Research Statement for Peer Review of Creative Works for the HCA Cluster

Title of Creative Work:	*The Edge of the World*
Creator (s):	Dr Marcella Polain

Research Background
The novel, *The Edge of the World*, was developed from Polain's PhD thesis, and is based on her family's survival of the Armenian Genocide in which 1.5 million Armenians were murdered, and which Turkey still denies. It explores the transgenerational *effects* and *affects* of genocide on first-, second- and third-generation survivors – loss of culture and identity, higher rates of various kinds of dysfunction – which are also documented in Holocaust studies.
Research Contribution
The novel is in three parts. The first re-imagines the events in Alexandretta in the last days of the Ottoman Empire and tells the story of Polain's grandparents as they are caught up in the genocide. The second re-imagines Jerusalem, where her mother grew up in poverty and exile, and examines the consequence of the loss of her family. The third part explores the ramifications of this legacy in the third generation growing up in Australia, where an unexamined genocidal history rumbles beneath public discourse. The clash of ANZAC commemorations and the Armenian Genocide Memorial Day in April remains shocking and irreconcilable.
Research Significance
The Edge of the World won UWA's Higher Degree by Research Prize for Publication and was short-listed for a Commonwealth Writers' Prize. It joins a growing literature on the subject, most of which is published, read and discussed in the Europe and North America.

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