



Thinkhouse

Early Career Researcher's Prize, 2019

Sponsors: Altair and L&Q.

Media Partner: Inside Housing



About the prize

Thinkhouse is pleased to invite submissions to the first round of our early career researcher's prize.

This prize will give early career housing researchers an opportunity to showcase their work to a wide and influential audience. This is the second year that we have run this competition and last year's winner, Anya Martin, will be on the judging panel (see below for media coverage of the 2018 award).

The aim of this competition is to encourage papers that meet the entry criteria below.

About Thinkhouse

Thinkhouse.org.uk hosts an accessible online library of research and policy publications that cover ways to increase the amount and quality of the UK's housing stock and the related economic, social and community benefits of doing so.

The site is curated by an independent Editorial Panel. The aim is to include all relevant publications, which are grouped by year and by category. The Ed Panel assess each new report to select those that they feel merit being included in the 'must read' section on each yearly page. The Ed Panel aims to have about a dozen reports included in this section by the end of each year. The Ed Panel base their decision on, how likely they are to influence policy makers as well as the quality of the research/evidence, the coherence of the arguments, the report format/accessibility and how innovative and practical the pieces are.

The overall objective is to provide easy access to a few key reports and provide a home for all relevant work. Thereby helping to inform policy makers who are engaged in understanding how we can build more and better homes and communities, improve knowledge transfer and provide evidence/ideas to drive decision making.

Entry criteria and requirements

The competition is open to those with up to eight years research experience. Candidates with or without a PhD, and those working within academic or non-academic institutions (the voluntary sector, think tanks, membership organisations, the media, housing associations etc) are welcome to apply. Please note that time spent in doctoral-level research study counts as research experience (as such, entrants who spent three years completing their PhD may have up to five year's further work experience). Co-authored papers are permitted in cases where all authors meet the entry requirements. It is open to UK and non-UK applicants.

It is our preference that papers have a focus that matches the broad interests of Thinkhouse. This is policy publications that cover ways to increase the amount and quality of the UK's housing stock and the related economic, social and community benefits of doing so. However, the judging panel will accept papers that they consider are relevant to housing and related issues but please contact us beforehand.

We will consider think pieces, review papers synthesising existing evidence and policy analysis, papers sharing the findings of original empirical research or investigative journalism type pieces. Journal articles or other papers already published or under review will be accepted.

Submission should be between 4,000-8,000 words in length and submitted in a MS Word format, which includes the following information: author(s) name(s), institutional affiliation, current job title, email address, paper title, 200 word abstract and word count.

Papers must be submitted to info@thinkhouse.org.uk by the end of September 2019.

Judging

Will be by a panel made of members of the Thinkhouse Editorial Panel plus our sponsors (Altair and L&Q), our media partner Inside Housing, Stephen Aldridge (Director of Analysis and Data at MHCLG) and last year's winner Anya Martin. Their decision will be final. Panel assessments will focus on the following criteria:

- Writing style/clarity
- Engagement with literature and theory
- Methods
- Empirical rigour/theoretical depth
- Strength of conclusions
- The extent of how the research is outcome and impact-focused so that it contributes to useful knowledge exchange
- The scalability of the research (ie the scope to make a widespread difference)

They will make their decision by the 15th November 2019 and this will be communicated to all participants.

The prize

Authors of the winning paper will be awarded £500 cheque, will have the result covered by our media partner, Inside Housing and have their paper published on the Thinkhouse website. We reserve the right to have editorial control over any item published on the site.

Questions

Please contact us at info@thinkhouse.org.uk if you have any questions.

Good Luck!

Media response to the winner of the 2018 ECRP

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INSIDEHOUSING

Meet the sector's junior researcher of the year

INSIGHT 28/11/18 7:00 AM BY CARL BROWN

The inaugural Thinkhouse Early Career Researcher's Prize sought fresh thinking from housing researchers who are just starting out. *Carl Brown* looks at the competition and the winning entry. *Photography by Simon Brandon.*



The impact of social housing on child development outcomes.

WINNER OF OUR ECRP PRIZE, Anya Martin, Peabody Research

This paper uses Millennium Cohort Study data to compare the cognitive, health, emotional, and behavioural development outcomes of children living in social housing compared with those living in private rented housing in England. It builds on work on previous birth cohort studies to examine how the relationship between tenure and outcomes has changed over time, and how, when controlling for a limited set of socioeconomic factors, the children of social housing tenants are no worse off than the children of private renters. This challenges research which has previously found they tend to be worse off, even when controlling for various socioeconomic factors.



The winner and her prize-winning research



thinkhouse @ThinkhouseInfo · 18 Dec 2018
 @AnyaMartin8 of @PeabodyLDN receiving her @ThinkhouseInfo Early Career Researchers Prize cheque from our sponsor @Steve_Altair of @AltairLtd. Thank you to all those who applied & to our judges @Steve_Altair @saldridg @Gibb6781 @BethWatts494 @HousingGemma @richard_hyde #ukhousing



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For the prize winner, the research idea was not just about boosting her profile or advancing her career; it was also to get something off her chest.

"I grew up in social housing...I take personal offence when people say social housing has a negative impact on you growing up," says Ms Martin.

The paper sought to challenge the findings of previous studies that typically found children in social housing have worse development outcomes than those in other tenures - and these negative outcomes are a result of the tenure itself.

Ms Martin used data from the Millennium Cohort Study, an ongoing study tracking the lives of 19,000 children born in 2000-01. The dataset includes information about parenting, education, cognitive performance, health and parents' employment and income.

"I grew up in social housing...I take personal offence when people say social housing has a negative impact on you growing up." Anya Martin

What the judges said

Mr Aldridge was fulsome in his praise for Ms Martin as far as saying he could envisage it as the research used to aid policymaking at MHCLG.

He said: "There has been a lot of debate about (the impact of social housing on outcomes) with people trying to put facts. Behind the clear explanation is good, and the research is excellent."

Mr Aldridge added that he had seen regression analysis methods used