

Jury report for the Hanneke Janssen Memorial Prize 2019

The Jury received 4 nominations this year, all of which were specimens of well-written, highly competent works on the various problems they address.

We have unanimously decided to award this year's Hanneke Janssen Memorial Prize to Grace Field for her M.Phil. Dissertation "*Putting theory in its place: The relationship between universality arguments and empirical constraints*", submitted to the University of Cambridge.

This dissertation addresses, in very clear language, claims in the physics literature about the universality of Hawking radiation, i.e. the thermal radiation which black holes should emit according to a famous prediction of Stephen Hawking. The Jury admired the originality of this topic, which has not received much attention in the philosophy literature yet, and in particular how this dissertation succeeds, by applying insightful philosophical acumen, in clearing up confusions in the recent physics literature about how universality arguments would allegedly allow one to infer the properties of Hawking radiation from experimental evidence supplied by analogous experiments. This dissertation is an exemplar of how philosophy of physics can clarify ongoing debates in physics. Its only flaw that the Jury noted was that the dissertation seems a bit repetitive in presenting its main conclusion.