



30 October 2018

## Winners of the 2018 CHASS Australia Prizes Announced

CHASS has announced the winners for four categories of its prestigious Australia Prizes, which were presented at the 2018 CHASS Australia Prizes Dinner in Melbourne on 29 October.

**A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work** by Bernadette Brennan (Text Publishing) won the 2018 CHASS Australia Prize for a Book. Other shortlisted titles were **The Enigmatic Mr Deakin** by Judith Brett (Text Publishing) and **Anaesthesia: The Gift of Oblivion and the Mystery of Consciousness** by Kate Cole-Adams (Text Publishing). Sponsored by Routledge, the \$3,500 Book Prize was for an Australian writer whose non-fiction book published in 2017 contributed most to Australian cultural and intellectual life.

**The Harmonic Oscillator Project** (The Cad Factory) won the 2018 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work. The other shortlisted entries were **Defiant Lives** (Sarah Barton and Liz Burke) and **International Polychoral Music Research, Creation and Recording Project** (Jonathan David Little). Sponsored by Routledge, the \$3,500 Distinctive Work Prize was for a performance, exhibition, project or a specific advance in policy development in any Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) field in 2017.

**Pichamon Yeophantong** won the 2018 CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader. The other finalists were **Billy Griffiths** and **Olga Oleinikova**. Sponsored by Future Leaders, the \$2,000 Future Leader Prize was awarded to an individual below 30 years of age demonstrating clear leadership and potential in any HASS field.

**Rachel Franks** (The University of Sydney) won the 2018 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student. The other finalists were **Michele Jarldorn** (Flinders University) and **Zhenjie Yuan** (The University of Melbourne). Sponsored by CHASS, the \$500 Student Prize was for a student project, performance or exhibition that best exemplified the contribution of HASS areas to our understanding of our nation and us.

Other highlights of the evening included a keynote address by Katrina Sedgwick, Director and CEO of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI).

"I extend my heartiest congratulations to the winners for their achievements and sincere thanks to the other nominees who applied in 2018. I want to thank all jury members for their commitment and time. We are delighted with the strong response to the annual Australia Prizes and acknowledge the high quality of the 290 entries received this year. I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of the Prizes and their encouragement of the HASS sector in Australia," said Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, Patron of the annual Australia Prizes.

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***For more information, please contact Divya Das, CHASS on 03 9925 3935 or [membership@chass.org.au](mailto:membership@chass.org.au).***



**Further information:**

**About the CHASS Australia Prizes:** Established in 2014, the annual CHASS Australia Prizes are designed to honour distinguished achievements by Australians, either working, studying or training in the HASS (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) areas and include academics, practitioners, policy makers and students. The Australia Prizes are intended to draw international attention to Australia's achievements in HASS. In 2018, four prizes were given out. Sponsored by Routledge, two were cash prizes of \$3,500 each: one for a non-fiction book that enriches Australian cultural and intellectual life, the second for an exceptional artistic performance, exhibition, film, television show, play, composition or practical contribution to arts policy. The third prize, a cash prize of \$2,000 sponsored by Future Leaders, was for an individual under 30 years of age demonstrating leadership skill and potential in HASS. CHASS sponsored the fourth cash prize of \$500 for a student essay, exhibition, performance or project in a HASS area.

**About CHASS:** Established in 2004, the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) promotes and provides advocacy services for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in Australia. It serves as a coordinating forum for teachers, researchers, professionals and practitioners in the sector. Supporting more than 75 member organisations in their relationships with policy makers and the broader community, CHASS is an important network for knowledge and skills. It provides a strong voice to the sector and helps members to contribute to public debate through programs for knowledge exchange and media awareness. For more information, please visit [www.chass.org.au](http://www.chass.org.au) or call (03) 9925 3935.