



IAFSS Best Thesis Award “Excellence in Research”

Award, eligibility and its privileges

IAFSS Best Thesis Award “Excellence in Research” recognises best research dissertation at PhD and Masters levels, in the field of fire safety science and engineering. There are three such Awards for the three IAFSS regions, Europe and Africa, Americas, as well as Asia and Oceania.

All theses submitted for examination by 31 Jan 2011 and outside the cut-off date of the 2008 Award (31 July 2007) are eligible for nomination. Each nomination must be submitted by the student's supervisor, as described below.

Each recipient must deliver, at the 10th Symposium, a paper drawn from his/her thesis. Preferably, this will be a paper accepted for presentation in the regular peer-review submission process. However, if no such paper is available, the recipient will be asked to prepare a paper, as per submission guidelines of the 10th Symposium, based on the material included in the thesis.

The Award consists of a plaque, a grant of US\$2,000 to cover travel and sustenance related to the recipient's attendance at the 10th Symposium in College Park, Maryland, USA, and a free registration at the Symposium.

Nomination process

The following documents need to be submitted by email by the nominee's supervisor to Professor José Torero, The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, j.torero@ed.ac.uk, by 6 March, 5 pm, UK time:

- A letter of recommendation by the nominee's supervisor not to exceed 2 pages;
- A pdf copy of the thesis (preferably in English; if not available, in its original language);
- An abstract of the thesis in English (no longer than three pages);
- A list of publications. The list should comprise journal articles (including those that have been submitted for publication, whether accepted or not), and conference publications (indicating the form of review; no review, by Abstract, by full paper). Publications in preparation or draft should not be listed;
- Pdf preprints or reprints of up to three best papers derived from the nominee's thesis (conference papers can be included).

Only one thesis can be submitted for Award from a given University or Institution. When more than one thesis is of sufficient quality for submission for the Award, a preliminary selection must be carried out locally and the nominee's supervisor needs to explicitly describe in the letter of recommendation the local selection process. If more than one thesis is submitted by a single institution the nominators will be asked to withdraw the submissions voluntarily and explain the reasoning behind the selection. If more than one thesis remains

submitted by 13 March (5:00 pm UK time) then none of the submissions from that institution will be considered. All submissions will be confirmed upon reception.

Selection considerations

The four criteria used to select the best thesis include

Pertinence Is the thesis' subject matter within the scope of the field of fire science and engineering?

Impact Have the results of the thesis been disseminated broadly in top ranked peer-reviewed international journals and conferences?

Significance Do the results of the thesis add to our present knowledge? Are there new, accurate, useful and important?

Quality Are the methodologies applied in the thesis sound and correct? Is the thesis well written?

Selection body

The recipients of the IAFSS Best Thesis Award "Excellence in Research" will be selected by the IAFSS Awards Committee that consists of Professor Bogdan Dlugogorski (Chair, The University of Newcastle, Australia), Professor W.K. Chow (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HK, China), Professor Jim Quintiere (The University of Maryland, USA), Professor Takeyoshi Tanaka (Kyoto University, Japan) and Professor José Torero (The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK). The recipients will be contacted by the first week of April. The Awards will be formally announced at the 10th Symposium in College Park, Maryland, USA, in June 2011.

Past recipients

IAFSS Best Thesis Award "Excellence in Research" was first presented at the 8th IAFSS Symposium at Tsinghua University in Beijing in 2005. Its past recipients are listed below

2005: (Europe and Africa) Susan Lamont, The University of Edinburgh, UK, PhD Thesis;
(Americas) Amnon Bar-Ilan, University of California, Berkeley, USA, PhD Thesis;
(Asia and Oceania) Weng Wenguo, Waseda University, Japan, PhD Thesis

2008: (Europe and Africa) Markus Knobloch ETH, Zurich, Switzerland, PhD Thesis;
(Americas) Ali S. Rangwala, University of California, San Diego, USA, PhD Thesis;
(Asia and Oceania) Johannes A.W. Dimyadi, The University of Canterbury, NZ, Masters Thesis