

Judge's Comments for the AAWP Best Creative/Hybrid Postgraduate Paper Prize, 2020

Winner: Marina Deller-Evans (Flinders University) for her paper *Strewn Scrabble Letters: exploring the writerly self and grieving self in grief memoir*.

Deller's work is an exemplary hybrid paper, straddling both creative and scholarly elements that coalesce to form a cohesive, topical and holistic discussion concerning creativity and grief. The author's reflections upon the process of moving beyond creative paralysis – and, subsequently, upon writing through loss – is compelling, relatable and inspiring. Deller's paper is neatly threaded with relevant snippets of research that provide valuable insights into the critical and creative intersections inherent to practice-led research, particularly as they apply to crafting memoir. The author's excerpts of prose are as emotive as they are technically sound; Deller's consistent reference to Scrabble cleverly serves as a complex metaphor, representative of the writer's challenge to piece together words and meaning, along with the sense of fractured disorientation that, "like an upturned Scabble board", accompanies feelings of grief and loss. Overall, this is an outstanding, provocative and moving work.

Dr Eileen Herbert-Goodall