

# UNHCR Announces Winners of Statelessness Research Award

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In 2013, UNHCR and Tilburg University's Statelessness Program established a research award for excellence in the field of statelessness, with a view to drawing more attention to this global problem and to encourage research into this area of study. Any university in the world can nominate students for the award, which has separate prize categories for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral research. An international expert jury, composed of leading academics in the field of citizenship, statelessness and human rights, determines the winning entries.

This year, 2014, a total of 13 nominations were received, spread across the three award categories. The nominations were submitted by academic staff from 11 different universities, across seven countries. The research represented a variety of disciplines, including political science, international law, liberal arts and sciences, human rights, education, anthropology and development. The International Expert Jury was composed of Prof. Carmen Tiburcio (Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil) Prof. René de Groot (Maastricht University, the Netherlands), Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree (Mahidol University, Thailand), Prof. Kim Rubenstein (Australian National University, Australia), Prof. Kohki Abe (Kanagawa University, Japan), Dr. Benyam Mezmur (University of the Western Cape, South Africa), Prof. Peter Spiro (Temple University, United States) and Prof. Khadija Elmadmad (Casablanca University, Morocco). The Jury determined the following winners:

Best Undergraduate Research on Statelessness - Ms. Maria Jose Recalde Vela for her work "How can identity assert a claim to citizenship?"

Best Graduate Research on Statelessness - Ms Caia Vlieks for her thesis entitled "A European human rights obligation for statelessness determination?"

Best Doctoral Research on Statelessness - Dr. Jason Tucker for his thesis entitled "Challenging the tyranny of citizenship: Statelessness in Lebanon", which earned him his PhD at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Bath (United Kingdom).

In addition to the above awards, the Jury presented two Certificates of Appreciation in 2014. The first was to Ms Helen Brunt for her thesis "Stateless Stakeholders, seen but not heard?" The second was to the Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute Fact-Finding Project for the report entitled "Left Behind: How Statelessness in the Dominican Republic Limits Children's Access to Education".

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