



RTPI

Royal Town Planning Institute



RTPI AWARDS FOR
RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE **2020**

Early Career Researcher Award

Category Information and Entry Form

Submission deadline: Monday 18 May 2020

2020 RTPI Awards for Research Excellence
Early Career Researcher Award

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Category information

The RTPI Awards for Research Excellence recognise and promote high quality and impactful spatial planning research from RTPI accredited planning schools and planning practitioners in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and internationally. The Awards are intended to:

1. Recognise the best spatial planning research from RTPI accredited planning schools and Members;
2. Highlight the implications of academic research for policy and practice;
3. Recognise the valuable contribution of planning practitioners (in the public and private sectors) to planning research; and
4. Promote planning research generally.

Being shortlisted or winning these prestigious awards is a clear demonstration of the quality of your work. All shortlisted and winning entrants will be provided with an RTPI Awards for Research Excellence logo, which can be used on your website, email, social media and promotional materials. We wish you the best of luck!

The Early Career Researcher Award

Eligibility

This award is aimed at researchers in the beginning phase of their academic careers, and stresses methodological rigour and innovative thinking. As such, it is open to:

1. Early career academics who were employed by or studying in universities offering accredited RTPI courses at the time the research was submitted to the jury (for dissertations and theses) or published (for any other piece of research), regardless of their RTPI membership; and
2. Early career academics who are RTPI members¹, regardless of their academic affiliation.

Only planning research submitted (for dissertations and theses) or first published (for any other piece of research) between April 2019 and April 2020 (inclusive) is eligible for entry.

Geographical coverage

The submitted research and its potential implications for planning policy and practice can relate to anywhere in the world (focus on UK or Ireland is not required).

The definition of 'early career academic'

Everyone who is pursuing a PhD (or other postgraduate research degree), or is within 5 years of the award of their PhD (or other postgraduate research degree) is considered an early career academic.

The definition of 'planning research'

We interpret 'planning research' broadly. For example, research could primarily have implications for planning education or professional development, rather than practice or

¹ For the purposes of the Early Academic award, all types of membership (excluding Affiliate membership) are considered.

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policy. Though the awards focus on spatial planning research, we encourage interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research. We welcome non-traditional pieces of research such as applied research, action research or research by design, as long as they are published (see below). However, non-text-based research might incur further requirements (such as the provision of a longer summary, see entry form below).

For the purposes of the award, 'research' is a single published piece of research and the actions directly related to its communication and dissemination. For example, a single article, a single chapter in an edited book, a single report, a book, a toolbox, a project or a plan can all be considered as 'research'. Wider research programmes, edited thematic numbers and books comprised of different contributions, and series or collections are not considered as 'research' for the purposes of the award.

The definition of 'published'

We accept entries published in any form. However, publications submitted for all award categories must be publicly available online at the moment of the submission (whether for free or behind a paywall). In the case of published books, they must be available for free download or for purchase and the full text must be made available to the judges in digital form (to this end, preprint versions are accepted). Online repositories, including Academia.edu, Researchgate, institutional repositories and project websites are all considered as forms of publishing for the purposes of the award. When entries have been published multiple times, the publication date refers to the date it was first published and must be within the date range specified for each category.

Judging criteria

Entries to this category will be judged on the strength of the research submitted and its academic rigour. A particular stress will be put on 'impactful' research (i.e. that furthers planning practice, theory, or research) and on innovative research putting forward cutting-edge methods, approaches and theories.

A successful submission must satisfy the following five criteria:

1. **Relevance:** original approach to issues and themes of current concern and relevance to spatial planning.
2. **Robustness:** evidence of an appropriate review of relevant literature and strong understanding of the current state of knowledge, setting out what is known, what is not known and what can and should be further researched on the subject.
3. **Methodology:** sound methodological reflection leading to the choice of an appropriate methodology and to the use of cutting-edge and innovative methods.
4. **Analytical and critical skills:** research conducted with intellectual rigour, showing deep understanding of the theoretical stakes, critical thinking and rigorous analysis linking results and theory.
5. **Outcomes:** clearly presented results that achieve a better understanding of the subject and/or the development of new fields of enquiry, with implications for planning policy and/or practice.

How to enter

Entries must be submitted by **5pm on Monday 18 May 2020**. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Please make sure you have the document for the correct category.

1. Download and save this document;
2. Complete the fillable Entry Form² below and save the file following;
3. Open your browser and go to www.rtpi.org.uk/awards-form/;
4. On the drop-down menu, select “RTPI Awards for Research Excellence”;
5. Complete the form on the website;
6. Convert the submitted research output (paper, book, thesis or else) to .pdf; and
7. Upload your completed Entry Form and Research output and click on “submit”.

If for any reason you are unable upload the research (or it is above the size limit of 10Mb), please provide a link where the submitted entry can be freely downloaded or consulted in section G1 below. Failure to do so will disqualify your submission.

Awards ceremony

The winners of the RTPI Awards for Research Excellence 2020 will be announced at an awards ceremony, to be held at University College London on the evening of Monday 7 September 2020. All entrants are welcome to take part in the ceremony or send a delegate.

Contact us

If you have any questions about entering the RTPI Awards for Research Excellence, or to report any issues with the application process, please contact research@rtpi.org.uk.

Terms and Conditions

1. Full submissions must be received by the RTPI by Monday 18 May 2020.
2. Word counts will be checked. A variation of up to 10% will be allowed, but anything beyond that will not be considered by the judges.
3. The RTPI reserves the right to share submissions with our member magazine *The Planner*.
4. The RTPI reserves the right to share submissions and entry forms with our judging panel.
5. Submitted material will be retained electronically by the RTPI.
6. The Royal Town Planning Institute is not liable for any costs you incur submitting this entry.
7. The decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into before or after the event.

² All common PDF readers, such as Acrobat Reader (available for free at <https://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>), and free online services such as PDFEscape (<https://www.pdfescape.com/open/>) should support fillable PDF.

Please note that your browser’s integrated pdf reader might not support saving fillable PDFs.

Entry form

Early Career Researcher Award

A. Contact data³

- A1. Title: _____
A2. First name(s): _____
A3. Middle name(s): _____
A4. Last name: _____
A5. Postnominals: _____

A6. Gender: _____

A7. Contact email: _____
A8. Contact telephone: _____
A9. Contact address:

A10. OPTIONAL - Social media accounts:

(we will engage with shortlisted and winning authors on social media):

- A10a. *Twitter*: _____
A10b. *Instagram*: _____
A10c. *Facebook*: _____
A10d. *Linkedin*: _____

B. Affiliations

- B1. Main academic/research institution⁴: _____
B2. Department: _____

B3. Other current institutional affiliations⁵:

(separated by comma or semicolon)

C. Eligibility

- C1. Are you a Member of the RTPI? ____
C2. Does your main institution offer an accredited RTPI course? ____
C3. Were you studying towards a PhD (or equivalent research degree) at the time the research was submitted or published? ____
C4. When were you awarded your PhD (or equivalent research degree)? _____

³ The submitter must be the first author of the paper and must possess the relevant criteria for submitting the entry.

⁴ This is the institution where the entrant was at the time the research was submitted (for dissertations and theses) or published (for any other piece of research).

⁵ Please list all the current institutions (academic or otherwise) you are engaged in, member of (besides professional bodies), employed by or sponsored by.

D. Research - general data

D1. Research short title⁶: _____

D2. Research full bibliographic reference:

(Harvard or Chicago style)

D3. Affiliation of the co-authors:

(separated by comma or semicolon. Please include the academic affiliation in brackets)

D4. OPTIONAL Co-authors' contacts and social media:

(separate authors by semicolon. Include the contact/social media in brackets, separated by commas)

D5. Submission⁷ / publication date⁸ (MM/YYYY): _____

⁶ This title will be used for all communications concerning the research. Please do not include the subtitles.

⁷ For theses and dissertations only: this should be the date in which the research was submitted to the jury.

⁸ For all other pieces of research: this should be the date of first publication.

E. Research - Research summary

E1. Research summary

Please provide a summary of the research (between 250 and 1000 words).

Text-based research should aim for a summary that is 10% of the word count of the submitted entry.

Non text-based and diagrammatic entries (i.e. entries of which diagrams comprise 50% or more) should aim for a 1000 word research summary.

E2. OPTIONAL - Research description

If you wish, you can provide a 100 word description that will be featured in our communications regarding shortlisted and winning entries.

F. Research - Critical evaluation

You will need to critically evaluate the work carried out and must demonstrate the strengths of your research.

F1. Relevance

Please outline⁹ (max 250 words):

- the research question(s) that are addressed by the research;
- how the research understands and deals with themes of current concern;
- why the research is relevant to spatial planning; and
- the research's intended contribution to the better understanding of the subject and/or to the development of new fields of enquiry.

⁹ This and the following lists must be considered as an indicative, non-exhaustive and non-mandatory guideline for applicants' evaluation.

F2. Robustness

Please outline (max 250 words):

- the principal scientific literature and/or corpus of knowledge that the research has engaged with;
- the gaps in knowledge that existed prior to the research and how the research has engaged with them;
- the scope of the research, including a critical consideration on its limits; and
- the research's intended contribution in relation to the wider literature on the matter.

F3. Methodology

Please outline (max 250 words):

- the chosen methodology and the methods that were employed;
- the reflection that led to the choice of the methodology;
- the elements of innovation and novelty in the chosen methodology and methods; and
- how the research furthers the methodological reflection on the subject.

F4. Analytical and critical skills

Please outline (max 250 words):

- what theories were mobilised in analysing the data and accounting for the findings;
- how the empirical data was analysed; and
- how the findings relate back to the theory.

F5. Outcomes

Please outline (max 250 words):

- the main outcomes of the research;
- in what way the outcomes respond to the research question(s);
- how the outcomes are presented (conclusive section, infographics, posters, abstracts, web resources...);
- what efforts have been made to make the research accessible to non-specialists (simple language, open access, use of images...);
- how the outcomes contribute to the better understanding of the subject and/or to the development of new fields of enquiry; and
- how the outcomes contribute to planning policy and/or practice.

G. Other

G1. Submission link:

If for any reason you are unable to upload the submission on the RTPI portal, please provide a link where the submitted entry can be freely downloaded:

G2. OPTIONAL - Observations

Please add any additional information that you might want to provide in the space below. While not part of the judging process, your observations can provide contextual information about the entry:

G3. OPTIONAL - Feedback

Please insert any feedback on the submission process: