



6 October 2016

## Media Release

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### **ASSA announces the winner of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research and Panel Commendations for Early Career Research**

The President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Professor Glenn Withers AO, is pleased to announce the winner of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research 2016 and the winners of the Panel Awards for Early Career Research 2016.

The Academy honours Australians in the early part of their career who have achieved excellence in scholarship in one or more fields of the social sciences. From a shortlist of four outstanding early career researchers selected by each Panel of the Academy, one exceptional researcher is selected to be the recipient of the Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research. Panel Commendations for Early Career Research are presented to the remaining shortlisted Panel nominees.

The Paul Bourke Award for Early Career Research comprises a Citation and Medallion presented to the winner at the Academy's Annual Fellows Dinner on 8 November 2016.

### **PAUL BOURKE AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH 2016 RECIPIENT**

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#### **Dr Muireann Irish, Neuroscience Research Australia and The University of New South Wales**

Dr. Muireann Irish is an exceptional cognitive neuroscientist whose work is characterized by genuine innovation. Her pioneering research explores the mechanisms that enable us to remember the past and imagine the future, elucidating how these processes are disrupted in dementia. Muireann's acceleration from postdoctoral researcher to international leader within her field has been remarkable, more so when considered relative to opportunity. Her work has had a transformative influence on the discipline resulting in editorial appointments, invited international society memberships, and plenary speaker invitations. The calibre of her research has further been recognized in a slew of prestigious awards including a 2014 NSW Young Tall Poppy Science Award and a 2015 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship. Her flair for research, commitment to science communication, and advocacy for women in science ensures Muireann will continue to push the boundaries of her field to illuminate our understanding of uniquely human cognitive functions.



## RECIPIENTS OF THE PANEL COMMENDATIONS FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH IN 2016

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### Panel A – Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson, University of Wollongong

Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson was awarded the AIATSIS 2013 Stanner Prize for her PhD thesis (UNSW, 2012), which was reworked as the influential book, *The Politics of Identity: Who Counts as Aboriginal Today?* She has held 2 ARC Discovery/Indigenous Grants (2013–2015; 2016–2018); is an investigator on an NHMRC grant; and has held several curriculum development grants for the Indigenous Studies program. At the University of Wollongong (UOW), she established the Forum for Indigenous Research Excellence (FIRE) which provides mentoring and networking opportunities for indigenous researchers. FIRE hosts the international *Journal of Global Indigeneity*. Before joining academia she held positions such as Manager, Community Services at the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service. Her research is devoted to improving the wellbeing of indigenous Australians. Her current project focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Help-Seeking Behaviours on Social Media. In July 2016, UOW designated her one of forty 'Women of Impact'.

### Panel B – Professor Bohui Zhang, UNSW Business School

Professor Bohui Zhang is arguably one of the best recent hires made by the UNSW Business School. Since he graduated in 2008 he has received rapid promotion to full professor. In addition, he has published 9 articles in the top few finance and accounting journals and another 5 articles in very good journals and has a large number in the pipeline. He also has 11 best paper awards from conferences and several major grants. He has specialized in constructing unique global financial databases from which he has made a number of important contributions to better understand how global financial markets operate. These areas include financial reporting, liquidity, informed trading, news dissemination, dividend policy, political risk, volatility, home bias, information risk, investment, and a variety of other important topics. He has 9,847 cites on Google Scholar, indicating that his research in the areas of financial economics and accounting is having high impact.

### Panel C – Dr Seth Lazar, The Australian National University

Dr Seth Lazar works across a wide range of topics in political philosophy, applied ethics, and normative ethics. He has written on corrective justice, the nature of rights, associative duties, the ethics of war and self-defence, the ethics of risk, and moral decision-making



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under uncertainty. Most of his work has been on the ethics of war, self-defence, and risk, but he has also written on corrective justice, the nature of rights, and associative duties. He has published papers in the very most distinguished journals in the field including for example *Ethics* (2009, 2015, forthcoming), and *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (2010, 2012). He has produced one authored book, three edited volumes, fifteen papers in refereed journals and ten book chapters in the last eight years. In 2015, Seth received the Frank Chapman Sharp Prize by the American Philosophical Association. Dr Lazar received his D Phil from Oxford in 2009.

For more information please contact:

Dr John Beaton

Executive Director

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Email: [john.beaton@assa.edu.au](mailto:john.beaton@assa.edu.au) or Telephone: 02 6249 1788

