

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SIMI RESEARCH ESSAY COMPETITION

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) invite entries for the Contemporary Issues in Mediation (CIIM) Research Essay Competition 2020. The Research Essay Competition is an annual event with the following objectives:

- To encourage greater awareness on mediation as a collaborative form of dispute resolution;
- To cultivate an interest in students to carry out research on mediation or topics that would contribute to the understanding and use of mediation;
- To recognise the high-quality work produced by students, who might otherwise face difficulty in being recognised through more formal channels such as peer-reviewed journals.

Submissions are welcome from students across all disciplines of studies, so long as they are from enrolled at universities, colleges or other educational institutions at the time of submission (e.g. diploma, undergraduate, masters or doctorate degree candidates). There are no nationality restrictions, however the submission must be written in the English language and/or be accompanied by a translated copy if the original is not written in the English language.

Participation is FREE. There are no entry fees.

All submitted essays must be accompanied by a completed entry form which must be received no later than **Monday, 31 May 2021, 2359 hours (GMT+8)**. A copy of the entry form is available on SIMI's website. Alternatively, participants may obtain one by writing in to "ciim@simi.org.sg".

PRIZES

Participants stand to win the following prizes:

<i>Awardee</i>	Voucher	Published in CIIM
<i>FIRST place</i>	Valued at SGD\$ 300	✓
<i>SECOND place</i>	Valued at SGD\$ 200	✓
<i>All other winners</i>	N/A	✓

Winning essays and names of entrants will be featured in Contemporary Issues in Mediation, an on-going book series published in collaboration and with the support of World Scientific Publishing Company. Publicity for each volume will also be featured on SIMI's website (www.simi.org.sg) and social media. Do note that submission of an application will be taken as acceptance of these conditions.

Names of winning entrants will also be published on SIMI's website (www.simi.org.sg) and social media pages.

JUDGING

The winning essays will be selected by a panel of judges comprising representatives from the SIMI and other suitable international specialists in the field of mediation.

The decisions of the judges are final. Essays will not be returned, so participants are advised to keep a copy for their own reference if they wish to have a record.

SIMI reserves the right to modify the number of prizes and/or essays selected based on the quality of the submissions.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Essays should convey a sense of academic insight and rigour but be aimed at a non-academic audience, articulating their arguments succinctly, clearly and accessibly.

Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:

- The novelty of the topic chosen;
- The originality and quality of the arguments and ideas expressed; and
- Correct use of referencing and or acknowledgement of material drawn from other sources.

In addition, consideration will be given to:

- Clarity of expression, including logical flow of content; and
- Correct use of the English language, including spelling and punctuation.

SUBJECT MATTER AND PRESENTATION

The essays should be well researched and informed, and should provide new analyses and perspectives as far as possible.

Participants are encouraged to be as creative in their topics as possible. For example, they may wish to refer to cross-disciplinary studies in improving certain models in mediation practice or teaching.

Participants are free to choose how they wish to approach their topic. For example, they could choose to write a critical commentary of existing models, or to propose a new model based on the research they have done.

Illustrations such as charts, tables, diagrams and equations may be included. Having said that, participants are encouraged to take extra care in their formatting of the same to ensure that the presentation quality is not compromised.

The essays must be original in content. Entries found to contain plagiarism and/or infringement of a third party's intellectual property will automatically be disqualified. Although essays may draw on existing work, they should be materially different from them in terms of analysis, style of arguments, perspectives, or conclusions. This could involve the application of previous work in a different context, or new analysis or perspectives significantly different from previous work. It is the responsibility of all entrants to ensure that their essays do not infringe on the intellectual property of any third party or violate any other applicable laws.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form, signed by the author(s). For joint authorship, only one entry form is required. Submission on behalf of an institution or firm is not permitted.

1. All entries must be written on and relevant to the topic of mediation.
2. **The essay should be between 2,700-3,000 words only.** Exceeding the word count will result in automatic disqualification. Charts, tables, footnotes, references and appendices are excluded from the word count.
3. The essay should be in **MS Word document (.doc or .docx) only.** The committee will not accept PDF format (.pdf), Google Docs (.gdoc), Pages documents (.pages) or other word processor formats. Please note: if we are unable to open your essay file (either through an incorrect format or upload error), your entry may not be counted in the competition.
4. **Entries must be in English and typed in font type Arial, size 12, double-spaced, and normal margin.**
5. Participants are recommended to adopt one of the follow citation styles listed below. Whichever citation style is chosen, participants must ensure the consistent and correct use of the citation style throughout the essay:
 - (a) Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) – A guide to this citation style can be found at the following URL:
https://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/ld.php?content_id=26900568.
 - (b) MLA (Modern Language Association) – A guide to this citation style can be found at the following URL:
<https://www.mendeley.com/guides/mla-citation-guide>.

- (c) Harvard – A guide to this citation style can be found at the following URL:
<https://www.mendeley.com/guides/harvard-citation-guide>.
- (d) OSCOLA (Oxford referencing) – A guide to this citation style can be found at the following URL:
https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/oscola_4th_edn_hart_2012.pdf.
6. The document of the essay should be named and saved using the following format “[Participant’s Name]_ CIIM Essay 2021”.
 7. Entries should be sent online to ciim@simi.org.sg. Essays received on time will be acknowledged.
 8. Only one **entry per participant** is allowed. Please carefully check and improve your writing before submitting the final copy, and also ensure that all supplementary information is filled in correctly (name, contact details, etc.)
 9. Only one named author may be submitted per entry. Collaborators and other contributors may be acknowledged but will not be given official recognition as the authors for the purposes of the publication process.
 10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 above, plagiarism is not accepted in the competition. The **final copy submitted for the competition must be the entrant's own work**, and cannot be excessively corrected or improved by another person. This does not rule out input or assistance from peers, fellow students, and teachers.
 11. The CIIM Research Essay Competition Judging Committee reserves the right not to award any or all of the prizes.
 12. Only winning entrants will be contacted upon the finalisation of the results, which will be announced within the same calendar year.
 13. There will be an awards ceremony held for winners of the competition. Further information will be sent out to prize-winners in due course.
 14. Please send any inquiries to the CIIM Research Essay Competition Coordinator at the email address: ciim@simi.org.sg

PERSONAL DATA AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. By participating in the Competition, entrants consent to SIMI collecting, using, disclosing and/or processing their personal data for the purposes of registration for the Competition, evaluation for the Competition, keeping them informed about the Competition, to be used in any merchandise, advertisements, educational materials or publicity carried out or produced by SIMI and its advertising and promotional agencies, and also to share updates and news relating to SIMI’s work. SIMI will seek the consent of entrants prior to using the personal data of entrants for any purpose

other than the above. Entrants who wish to find out more about SIMI's personal data policies may do so at SIMI's website (www.simi.org.sg).

2. By participating in the Competition, all entrants are deemed to have granted SIMI an unlimited, non- exclusive right:
 - (a) to reproduce their essays in whole or in part, without prior notice or further compensation to the entrant; and
 - (b) to modify the format and/or content of the essays for publication purposes.

VARIATION AND CANCELLATION

SIMI reserves the right, and at its sole discretion, to modify, cancel or suspend this Competition should any external circumstances arise which are beyond SIMI's reasonable control. SIMI is not responsible for any errors or omissions in printing or advertising this Competition. This Competition will run in accordance with these Rules, subject to amendment by SIMI. The contest Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, amend, modify or terminate this Competition or Rules at any time in its sole discretion and without notice.