

2021 Major Project Prize

Myra Rados. “Healthy Minds at Work: Engaging Employees in a Healthy Dialogue about Workplace Mental Health Through Brief Art Therapy”

Myra Rados’ major project, “Healthy Minds at Work: Engaging Employees in a Healthy Dialogue about Workplace Mental Health Through Brief Art Therapy”, is chosen for this year’s prize in recognition of Rados’ original and innovative work developing a “brief art therapy workshop (BRIEF-MAT)” protocol.

2021 Thesis Prize

Mindy Alexander. ‘Revisiting the Healing Journey’.

Mindy Alexander’s thesis “Revisiting the Healing Journey” is a brave and, at the same time, insightful and generous analysis of the personal, inward journey that all art therapists must make if they are to effectively practice in their profession. With revisions, I think Alexander’s thesis deserves to be published.

Criteria I use to award Major Paper and Thesis prizes:

I use similar criteria to evaluate major papers and theses for Major Paper and Thesis prizes. Major Papers and Thesis are written in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a TATI graduate level diploma in Art Therapy. Both Major Papers and Theses are comprised of four sections, viz: an introduction, a literature review, a report on the project’s activity and/or the research methodology employed, and a report and discussion of project outcomes or research findings.

I take several factors into consideration when choosing among the major papers and theses that have been submitted for prizes.

General Criteria – overall assessment:

I assess the relevance of the project/research. Included in that assessment are factors such as innovation and originality, and the contribution the project or research makes to the field of Art Therapy. I also take into consideration whether or not the project/thesis has potential for publication.

Specific Criteria- section by section assessments of the component parts of a Major Paper or a Thesis:

1. Introduction. In assessing the introduction, I look for indications that the author of the paper or the thesis has clearly outlined the issue to be addressed by their project/research. At the outset, I’m especially focused on the clarity of the author’s statement of the problem to be addressed, on the main research question that will guide either the project or the thesis, and on the rationale provided for the choice of the project or thesis topic. Finally, I assess whether or not the project or the thesis, as outlined in the introduction, is achievable.
2. Literature review. In assessing this section of the project/research I focus on the author’s familiarity with, and their ability to summarize, the existing body of relevant literature. I assess

the extent to which the student has a) included most of the relevant literature, b) understood the relevance of the findings reported in the literature under review, c) has clearly and effectively summarized the main findings of the literature under review.

3. Project/Research Activity. The choice of an appropriate methodology comprises a major portion of the criteria I use to assess both a major paper and a thesis. Is the methodology chosen for the project or the research the most appropriate choice? Does the student convey a clear and extensive understanding of the methodology they employ? Does the project or the thesis fully conform to the TATI Human Subjects Policy Requirement? Has the student sought and obtained informed consent of all participants?
4. Project report and discussion of findings. Major Papers as well as theses almost always contain a discussion of the purpose and meaning of the artwork created during the project or during the data gathering phase of the research. I assess the extent to which the presentation, as well as the discussion/explication of the artwork is consistent with the artwork itself and with the research question that shaped the project or the research. If feedback questionnaires are included as part of the project or thesis research, I review participant responses to determine the relevance of the conclusions the author has drawn. I assess the appropriateness of the author's conclusions, and especially look for a relevant and/or consistent discussion of the project's or the study's outcomes and limitations. Finally, I review the author's suggestions for further research. Are the suggestions consistent with the project's or the research's findings? Are the suggestions for further research realistic and achievable? Will they advance or add to research already published? What relevance do the suggestions for further research have for the practice of art therapy?