



# The Thinkhouse early career researcher's prize



Sponsored by Altair Consultancy and Advisory Services Ltd

---

## About the prize

Thinkhouse is pleased to invite submissions to the first round of our young researcher's prize, that will give early career housing researchers an opportunity to showcase their work to a wide and influential audience. The aim of this newly established competition is to encourage papers that look at international research or high-quality case studies that meet our objectives or which help to close the evidence gaps highlighted in our annual review (available [here](#)).

## About Thinkhouse

Thinkhouse.org.uk hosts an accessible online library of the best 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. We are expanding our collection of reports to include international research and case studies that support our objectives.

Thinkhouse's aim is to help inform policymakers 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. It is curated by an independent editorial panel. The overall objective is to provide easy access to a few key reports and provide a home for all relevant work.

## Entry criteria and requirements

The competition is open to those with up to six 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. Co-authored papers are permitted in cases where all authors meet the entry requirements.

It is our preference that papers will focus on one or more of the following areas however we will not necessary preclude papers (subject to prior agreement) that look at other housing related issues or research gaps.

- Research the existing body of international reports, evidence or case studies that have demonstrated success at increasing the quantity and quality of housing supply in their host countries/cities or address one or more of the evidence gaps highlighted in the Thinkhouse 2017 'year in review', namely:
  - Research into the direct experiences of social housing tenants and those renting from private landlords (who are they? why do they make the decisions/choices they do?).

- How the homeownership and rental tenures (both social, affordable, and private rented sector) can be more effectively linked together to recognise that individuals do not have static housing needs. More thinking on the linkages between the tenures that work in the market and how they can be used more dynamically to benefit people as they move through different life stages and income brackets would help with both monitoring the demand side of the housing question and planning a more targeted supply.
- The links between the cost of housing and this costs impact on living standards, an area of study which has become fallow since John Hill's comprehensive report ten years ago<sup>1</sup>. Providing robust cost-benefit analyses evidence and monetisation of the linkages between housing and health and from a macro perspective looking at the linkages between housing, agglomeration, and economic growth.
- Given the amount of public land, the failure to release significant chunks of it without the public-sector scrapping to get 'best value' building on recent pieces from Civitas<sup>2</sup>, on how this has held back housing.
- Estate regeneration beyond just bricks and mortar, research to look at the benefits of regeneration in a wider social, physical, and economic context that is not restricted/can cross local authority boundaries. This may also be pertinent in helping shed light on some of the current battles between residents and councils battling over radical estate demolition/rebuild.
- Exploration of learning from different approaches to housing across the three devolved nations and London.
- Exploration of the question 'Does the fragmented housing association sector create a structural deadweight that limits the actual number of houses it can build?'
- Exploration of the question 'has there been a recognised shift by the Government towards again accepting social housing as an important part of the policy, which started after the referendum and change of PM in 2016, was energised further following the Grenfell Tower catastrophe?'. The government Green Paper, expected in the spring, should ensure this is a fertile area for new analysis to improve policymakers understanding of this area.

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, evidence that the author(s) is within the six-year research experience criteria, email address, paper title, 200 word abstract and word count.

**Papers must be submitted to [info@thinkhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@thinkhouse.org.uk) by the 28 September 2018.**

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://thinkhouse.org.uk/archive/hills.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://thinkhouse.org.uk/repository/civitasLand.pdf>

## **Judging**

Judging will be by a panel whose members are listed below. Their decision will be final.

- Professor Ken Gibb, member of the Thinkhouse Editorial Panel
- Dr Beth Watts, member of the Thinkhouse Editorial Panel
- Gemma Duggan, member of the Thinkhouse Editorial Panel
- Richard Hyde, Chair of the Thinkhouse Editorial Panel
- Stephen Aldridge, Director for Analysis and Data. MHCLG
- Steve Douglas, Co-Chief Executive, Altair

Panel assessments will focus on the following criteria:

Each paper was scored from 1 to 5 on six aspects, with the winning paper having the highest total score. The aspects are:

- Writing style/clarity
- Engagement with literature and theory
- Methods
- Empirical rigor/theoretical depth
- Strength of conclusions
- The extent of how the research is outcome and impact-focused so that it contributes to useful knowledge exchange.

They will make their decision by the 16th November 2018 and this will be communicated to all participants. The Panel, where possible, will make a comment on each paper.

## **The prize**

The winning paper will be awarded £250, will be published on the Thinkhouse website and will benefit from the wider dissemination and credibility that this brings. We reserve the right to have editorial control over any item published on the site.