

**Critical Management Studies (CMS) Division
Academy of Management**

Division Chairs Elect: Marcus Gomes, Cardiff University, UK (GomesM@cardiff.ac.uk)
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2026 Best Critical Doctoral Dissertation Award

Submission deadline 7th April 2026

Each year, the CMS Division recognizes a doctoral dissertation that makes a significant critical contribution to the study of management and organizations. We invite submissions from scholars who have completed their PhD between **1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026** and whose work advances critical inquiry in meaningful and innovative ways.

This award is generously sponsored by *Organization*.

Who should apply?

We are looking for dissertations that do more than extend existing debates. We are interested in work that questions assumptions, unsettles dominant logics, and engages with management and organization as sites of power, politics, inequality, and possibility.

Critical scholarship may take many forms. It might:

- Challenge managerialism or dominant economic rationalities
- Engage feminist, postcolonial, decolonial, queer, or anti-racist perspectives
- Examine exploitation, precarity, or structural injustice
- Explore resistance, alternative organizing, or solidarity economies
- Develop creative critical methodologies
- Interrogate leadership, identity, subjectivity, or affect
- Reimagine management education and academic practice

This list is illustrative, not restrictive. If your work interrogates how organizing shapes and is shaped by broader social, political, or economic forces and does so from a critical standpoint, we encourage you to submit.

To learn more about the CMS Division, visit <http://cms.aom.org>.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- Submitters must have completed a critical PhD dissertation in the period between **1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026** and successfully completed the formal examination process required to pass, including a viva voce/defense and revisions, if applicable.
- The work must fall within the intellectual domain of the CMS Division.
- Candidates currently or previously supervised by the current CMS Division Chairs Elect (Marcus Gomes and Paulina Segarra) are not eligible.

The two-year window is intended to accommodate various academic trajectories, including career breaks. If your circumstances require consideration beyond this window, please explain this in your cover letter.

What to submit?

Please prepare four separate PDF documents:

1. **Title page and abstract** including full author identification and contact information.
2. **Anonymized dissertation summary** (maximum 30 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, including any charts, tables, and references). This document will be sent for blind review and must contain no identifying information. It should include the title, abstract, and a summary of each chapter of the dissertation/thesis.
3. **Supervisor letter** (1 page). A signed supporting letter from the dissertation chair or lead supervisor to certify the completion date of the dissertation and recommend its submission for this award.
4. **Cover letter** including:
 - a. Details of everyone involved in the examination process (so that examiners can be excluded from the review process)
 - b. Names and contact details of four other scholars with expertise around the doctorate, who may be appropriate as reviewers
 - c. A statement confirming eligibility

Timeline

- **Submissions deadline:** 20th April 2026 (**no extensions can be granted**)
- **Decision notification:** 19th June 2026
- **Award presentation:** CMS Division Business Meeting at the Academy of Management Annual Meeting, 31st July – 4th August 2026, in Philadelphia.
- **A competition information workshop** will be run ahead of the submission workshop. The date will be confirmed shortly.

The Award

- A two-year subscription to *Organization* (provided by SAGE)

Previous winners of the competition are featured [here](#).

Submission process

Please upload all four PDF documents and fill the required information [here](#).