

Appendix C: Case studies and examples

Creative Works as Research collection: case studies from Creative Writing

Case 1

Aisha Smith writes a dystopic science fiction novel that is published by a prestige literary publishing company in Europe for world-wide distribution and receives third place in a well-known competitive award, competing against entries from leading authors, and attracting praise for its innovative approach. Associate Professor Smith would be eligible for the following points in the Creative Works as Research Collection:

A novel that meets the criteria for a Major Work and is submitted to the VU Collection under the category of Textual Work (COT-1)	2.5 base points
Publication by a recognised international outlet – YES (multiplier of 2.0)	X 2.0
Rigorous peer review in shortlisting for a competitive award – YES (multiplier of 2.0)	X 2.0
	10.0 Total points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)
<p>This novel is set in a near future post-Australia. It uses testimonial witness narratives and the poetics of trauma survivors to construct a dystopic scenario in which all of Australia's non-Indigenous inhabitants have been compelled to leave that country. In doing so, it posits an understanding of Australianness as inherently negative, putting the case that a construct such as nationality can only be understood by reflecting on its absence or removal. This is original, insofar as no prose authors have tested a similar hypothesis. The work is also original in its inversion of trauma poetics to characterise the voices of non-Indigenous Australians in relation to the Indigenous population that has expelled them. This compels a radical reimagining of the relationship between Aboriginal and other Australians.</p>
Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)
<p>This novel is published as a self-standing monograph of 380 pages. It would normally be classified as 'major' in VU's Creative Works as Research collection.</p>
Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)
<p><i>Esteem:</i> The judging panel in the <i>New York Times</i> 2013 'Sci-Fi of the Year' award shortlisted this novel and gave it third place overall.</p> <p><i>International Importance:</i> In addition to the New York Times award, this novel has been published by Bloomsbury, a major international publisher.</p>

Case 2

Brooklyn Truego develops an innovative script for a 16-minute short comedy film depicting the life of community sports clubs in Melbourne's West. She has received funding to develop this work based on an entry she submitted to a seed grants competition that was open to the public, which is highly valued by Australia's screenwright community. Dr Truego would be eligible for the following points in the Creative Works as Research Collection:

A script for a short comedy that meets the criteria for a Substantial Work and is submitted to the VU Collection under the category of Original Creative Works (COO-2)	1 base points
Publication by a recognised international outlet – NO	No multiplier
Rigorous peer review in commissioning the work – YES (multiplier of 2.0)	X 2.0
	2.0 Total Points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)
<p>This script for a short comedy film crosses the disciplines of Creative Writing (FoR 1904) and Cultural Studies (FoR 2002). Using a fly-on-the-wall mockumentary style that echoes the geographically relevant 1997 film <i>Year of the Dogs</i>, it explores the role of community level sports clubs in shaping, changing, and maintaining the local communities we live in, an aspect of life in Melbourne's West that has not previously been covered by scholarly or creative research work. It casts new light on the complex ideological tensions between those club participants who want sport to be a vehicle for other social aims and those who want to maintain it as an end in itself. In taking this approach it finds new ground to develop VU's research focuses on Melbourne's West and on sport exercise and active living.</p>

Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)
<p>As a script for a 'short film,' such a work would normally be assigned the classification 'substantial' in VU's Creative Works as Research collection. This script is for a 16 minute film, plus the accompanying plot outline (4 pages) and brief treatment (16 pages).</p>

Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)
<p>This script was developed with funding support from the Westdance Cellseeds contest, a film development competition that is highly regarded in the scriptmaking community. An <i>Age</i> article by well-known Australian screenwright Bob Dobalina (attached) attests to the high regard in which the community of practice holds this competition and its filmic outputs.</p>

Case 3

Jorge Klein writes the lyrics for a 3 minute song that is performed at the annual St Paul's Cathedral Carols by Candlelight. The work is credited, and VU is paid for Professor Klein's contribution, but there is no peer review process and the work is of local or regional significance only. Professor Klein would be eligible for the following points in the Creative Works as Research Collection:

A song that meets the criteria for a Minor Work and is submitted to the VU Collection under the category of Music (CLM-3)	0.2 base points
Publication by a recognised international publisher – NO	No multiplier
Rigorous peer review in shortlisting for a competitive award – NO	No multiplier
	0.2 Total points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)
This song used strict adherence with the formal properties of Christmas carols to explore that genre's capacity to carry themes that challenge traditional understandings and theologies around 'the Christmas message.' It presents a world in which queer sexualities and non-Christian faiths are equally valuable contributors to the potential of Christmas as an enabler of action in the mortal lifeworld. One review (attached) attacked the work on political/ideological grounds, yet acknowledged that it had carried these themes through a musicology and verse pattern wholly faithful to the Christmas Carol family.
Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)
The lyrics for this song are in effect a poem of 24 lines. Going by past practice, that would classify as a 'minor' piece in VU's Creative Works as Research collection.
Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)
No evidence in this submission.

Creative Works as Research_collection: case studies from Performance

Case 1

Dr Williams directs a classic play for a well-established amateur theatre company that charges ticketed admission. This involves redesigning performance aspects of the piece and making symbolic connections between the playwright's own period and her own. The performance is nominated for several state level awards.

A performance work that meets the criteria for a substantial work and is submitted to the VU collection under the category of CLP-3	1 base points
Publication by recognised international outlet – No	No multiplier
Rigorous peer review post publication – yes	X 2.0
	2.0 Total points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)

This interpretation of Chekhov's *Seagull* took the underlying imagery of the bird to reshape the play as a piece of physical theatre, focussing on flight and movement. Research aspects of this involved revising the translation and cutting and restructuring the language so it complemented movement rather than vice versa. Detailed character study was critical to finding the essence of 'flight' and the desire for flight in each of the characters, traditionally portrayed as static and stuck in the social milieu. This uncovered new layers of meaning in Chekhov's relationship between characters, and between characters and their environment.

Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)

The work has opened up new ways of engaging with Chekhov's works and so doing has explored the connections between stagnant lives in different times and places
The work is substantial in its reinterpretation of the text, in the physicality of the performance and in its presentation by the xxx theatre company.

Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)

The amateur company that produced the play has a long history (in excess of 70 years) and has served its local community consistently during that period. They are recognised as one of the most significant companies in theatre history in Victoria. It was recognised as innovative in its nominations for best director, best adaptation and best lead actor in the Bijou theatre awards.

Case 2

Ms Jocelyn creates a character piece based on individuals' idiosyncrasies she observes over an extended period in her neighbourhood. She then locates this character within a wider performance context at the local arts festival.

A performance that meets the criteria for a minor work and is submitted to the VU collection under the category of CLP-3	0.2 base points
Publication by a recognised international outlet – No	No multiplier
Rigorous peer review – No	No multiplier
	0.2 Total points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)

The character of Mr Monkey is a compilation of the idiosyncratic behaviours of the people of Footscray, observed over a six month period. These were then explored via movement and language to establish a new character that is simultaneously all of them and none of them. The research involved in this piece included cultural and religious practices, clothing and language, as all of these contribute to the ways we perceive 'others'. Movement and culturally identified movement also plays a substantial part. The process of 'othering' was explored in depth and is commented on frequently by Mr Monkey as he tries to separate himself from the very parts that made him.

Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)

Mr Monkey is a detailed but small character sketch (approx 12 minutes) appearing as a link between more substantial items in the Marytown community arts festival.

Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)

The character was extremely well received and will be returning to future arts contexts in the community.

Case 3

Dr Rozinski is invited to direct a production with an established state level theatre company. It is reviewed positively in local and state press and on the internet, and is invited to tour regional centres.

A performance that meets the criteria for a major work and is submitted to the VU collection under the category of CLP-1	2.5 base points
Publication by a recognised international outlet – yes	X 2.0
Rigorous peer review – yes	X 2.0
	10.0 Total points

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Research Contribution (field, context, research questions addressed, innovation, new knowledge)

The play presents a number of problems theatrically which needed to be overcome in order to have a successful production. Working with a dramaturge we explored the range of ways that historical information could be presented through performance to an audience. Our innovative blend of music, movement, language and multimedia work provided a rich context for exploring the themes of loss, grief, and humiliation that are present in the text. In the course of the production, new ways to understand the impact of war on the Australian community emerged and were documented in the program and in the support notes made available to audiences, and particularly to school groups.

Research Scale (how the work fits the classification – major, substantial, or minor – that you have assigned it to)

The work is major in its scope, involving detailed study of historical and performance documents, and of acting styles over the last 120 years in Australia, and in its conceptualisation, attempting to layer the performance to indicate the ways in which change occurs.

Research Quality (evidence of international importance, evidence of esteem through peer review)

I was invited to direct this play as I am an established academic in the cultural milieu it represents as well as being recognised as a director of theatre in community contexts. The play was profiled within the Mercury company's annual program and was performed in their primary theatre space. Positive reviews in local, state and national media have resulted in invitations to tour the production regionally next year.