



Australasian Association of Philosophy

aap.org.au

AAP MEDIA PRIZE POLICY

Policy number	PRI 004	Version	003
Responsible person	Convenor(s), Media Committee	Scheduled review date	April 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) offers each year a monetary prize for the best philosophical piece(s) published by a professional philosopher in the popular media in Australasia during the previous calendar year. The prize is offered to encourage and promote philosophical discussion in the popular media.

PURPOSE

This document prescribes the procedures to be followed in notification, judging and awarding of the Prize.

ELIGIBILITY

The prize is open to professional philosophers who are, or who have been, actively engaged in philosophy in an Australasian higher education and/or research institute. 'Professional philosopher' includes Research Higher Degree students. It does not include those whose principal job is in the media; there is a separate prize for such persons, the AAP Media Professionals' Award.

Popular media includes print and online publications as well as radio broadcasts, television broadcasts and film. Entries must be published or go to air in the year (calendar) previous to the prize award. No person may win the prize more than once.

It is not usually the case that the same individual can win both the Media Prize and the Media Professionals' Award. Individuals whose careers straddle academia and the media should seek a ruling from the AAP media committee about which prize to nominate for.

The Media Officer, in consultation with the Media Committee, will make a ruling on any questions relating to eligibility.

Co-authorship should not make a piece or pieces ineligible. People who co-author should have two options. They can either:

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- a) nominate for the prize jointly - this would apply particularly in cases where it is just one co-authored piece, or the same two people have collaborated on a series of pieces. If one or both of the collaborators has also written other pieces individually or with other co-authors they could mention these in support of their nomination e.g. by saying that both person1 and person2 regularly write for a wider audience [and list several examples in the year in question for each co-author].

OR

- b) nominate for the prize individually, citing a body of work, and with an explanation of why they are nominated and not any co-author/s. This would apply to people who have a body of work including some co-authored pieces, but where it doesn't make sense to nominate the co-authors e.g. because their co-authored pieces are with different collaborators. The nomination might include an account of their leadership in terms of getting the co-authored pieces into the public domain. In such cases, where possible, co-authors should be informed by the person making the nomination that the co-authored piece is included as part of the body of work they are submitting, and ensure that their co-authors are comfortable with this.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Entries are to be submitted electronically through the AAP website and include:

- Publication citation details, including URL (if available)
- Personal details of the nominee, including name, email, institution and position.
- Details of the activity e.g. Soft Copy of the piece(s) in word doc, pdf, mpeg, or other format as appropriate.
- Statement against the judging criteria (no more than 500 words)
- Summary of the reach of the piece (size of the audience reached), or some indication of the reach if precise circulation is not available.
- Entries consisting of a lengthy portfolio of items should submit the best one or two and list the remainder.
- Nominations may be made on behalf of others and should include the same material as per all entries. In addition, they should include the personal details (name, email address and position) of the person making the nomination.

CRITERIA OF EVALUATION

There are two main criteria for the award of this prize:

1. The ability of the piece(s) to engage the interest of the general public in philosophy or some philosophical issue.
2. The quality of the piece, particularly the extent to which it reflects or is enriched by the nominee's specialist background in philosophy (i.e. could not have been written by just anyone).

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Consideration is also given to:

3. The size of the audience reached.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

The convenor(s) of the AAP Media Committee, is responsible for arranging the judging of the prize, including appointing a chair of the panel, and for notifying the CEO of any judge with a conflict of interest as defined under Clause 6 of the Procedures. The CEO will ensure that all documents concerning the award of the prize are classified as having restricted circulation. The CEO is responsible for bringing this policy to the attention of incoming Members of AAP Committees. All Members of AAP Committees are responsible for respecting this policy.

JUDGING PROCEDURES

1. The prize will be decided by a judging panel arranged by the convenor(s) of the Media Committee, and comprising at least three members, drawn from the Media Committee, or by invitation of the convenor(s) of the Media committee, in consultation with the committee.
2. Any person appointed to serve on the panel must be instructed that all panel business, including the membership of the panel itself, as well as applications not granted the award, is strictly confidential. This confidentiality requirement should be understood as permanent, and not merely for the period of service on the panel.
3. The members of the panel will independently read all the applications. The panel is to conclude its business by the end of March if possible, and in any case by the end of April at the very latest. If the panel can reach consensus, its members will formulate a joint recommendation to the CEO on the award of the prize, producing a brief report on how the panel reached its verdict, and a short citation (up to about 200 words) suitable for reading aloud at the award presentation.
4. On occasion the panel may decide to commend entries that do not win the prize. Unlike winning, such commendations do not debar the recipient from entering in future years.
5. If the panel cannot reach consensus on the matter, they will take a vote. If the vote is split, the panel chair will have a casting vote.
6. Conflicts of Interest: Any panel member who is aware of any conflict of interest arising, e.g. because of friendship or enmity with any of the applicants, must declare this to the rest of the panel, who will then decide whether the member should be asked to stand down. On grounds of practicality, past or present departmental co-membership on its own is not a ground for exclusion. In general, it is the business of the panel itself to decide whether an association with one of the nominees would make it improper for someone to serve as a panel member.

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AWARD PROCEDURES

Calls for entries for the Media Prize are made in early October and reminders sent in mid-December and mid-February. The call for entries and reminders will be broadcast via an email to AAP members, the monthly AAP member newsletter, emails to Australasian philosophy mailing lists (e.g. aphil, NZAP and sydphil), and through the official AAP social media channels, namely Facebook and Twitter. The Administrative Officer is responsible for the call for entries as well as all reminders through all channels listed above.

Entries must be submitted through the online application form on the AAP website which will be open from the first announcement of the prize until 6:00pm AEDT on the last day in February.

Entries are checked for eligibility by the Administrative Officer and once complete, the Administrative Officer will email a link to the convenor(s) of the Media committee containing the eligible entries ready for the convenor(s) to circulate to the judging panel. The judging panel will be expected to return a result within four weeks.

Following the decision by the judging panel, the winner is notified by email to arrange their attendance at the Alan Saunders lecture to collect the prize.

An acknowledgment of nominations will be sent to everyone who submits a nomination, as well as to anyone nominated by a third party. Everyone who has made a nomination (or been nominated, where different) will be advised of the success or otherwise of that nomination, and that this information is confidential until the official announcement of the winner at the Alan Saunders lecture.

An announcement of the winner is made at the Alan Saunders Memorial Lecture held during the annual July AAP conference. Following the official announcement of the winner at the Alan Saunders Memorial Lecture an announcement of the winner will be circulated by the Administrative Officer to AAP members in the monthly AAP newsletter and through the official AAP social media channels of Facebook and twitter. Prior to the official announcement, the identity of the winner must not be revealed to anyone outside the Executive and the Media Committee, except for the notifications to entrants outlined above.

The AAP reserves the right not to award the prize in any given year if no entries of sufficient quality are received.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Sensitive Information Policy; Privacy Policy; Deliberations Policy; Prizes and Sponsorship Policy; AAP Media Professionals' Award Policy; Media Relations Policy.

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DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY

Policy Amendments

Version #	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description
003	7 th May 2018	Executive	Eligibility for Media Prize and Media Professionals' and co-authorship
002	23 rd December 2015	Executive	Revised to suit AAP restructure
001	6 th November 2014	Council	New policy

Procedures Amendments

Version #	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description
003	07 th May 2018	Executive	Updated to reflect online submission process & revised dates
002	23 rd December 2015	Executive	Revised to suit AAP restructure
001	6 th November 2014	Council	New procedures

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