

Jury Report Kremers Award 2016

Award ceremony, 15 February 2017



Kremers

AWARD

De Kremers Award

The Kremers Award is a biennial prize awarded to theses written for higher vocational colleges or universities (Bachelor or Master) or PhD dissertations. The topic must entail 'innovative scenarios for the socio-economic development of a region'. For the purposes of this award, a region is smaller than a country, but may comprise parts of different countries (such as Euroregions). The region may be situated anywhere in the world, and so does not necessarily have to be in the Netherlands or Limburg. A combination of several countries is not considered a region, nor is a large region such as the Asia Pacific region.

On 15 February 2017, the Kremers Award will be given out for the first time.

Kremers
AWARD

Purpose of the award

The award was established by the Stichting Behoud Mijnhistorie (Foundation for the Preservation of Mining History) in collaboration with Limburg Economic Development (LED) / Brainport 2020 to encourage students to take an interest in their studies in the dynamic and innovative social and economic development of regions.

The Foundation hopes in this way to draw permanent attention to the lessons learned from the extensive restructuring of South Limburg after the closure of the mines in the 1960s and 70s.

A study on the subject was published in 2013, titled *Na de mijnsluiting in Zuid-Limburg* ('After the closure of the mines in South Limburg'), which examined the long-term effects (1965-2010) of the redevelopment of Limburg that took place after the mines were closed.

Prizes

€5,000 for the best university study (Bachelor or Master scientific research)

€5,000 for the best dissertation (PhD)

€5,000 for the best higher vocational college thesis

In addition, there are two encouragement prizes of €1,500 available to both the higher vocational and the university categories.

About Sjeng Kremers

The Award is named after Dr. J. (Sjeng) Kremers, former Governor of the Province of Limburg and the first chairman of the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy.

The son of a miner, Kremers played a crucial role in the restructuring of South Limburg.

2016 entries

78 studies were submitted for the Kremers Award 2016, amounting to a total of around 4000 pages. Of the submissions, there were 68 from universities, 4 from higher vocational colleges and 6 doctoral dissertations. Our experience shows that contacting alumni networks yielded the most results. Prof. Dr. Hans Kasper, as the pre-selector, whittled the entries down to a shortlist of 17 theses. The jury examined the shortlist and chose 6 prize-winners in the PhD, university education and higher vocational education categories.

Kremers
AWARD

Composition of the Jury

Jury chair Dr. J. Kremers, jury member J.M.G.M. Gelissen (CEO, Gelissen Group), jury member Ir. J. Zuidam (chairman of the Limburg Employers' Association), jury member Ir. J.J. de Jong (CEO, Philips Benelux), jury member Drs. P.J.J.M. Swinkels (former CEO, Bavaria), and advisor and pre-selector Prof. Dr. J.D.P. Kasper (Maastricht University and Etil bv).

Recommending Committee

The prestige and significance of this prize is underscored by the support given by: Drs. Th. J.H.M. Bovens, Provincial Governor of Limburg; Prof. Dr. W.B.H.J. van de Donk, Provincial Governor of North Brabant; Drs. K. van Rosmalen MPA, president of the Board of Governors of Zuyd University of Applied Sciences/Hogeschool Zuyd; Prof. Dr. M. Paul, president of the Executive Board of Maastricht University; Mr. A.D. van der Feltz, chairman of the Executive Board of the Open Universiteit; Drs. E.C. Meijer, president of the Executive Board of the Fontys University of Applied Sciences; Ir. J.H.J. Mengelers, president of the Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology and Drs. D.J. Pouwels, chair of the Board of Governors of HAS University of Applied Sciences.

Jury assessment

In its assessment, the jury looked for high quality studies of regional socio-economic development of an innovative nature. In doing so, they took into account not only scientific standards, but also focused expressly on the applicability of the studies to companies and local authorities.

For the PhD category, the first prize was awarded to Katja Sillen. Her dissertation, defended at Maastricht University and titled 'A Place Called Home – The role of identification in the post-dissolution phase of a customer relationship with a place brand', is a very fine study of the extent to which identification with a city or region plays a role during or after a move. The dissertation also examines an innovative way of region or city branding, one that goes much farther than the usual marketing mix. The theoretical foundations and conceptual model are clearly delineated and well developed in the analysis of the three empirical studies that follow the theoretical chapter. The jury was delighted with this text, which is written throughout in a transparent and accessible style. The insights provided by the study make a serious and innovative contribution to the socio-economic development of the South Limburg region, and can be directly applied to its branding. The insights are in fact so practicable that they can also be applied to other regions.

For the higher vocational category, the joint work of Merel Donkers, Anke van Helmond and Carolien Kloosterman received first prize. Their thesis, titled 'Gebiedsanalyse Agro As de Peel' was written at the HAS Hogeschool Den Bosch on assignment for AgriFood Capital; a collaborative relationship between different local authorities, companies and educational institutions. The jury was immediately struck by the applicability of the results. Five earlier studies done of municipalities in De Peel were combined, expanded and presented in a coherent manner. The thesis describes an interesting shift in the supply chain, and puts forward good recommendations for increasing cooperation among companies in the entire agro chain: from producer to processor and vendor. Economic, spatial and social problems can thus be tackled via innovative collaborative relationships and by marketing the region. The recommendations to develop an experimental garden for the agro sector in De Peel region appear to be creative and very promising. >>

For the encouragement prize in the university category, the jury selected the thesis by Heleen Coenen. This study, written at Maastricht University, is titled 'Zero Waste Strategy – Exploring the dynamics that introduce the zero waste strategy to Capannori'. It is a qualitative study of a citizens' initiative that opposed the construction of a new incinerator in the town of Capannori in Italy. Residents mobilized to manage the town's waste themselves in a sustainable manner. Not only did they stop the incinerator from being built, but at the same time they gained acceptance for an alternative form of waste processing. The findings of the study are clearly formulated on the basis of the theories used, and they are highly applicable to the analysis and acceptance of Zero Waste Management in other municipalities or regions. This is an account of citizens who have found their own solutions to the social problem of waste, thereby effectively resolving the problem. An example that many can draw inspiration from, according to the jury.

First prize in the university category was awarded to Anika de la Flor. Her thesis, written at Maastricht University, is titled 'Water-related Ecosystem Services in the Environmental Impact Assessments in the Peruvian mining industry'. The study addresses two methods (the broad and innovative Environmental Impact Assessment and the Ecosystem Services) used to assess the impact of the maintenance or opening of mines in the Conga district of Peru. It is a case study with research conducted in the region, interviews, analysis of media communications and the literature. Clear evaluation criteria were used, and the conclusions of proponents and opponents were compared. The jury was struck by the strength of the justification of the research design. It considers that the applicability of the research, which is clearly and usefully formulated in the final chapter, is strong. The fact that this study is about mines (albeit in a different part of the world) fits in perfectly with the purpose and intention of the Kremers Award.

Kremers
AWARD

The prize-winners

It is noteworthy that the winners of the Kremers Award 2016 are all women. They struck the jury as being not only well prepared to analyse the socio-economic development of regions, but also, by extension, capable of coming up with and implementing concrete and innovative solutions to economic and social problems.

Considerations for 2018

Before setting the submission deadline for the biennial Kremers Award in 2018, an even larger (international) target group of students in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany will be addressed. There will also be a greater effort to reach students in higher vocational programmes, in order to see to what extent a fruitful source can be found there for studies with significant applicability. The purpose of the Award is to ensure that participating or even winning this competition will play an increasing role in determining the choice of topic for theses and dissertations. By expanding the Award's sphere of influence, the hope is that it will serve as a catalyst for studies of regional economic and social issues in educational institutions.



Kremers
AWARD

Jury Report Kremers Award 2016
Award ceremony, 15 February 2017