

## 2022 Best Article Award Winner

Following a rigorous selection process by the journal editors and evaluation by the three members of the Best Article Committee, the 2022 Best Article Award was awarded to:

**[‘Great expectations: Senior Indigenous leadership positions in higher education’](#) by Michelle Trudgett, Susan Page & Stacey Kim Coates**

Michelle Trudgett, Susan Page and Stacey Kim Coates’ article on the ‘great expectations’ placed on senior Indigenous leaders was the standout article for 2022 according to the journal’s Best Article Committee. It was considered the best or equal best article across all four criterion for the award: Relevance, Style, Quality and Impact.

Trudgett and colleagues’ 2022 article examines the breadth and depth of skills and knowledge bases required of Indigenous leaders from the perspectives of Indigenous leaders, the university executive and other Indigenous academics. It places Indigenous voices at the centre, but within a broader context of voices and stakeholder views. Unsurprisingly, the feedback from the three Best Article Committee members was uniformly positive, complimenting it for its originality, importance and potential contribution to reconciliation in Australia and for First Nations people internationally.

Their 2022 Best Article builds further on a line of important research. The same authors won the journal’s 2021 Best Article Award for [‘Talent war: recruiting Indigenous senior executives in Australian Universities’](#) which focused on the recruiter perspectives. Susan Page, Michelle Trudgett and Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews were also runners-up for the 2019 Best Article Award, which examined policy implementation of Universities Australia’s *Indigenous Strategy 2017–2020*. But the 2022 Best Article is far more than just incremental research, it is an exceptional piece of research in its own right.

Although the Journal’s editors are responsible for shortlisting and nominating the articles for the Best Article Award, the winners and highly commended articles are determined by independent reviews from the Best Article Committee. This Committee comprises three editorial board members, from a mix of academic and professional positions, in Australia and overseas. The consistently positive feedback for the authors’ research – independently from the Journal’s editors, Best Article Committee and peer reviewers – provides the strongest possible commendation for the authors’ research, its quality and relevance to our journal and the broader higher education community.

The Best Article Committee also recommended two further articles be highly commended as runners-up for the 2022 award and we sincerely thank them for their contributions to our journal.

*Highly commended*

**[‘Occupational stress in University academics in Australia and New Zealand’](#) by Megan Lee, Rosanne Coutts, Jann Fielden, Marie Hutchinson, Richard Lakeman, Bernice Mathisen, Dima Nasrawi and Nichole Phillips**

Megan Frances Lee and colleagues’ review of occupational stress among Australian and New Zealand academics identifies a range of causes for stress and possible interventions. It was commended by the Committee for its contemporary relevance for industrial negotiations, political scrutiny and ‘very wide appeal across the [journal] readership. It opens up considerable opportunity for further research.’

**'Uncertain, collective and heroic leadership approaches to gender balance change among local leaders in academia', by Ivana Suboticki and Vivian Anette Lagesen**

Ivana Suboticki and Vivian Anette Lagesen's article on how heads of departments in Norway implement gender equity policies, including balancing collegiality and transparency with discretion, was commended for its potential impact on practice. Multiple Committee members reflected positively on how the depth of analysis on a very important topic will have great appeal to researchers and practitioners in Norway and abroad.