & Education's **Research Award** and **The Distinguished Dissertation & Thesis Awards** are offered annually for significant theoretical, empirical, ethnographic, critical, historical, or other scholarly research in any area of drama/theatre for young people. The purpose of the awards is to encourage novice and senior researchers to strive for excellence; to receive constructive critiques from established researchers; and to increase the prestige, caliber, and recognition of laudable research in the field of drama/theatre. Awardees' summary papers are frequently published in the *Youth Theatre Journal*. Recipients of the awards are invited to present their research at the annual AATE conference.

### ELIGIBILITY

1. Award consideration is open to any individual (or collaborative team, *for Research Awards only*) in any discipline engaged in drama/theatre research with young people. Any AATE member may submit a research abstract for consideration
2. Entrants *for the Research Award* may not submit more than one study per year.
3. An individual may not be a finalist *for the Research Award* more than three times in a ten-year period.
4. Entrants *for the Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Award* may submit their dissertations or theses within four years of their completion.
5. Research should address or identify any research, policy, or practice issues in drama with children, drama/theatre education, or theatre for young audiences. Potential topics include but are not limited to: (a) drama or theatre education for young people (preschool through grade 12), (b) theatre for young audiences or their professional companies in the United States and abroad, (c) playwriting, (d) educational theory, methods and curriculum, (e) drama with, by, and for exceptional populations, (f) religious drama, (g) puppetry, (h) film and television for children, and (i) historical studies.
6. Entrants assume all responsibility for submitting electronic copies of their studies and other requested materials to the Research Awards Chair by the advertised deadlines.
7. All entrants remain anonymous to each other and to the jurors through Round II of the award selection process. Only award recipients' names will be publicized.
8. Studies not advancing past the abstract stage may be resubmitted in a subsequent year (*for Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Award*) as long as that year is still within four years of the completion of the thesis or dissertation.
9. If only one study is received in any given year for any award, the Research Awards Chair may recommend that no award be given and that the submission be considered for the following year's award. If, *for the Distinguished Dissertation/Thesis Award*, the four-year completion eligibility will be affected by this, though, the study shall proceed in the current year.



## ROUND I: REVIEW OF ABSTRACTS

Authors should submit the following materials to the Research Awards Chair by e-mail:

1. A cover page indicating the author's name, affiliation, address, phone number, e-mail address, study title and (for theses/dissertation) the name and contact information of the committee chairperson
2. A 1,200-1,500 word abstract of the master's thesis, doctoral dissertation, or research report, accompanied by a 2-page representative bibliography. The abstract **must NOT include any identifying information** related to the author or her/his affiliation(s).
3. For theses and dissertations: a letter from the chairperson of the student's committee recommending the study for consideration.

Each of the above should be attached *as separate files* to a single message and e-mailed to [researchawards@aate.com](mailto:researchawards@aate.com). Only electronic submissions in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF format will be accepted.

The study description should address explicitly as many of the following as are applicable, preferably in this order: (a) objectives or purpose; (b) perspective(s) or theoretical framework; (c) methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry; (d) data sources or evidence; (e) results and/or conclusions/point of view; and (f) educational or theoretical importance of the study.

The results of Round I will be determined by the rank orders provided by the jurors and their recommendations for advancement of the study to Round II. **A maximum of four studies** will be chosen for Round II. At the discretion of the Research Awards Chair, this can increase to a maximum of six if there is no clear division among the lower three.

## ROUND II REVIEW: REVIEW OF COMPLETE STUDIES

After the Round I juries consider all submitted abstracts, researchers may be asked to submit their complete studies for award consideration.

All complete studies must be submitted in a standard publication style format such as MLA, APA, or Chicago. *For Distinguished Dissertation & Thesis Awards*, all studies must be submitted as originally written and approved by the degree granting institution.

All identifying information should be removed from each study (e.g., the study's author(s), institution, thesis/dissertation committee members, funders, etc.).

All materials submitted should be copyrighted before submission to protect the author(s)'s unpublished property.

The results of Round II will be determined by the recommendations provided by the jurors.

## ROUND III: PRESENTATIONS BY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each Award Recipient **will be expected** to make an approximately 25 minute prepared presentation of his/her research as described in the summary paper at the AATE annual conference. This presentation may be read verbatim from a prepared text or related orally within the given time frame. Generally, an effective presentation includes a concise overview of the entire study with additional commentary/reflection on the study as time allows. Presentations may be accompanied with audio-visual material (e.g. PowerPoint slides) if appropriate. All presentations should be framed as if





the audience is hearing about the study for the very first time.

Each finalist is encouraged to prepare a **10-25 page research paper of the complete study** for submission to *Youth Theatre Journal* (see “Submissions of Research Papers” below).

Following the awardees presentation, a respondent (a juror assigned by the Research Awards Chair) will give a 5-minute summary of the jurors’ responses, followed by questions from the audience.

Award finalists are expected to make personal arrangements for attending the annual AATE conference. For further details regarding conference registration and housing, see AATE.com. All award winners must be active AATE members at the time they submit their materials and the time they receive their award.

**AATE does not pay for special audio-visual equipment used in any presentation. Notify the Research Awards Chair of your presentation needs and the chair will convey this to the conference committee. Also, AATE does not cover any travel costs related to this presentation.** Awardees are offered a complimentary ticket to the AATE Awards Event (e.g., luncheon, ceremony).

Research Award recipients must consent to the release of their names and contact information for publicity and publication purposes.

### **SUBMISSIONS TO *YOUTH THEATRE JOURNAL***

Research Award Recipients are encouraged to submit 10-25 page articles based on their research papers to *Youth Theatre Journal* for potential publication. Papers must be submitted to the editor in the proper format for publication consideration. See *Youth Theatre Journal* guidelines for details regarding manuscript submissions.

### **TIMELINE**

The timeline for the awards process is determined by the Research Awards Chair and may change annually, however, a recommended timeline is below:

November 15	Entrants submit abstracts to the Research Awards Chair
December 1	Research Awards Chair sends abstracts to the jury
January 20	Jurors return reviews of Abstracts to the Chair
February 1	Chair notifies entrants of the status of their submissions
February 10	Round II Entrants submit their complete studies to the chair
February 15	The Chair distributes complete studies to the jurors
April 1	The jurors return reviews of the complete studies
April 15	The Chair determines award winners and consults with jurors if necessary
May 1	The Chair announces award winners and provides Round II entrants with feedback from jurors
Conference	Award winners present their work during a special session
Conference	Award winners receive their awards at the annual awards ceremony



## RESEARCH AND DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION / THESIS AWARD ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

### ROUND I: REVIEW OF ABSTRACTS

Each juror will evaluate each Round I submission rating the qualities below using a 5-point scale:

- Statement of objectives or purpose
- Perspectives or theoretical frameworks
- Research methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry
- Data sources or evidence
- Results and/or conclusions/points of view
- Educational and/or theoretical significance

Jurors will also make an overall recommendation about whether the study should be advanced to Round II, and may provide brief comments to the Research Awards Chair, though these comments will not be shared with the entrants. A sample Round I evaluation form is included in the appendices of this manual.

The Research Awards Chair will tabulate the results from the jurors and determine which studies will advance to Round II.

### ROUND II: REVIEW OF COMPLETE STUDIES

Each juror will evaluate each Round II submission holistically in terms of the same criteria detailed under Round I. Each juror will then rank each study (from the “strongest” submission through the “least strong” submission, without creating any ties. Jurors will also indicate if they believe each study should be given the award and/or an honorable mention for the award. A sample Round II evaluation form is included in the appendices of this manual.

The Research Awards Chair will tabulate the results from the jurors and determine the award winners and/or honorable mentions, consulting with the jurors if necessary (e.g. in the case of a tie or very close results).



## JUDITH KASE COOPER HONORARY RESEARCH AWARD OVERVIEW

The American Alliance for Theatre & Education's Judith Kase Cooper Honorary Research Award is given to honor distinguished scholars who have contributed significantly to the development of theory and research in the field of drama/theatre and education. The nominee's collective works can be theoretical, empirical, ethnographic, critical, historical, or other scholarly research in any area of drama/theatre for young people.

1. Any AATE member may submit a nomination for consideration.
2. Those nominated must be individuals who, either working independently or in collaboration with others, have made significant contributions to the body of research in drama/theatre education internationally.
3. The focus of the award is on cumulative work accomplished over a number of years rather than on one study.
4. Those nominated must be recommended by at least 3 established researchers (nominators) within AATE and at least 1 established researcher outside the field.
5. Nominators must submit an abbreviated curriculum vitae of themselves indicating their own research history in the field of drama/theatre and education.
6. One of the nominators will compile a dossier of the individual nominated which must include a list of research publications and activities. It may include teaching history, presentations made, positions held, and research grants received.
7. The nominee may or may not be aware of the nomination.
8. All nominations will be held in confidence by the Research Awards Chair and jurors. The nominators will be informed of the results by the Research Awards Chair.
9. It is the responsibility of the Research Awards Chair to inform the recipient of the award. This will include the names of the individuals who made the nomination. The recipient is offered a complimentary ticket to the AATE Awards Event (e.g., luncheon, ceremony).
10. Only successful recipients will be contacted.
11. All nomination materials must be submitted by the advertised deadline.

## JUDITH KASE COOPER HONORARY RESEARCH AWARD ADJUDICATION GUIDELINES

This award is given at the discretion of the jury. They may apply as many criteria as they deem necessary to determine the extent the individual nominated has over a large number of years significantly contributed to the development of theory and research in the field of drama/theatre and education. Below is a list of some criteria which may assist them in their decision.

- Credibility of the nominators based upon their abbreviated CV's.
- Number of publications of the nominee.
- Substantive contributions to the field by the nominee's works.
- Duration of research activities of the nominee.
- Research related grants and awards received by the nominee.

This award is not meant to be competitive. If more than one nomination is received in any given year, the jury may present more than one award or choose to offer one award in a subsequent year.



## APPENDIX A: Sample Round I Research Award Evaluation Form

**2013 AATE RESEARCH AWARD SCORING SHEET - ROUND 1**

**STUDY TITLE**

**STUDY ID#**

**Please read the study abstract, and then complete each of the three sections below.**

### SECTION 1: Quantitative Scoring

Please rate the study in each of the factors below using the following scale. (Note: your total score will be automatically calculated for you).

5 = Excellent

4 = Good

3 = Average

2 = Fair

1 = Poor

CRITERIA/RATING	SCORE
Statement of objectives or purpose	
Perspective (s) or theoretical framework	
Research methods, techniques or modes of inquiry	
Data sources or evidence	
Results and/or conclusions/points of view	
Educational and/or theoretical significance of the study	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>0</b>

### SECTION 2: Overall Assessment

Should this study be advanced to round two? (Enter Yes or No) ----->

**Comments (Optional) to the Research Awards Chair (These will NOT be shared with the entrant)**



## APPENDIX B: Sample Round II Research Award Evaluation Form

### AATE DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD JUROR RESPONSE FORM – ROUND II

#### PART I: Overall Assessment

1. Please rank the studies in order from 1 to 3, with “1” being the strongest study, “2” being the second strongest, and “3” being the third strongest. Type the rank for each study into the boxes in the “Overall Rank” column. ***Please do not create any “ties” for rank, even if you feel two studies should win the award, still rank the studies in order from 1 to 3.***
2. For each study, please indicate if you feel it should win this year’s research award by typing “yes” or “no” in the “award winner” column. Generally, only one study will win the award, but if you strongly believe two studies should win the award, you may indicate this here.
3. For each study that you did NOT indicate should be an award winner, please indicate if you feel the study should receive an honorable mention, by indicating “yes” or “no” in the “honorable mention” column.

Study ID	Study Title	Overall Rank (1, 2, 3)	Award Winner? (Yes/No)	Honorable Mention? (Yes/No)
DS-2				
DS-3				
DS-5				

#### Part II: Comments

Please enter comments below for each of the studies (feel free to take as much space as you need under each study title).

Note that these comments **WILL** be shared with the study authors, though jurors will not be identified.

#### Comments for DS-2

#### Comments for DS-3

#### Comments for DS-5



## APPENDIX C: Sample Call for Submissions (Research Awards)

### THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION

*invites submissions for the*

## 2014 AATE RESEARCH AWARDS

THE RESEARCH AWARD

THE DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD

THE DISTINGUISHED THESIS AWARD

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

AATE's research awards are offered annually to scholars whose research contributes significantly to the field of drama/theatre with or for young people. We welcome submissions from a wide variety of research traditions that explore any topic related to educational theatre / drama, applied theatre, and/or theatre for young audiences.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Any AATE member may submit their work for review.
- Theses and dissertations may be entered up to four years from their date of completion (This year, theses and dissertations completed between November 2009-November 2013 are eligible for submission).
- *All finalists must register for, attend, and present their research at the Annual AATE Conference to be held in Denver, Colorado July 30-Aug 4, 2014.*

#### SUBMISSION

Authors should submit the following materials to the Research Awards Chair by e-mail:

- A cover page indicating the author's name, affiliation, address, phone number, e-mail address, study title and (for theses/dissertation) the name and contact information of the committee chairperson
- A 1,200-1,500 word abstract of the master's thesis, doctoral dissertation, or research report, accompanied by a 2-page representative bibliography. The abstract **must NOT include any identifying information** related to the author or her/his university affiliation.
- For theses and dissertations: a letter from the chairperson of the student's committee recommending the study for consideration.

Each of the above should be attached *as separate files* to a single message and e-mailed to [researchawards@aate.com](mailto:researchawards@aate.com)

Only electronic submissions in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF format will be accepted.

#### REVIEW TIMELINE

- All submissions must be received by 11:59pm PST on **December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.
- Authors be notified by **February 3rd, 2014** as to if their submission will be advanced to Round II of the review process. Authors whose works are advanced will be asked to submit electronic copies of their *entire completed theses / dissertations / research reports* by 11:59pm PST on **February 10th, 2014**.
- Finalists will be notified of award decisions by **May 15, 2014**. Award winners and authors receiving honorable mentions will be invited to share and celebrate their research at the annual AATE conference in Denver, CO **July 25-28, 2013**, and will be invited to submit an article based on their research to the *Youth Theatre Journal* for potential publication.

*Send all electronic submissions and requests for further information to:*

Matt Omasta, Ph.D.

AATE Research Awards Chair

[researchawards@aate.com](mailto:researchawards@aate.com)



## APPENDIX D: Sample Call for Submissions (Judith Kase Cooper Award)

### THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION

*invites nominations for the 2014*

## JUDITH KASE COOPER HONORARY RESEARCH AWARD

The **AATE Judith Kase Cooper Honorary Research Award** is given to honor distinguished scholars who have contributed significantly to the development of theory and research in the field of drama/theatre and education. Nominees must have made significant contributions to the body of research in drama/theatre education internationally. The focus of the award is on cumulative work accomplished over a number of years rather than on one study.

#### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

Current AATE members may begin the nomination process by e-mailing the Research Awards Chair at [researchawards@aate.com](mailto:researchawards@aate.com) by **December 6th, 2013** to indicate their intent to nominate a candidate for this award. The chair will provide nominators with detailed nomination guidelines by December 20th, 2013.

A complete nomination package will consist of a minimum of four letters of support testifying to the nominee's significant international impact on the field's research. At least three letters must be from AATE members with established research reputations; at least one must be from an established scholar whose primary area of inquiry lies outside the field of theatre education or theatre for young audiences. Additional required materials and the deadline for their receipt will be provided upon receipt of the intent to nominate e-mail.

The nominee may or may not be aware of the nomination. The Research Award Chair and jurors will hold all nominations in confidence. The nominators will be informed of the results by the Research Award Chair.

*Send all electronic submissions and requests for further information to:*

Matt Omasta, PhD

AATE Research Awards Chair

[researchawards@aate.com](mailto:researchawards@aate.com)