



Centre for Contemporary Chinese
Studies (CCCS)
当代中国研究中心



'Outstanding China Fieldwork Insights Award' Guidelines

The 'Outstanding China Fieldwork Insights Award' supports and promotes China-related academic research across all disciplines by Research Higher Degree (RHD) students.

The Awards are granted to the student authors of the best fieldwork insights essays submitted to the competition, jointly hosted by the Chinese Studies Research Group (CSRG) and the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS) at the University of Melbourne.

Competition Entry Guidelines

- Research Higher Degree (RHD) students working on a China Studies research project at any university in Australia are eligible. A human studies fieldwork component will be essential.
- The entry's submission must include with author's details, including
 - Name
 - Course name, the school/faculty affiliation and the University
 - Research project title
- The essay must be single-authored, with a maximum word length of 1,000 words (excluding tables, figures & graphs, footnotes and references) based on one of their most recent papers or dissertation chapters, using information collected in the field.
- The essay should normally contain the following sections:
 - Research aims and questions
 - Data collection methods
 - Reflections on some or all the issues listed in the 'List of Questions' below.
- All submission should be emailed to CSRG at: cserg.uom@gmail.com by the announced due date, using the subject title: Outstanding China Fieldwork Insights Award.

List of Questions

- How would you evaluate the importance of fieldwork in China to your research and research in your field in general?
- Before Covid (2020), how did you conduct fieldwork in China? E.g., through personal guanxi, host institution, etc. How difficult was it for you to conduct fieldwork in China? What were the major barriers? E.g., procedures required at home institution such as ethics, travel-related

issues, access to target people in the field, local procedures (requirement of referral letter), sensitivity of research topics, personal security, language/dialect, etc.

- How has the Covid outbreak impacted your (or your colleagues') fieldwork in China? E.g., ethic application issues, travel bans including more uncertainty in accessing to fields when inside China, suspension of existing collaborations. And how did you manage the situation? E.g., through China-based collaborators and/or students, change in research programs, research questions, or data collection methods. What are the differences from doing fieldwork before Covid?
- How has the Covid outbreak impacted your research on China more generally and how have you managed it? E.g., more reliance on China-based collaborators for fieldwork, shifting research directions, more pessimistic outlook for research & career
- What are your primary concerns and difficulties with regard to conducting fieldwork in China or doing research on China? Can you name top two wishes for policy makers/university leaders? Beyond these two actors, which else do you hope?
- Have you identified any positive side of Covid on your research? E.g., more resources/flexibility provided by your university to cope with Covid, any innovation or improvement in research methods and collaboration approach.

Award Details

- There are six (6) prizes that may be awarded each year – one top prize, two runners up and three third-place winners. The winners will receive an Award Certificate and a monetary prize.
- All papers submitted have an opportunity to be published on the CCCS website after undergoing revision and editing where necessary.

Judging Process

- The decision will be made by a judging panel Chaired by an academic staff member of the CCCS. The panel will consist of at least three judges (including the Chair), with at least one member of the CSRG committee.
- The judging criteria include elements for originality, clarity and quality of writing and presentation, and research impact.
- Members of judging panel should openly declare any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest at the time that they are informed about who has applied for the Prize. If the Chair has a significant conflict of interest, he/she must relinquish his/her position as Chair to one of the other panellists.

Additional Note

- We are also running a Research Day under the same theme 'Fieldwork in China during COVID' early next year. Participants of our essay competition are encouraged to also participate in the Research Day for networking.

Enquiries

- Any other queries can be sent to CSRG at: csrg.uom@gmail.com.