



THE SAHGB DISSERTATION PRIZE

Introduction

The Society wishes to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work in architectural history being carried out by postgraduate students on taught Masters-level courses in UK universities – whether as part of professionally accredited architectural degrees or for other subject-related programmes. With this aim in mind, the Dissertation Prize is framed to encourage innovative and critical thinking in and around the subject, either by the pursuit of new kinds and categories of knowledge or else by reassessing and rewriting topics that are already an accepted part of the field. Submissions for this prize can thus take the form of original primary research, critical revision, historiographical reflection, epistemological questioning, etc.

The Society's definition of architectural history is consciously diverse and inclusive, and covers the histories of building design, construction, practice, urban planning, landscape design, inhabitation, culture and society in all countries/regions and across all periods. We are especially open to intersectional approaches that bring together approaches or themes which seek to expand our understanding of architectural history, and which might well include some of these new and evolving research agendas (as well as others):

- minority discourses
- post-colonial perspectives
- de-colonisation of the teaching curriculum
- gender relations
- LGBTQ+ relations
- race and space
- disability and neurodiversity
- political critique
- spatial violence and resistance
- environmental and ecological issues
- problematic aspects of built heritage

These sorts of agendas are among those at the heart of the Society's aim to help create 'a bigger discipline' for architectural history, not least through the workings of its Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity networks. We therefore see the Dissertation Prize as furthering this ambition by encouraging Masters-level students in UK universities to join in the challenge of expanding the subject.

Judging Panel

Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr (Education Officer, Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain): panel chair

Dr Katriona Byrne: Birmingham City University
Dr Yasmina El Chami: Anglia Ruskin University
Dr Janina Gosseye: TU Delft
Neil Gregory: Historic Environment Scotland
Dr Matthew Wells: University of Manchester



Prize

- One year of free membership to the SAHGB for the calendar year following the award.
- Free entry to the Society's Annual Symposium during the calendar year following the award.
- Recognition at the Society's Annual Awards Ceremony in late 2023.
- Help from the Society towards publication whether in its own refereed academic journal, *Architectural History*, or in another suitable journal – although please note that publication cannot be guaranteed.

Eligibility

Submissions must be coursework dissertations by currently enrolled or just graduated students on taught Masters-level courses that are related to architectural history within UK universities. For the 2023 SAHGB Dissertation Prize, the dissertations must have been written during the 2022-23 academic year.

Process

The website form may be used to submit digital files for entry.

For dissertations by taught Masters-level students on accredited professional architecture degrees, or for those on other taught Masters-level courses that finish in May/June, the deadline for submitting the dissertation/abstract and associated entry documentation is by **5.00pm on 14 July 2022**.

For dissertations by taught Masters-level students on courses which finish in September, the deadline for submitting the dissertation/abstract and associated entry documentation is **by 5.00pm on 6 October 2023**.

During the judging process, each dissertation will be read anonymously by two members of the judging panel, and then the shortlisted dissertations will be read anonymously by all members of the panel to select the winner and any commended entries.

The winner of the Dissertation Prize and any commended entrants will be notified in late 2023 to coincide with the rest of the Society's awards for the year. Confidentiality around winners' details is requested until the SAHGB's press release for all the Society's awards is released.

Submission Guidelines

- Entries are invited from students enrolled in or just graduated from taught Masters-level courses in UK universities in departments or institutes which teach the following subjects:
 - architecture (ARB/RIBA Part II) ○ architectural history
 - art history
 - design history
 - heritage studies
 - other relevant courses, including urban history, landscape history, historical geography, construction history etc.
- Each individual taught Masters-level course is entitled to submit one dissertation from its graduating cohort in the case of those programmes with a headcount of up to 20 students, whereas courses above that size are able to submit one further dissertation.



- Dissertations must have been submitted as coursework within the academic year stipulated by the Society as relevant for that year's award.
- Dissertations must not have been previously published and an entry for consideration may be made once only.
- Entries must be submitted by a named academic nominator (ideally the course director or another representative from their university/college), who must also supply a short statement up to a maximum of 100 words to explain why this particular entry has been selected.
- All entries must also be authorised by the Head of School/Institute/Faculty from that institution.
- The dissertation and its short abstract must be kept **entirely anonymous, with absolutely no indicators of the student's name, course or institution in either of those documents.**
- Entries are expected to contain innovative and critical thinking in and around the subject of architectural history, either by the pursuit of new kinds and categories of knowledge or else by reassessing and rewriting topics that are already an accepted part of the field.
- Topics that demonstrate a high level of intersectionality are especially welcome.
- Submissions for the Dissertation Prize can take the form of original primary research, critical revision, historiographical reflection, epistemological questioning, etc.
- The maximum word limit for a submitted dissertation is 15,000 words (not including endnotes or bibliography).
- A short abstract of up to 300 words must also be provided for each dissertation in a separate document.

Both the dissertation and the short abstract must be submitted as PDF files.