

# **Theveli International Conference 2023**

## **Theveli Awards Guidelines for Outstanding Paper of the Conference, and Early Career Researcher awards**

These guidelines are created at the behest of Theveli Organising Committee, and apply to the newly created Outstanding Paper of the Conference (OPC), and Early Career Researcher (ECR) awards which are to be conferred at Theveli 2023. These guidelines are to be referred to as the Theveli Awards Guidelines.

The objective of the awards, in furthering the MNU objectives and those of Theveli, is to stimulate original research, raise research quality, contribute to raising the reputation of Theveli as an international research event in the Maldives, and attract more researchers, both nationally and internationally, to present papers at Theveli.

- (1) For the purposes of the awards, 20 papers shall be shortlisted. Next, five OPCs and five ECRs shall be nominated out of the shortlists.
  - (a) The OPC shall be nominated out of all eligible papers that are not eligible for the ECR award.
  - (b) The ECR shall be nominated out of authors who are students aged 35 years and younger.
  - (c) For the purposes of these Guidelines, persons currently registered as students and those that have already graduated or are expected to graduate within the current calendar year shall be deemed as students.

### **Eligibility**

- (2) All full papers presented during Theveli 2023 shall be automatically eligible for consideration of the awards. However, even if the full paper is submitted, it shall not be eligible unless it is presented at the conference. A paper shall be deemed to have been presented if it is presented orally by physical presence, online presence or presented by a poster.

### **Shortlisting of papers**

- (3) 1. Shortlisting shall be based on an evaluation for the following criteria:
  - (a) comments by the full paper reviewers;
  - (b) soundness of paper structure;
  - (c) clarity and readability; and,
  - (d) standard of language.

In the event of a tie, the papers in question shall be re-evaluated until the tie is broken.

2. Based on the above, each judge evaluating the paper shall make a recommendation either to shortlist the paper or to not shortlist the paper.

- (4) Each of these aspects shall be marked on a scale of 1-5. The shortlisting shall be done individually by persons at a committee (the Shortlisting Committee) of five comprised as follows:
  - 1 person selected from abstract reviewers
  - 1 person selected from paper reviewers
  - 2 persons selected from MNU researchers

- 1 person selected from the linguistic discipline.

(5) No persons who are authors contesting for the awards shall be in the Shortlisting Committee.

### **Nomination of Outstanding Paper of the Conference and Early Career Researcher awards**

(6) Nomination of OPCs and ECRs shall be based on:

- (a) (i) for originality and applicability (how widely this knowledge can be used, for what purpose, and in what areas), with a weight of 15, and
  - (ii) for adequacy of originality in terms of advancement of knowledge (based on novelty versus confirmatory), with a weight of 15;
- (b) research rigour (to be understood as the degree of reliability of findings in view of methodology. Use of convenience sampling, for example, may be deemed as the least rigorous since this method uses the most accessible research participants, which may result in low accuracy, poor representativeness, low credibility and lack of transferability of research results), with a weight of 30;
- (c) strength of conclusions (for example, are the conclusions derived from findings and not exogenous to the research), with a weight of 20; and,
- (d) achievement of research objectives, with a weight of 20.

In the event of a tie, the papers in question shall be re-evaluated until the tie is broken.

(7) Each of these criteria shall be marked on a scale of 1-5. Evaluation shall be done individually by persons at a committee (the Awards Committee) of seven comprised as follows:

- 2 persons selected from paper reviewers
- 3 persons selected from MNU researchers
- 2 persons from the MNJR international editors.

(8) No person who is contesting for the awards shall be in the Awards Committee.

(9) The Awards Committee shall have the discretion to review, if deemed necessary by the Committee, the aspects of a paper in question that the Shortlisting Committee has already evaluated.

### **Misconduct and penalty**

(10) If it comes to light after an award has been made, or before or during the evaluation process, that academic misconduct, including, inter alia, plagiarism and ethical misconduct, was committed by an author or authors in producing the paper in question, the matter shall be investigated by the Awards Committee.

(11) Any such complaint(s) shall be made on grounds in writing to the Awards Committee within 30 days of making the award, or during any time before or during the evaluation process.

(12) The Awards Committee may request the complainant to provide evidence in support of their complaint, and may pursue any leads.

(13) If the alleged misconduct has been found to be true by the Committee after an award has been made, the award shall be revoked and the recipient(s) shall be asked and obliged to return the documents and any accompanying rewards pertaining to the award. If the misconduct was found to be true before an award has been made, the paper in question shall be disqualified.

Such revocation shall not be replaced with another paper for the award.

### **Appeals**

(14) Any affected authors have the right to appeal any decisions of the Shortlisting Committee or the Awards Committee.

(15) Appeals shall be made on grounds in writing to an Appeals Committee comprised as follows:

- 2 persons from MNU researchers
- 2 persons from MNU Ethics Committee
- 1 person from the MNU Academic Senate

(16) No person who is the subject of an investigation following a complaint under these Guidelines shall be in the Appeals Committee.

(17) The Appeals Committee shall examine the Awards Committee's decisions regarding the grounds of appeal. In doing so, the Appeals Committee may ask the Awards Committee to explain their decisions either in writing or orally. The Awards Committee shall lend their cooperation in such matters.

### **Meetings of committees**

(18) Any decisions taken by the Shortlisting Committee and the Appeals Committee shall only be valid if any three of the persons appointed to the relevant committee are present at the meeting. Decisions taken by the Awards Committee shall only be valid if any four or the seven persons appointed to it are present at the meeting.

(19) The requirement in Article (18) above shall not prevent holding or continuing a meeting of any committees for discussion of a matter.

(20) Each committee shall nominate a chairperson to moderate and facilitate discussions as well as to ensure that matters of the Committee are attended to, recorded and minutes maintained.

(21) In the absence of chairperson, the remaining members shall select another person to act as chairperson until the nominated chairperson is in attendance.