

Three Minute Military Thesis Competition

On 10th March 2020, the BCMH held its Three Minute Military Thesis competition. The event, organised by Zack White and Will Fletcher, with the help of Phoebe Style was a phenomenal success. Nine competitors battled it out for the top prize, in a high quality, fast paced afternoon, as the contestants summarised their research in just 180 seconds.

The judging panel of Erica Wald, Sebastian Rogers and Peter Sowden found it extremely tough to choose a winner, eventually awarding first place to Eamonn o’Keeffe, of Oxford University, and second place to Sofya Anisimova, of St Andrew’s.

The full list of competitors, and their thesis titles were:

Ben Hodges, British Army intelligence 1923-1940

Sofya Anisimova, ‘Russia’s Military Strategy and the Entente in the First World War, 1914-1917’

Andrew Lock, ‘Hard lessons learnt and applied? An assessment of the growing effectiveness of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front in 1917’

Oishee Kundu, Procurement of complex product systems

Joe Fonseca, "Japanese Gurkhas": Creating a Familiar Japan through Martial Race Language

Eamonn o’Keeffe, : British Military Music and Musicians during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars

Kirsty Haslam, 'An Investigation into the social context and cultural meaning of warfare in late medieval and early modern Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Tara Finn, Horizontal refreshment: The policies and practices of the British Army and Royal Navy on prostitution in the two World Wars

All the entries were recorded, and can be viewed on the BCMH’s facebook page. The session, was preceded by two training panels, on Jobs for Military Historians, and Getting Published. The BCMH also unveiled its ‘Next Gen Network’, an innovative initiative chaired by Zack, aimed at supporting BA, MA and PhD students of military history across the UK, by offering networking, advice, and details of job opportunities, conferences (when they run), and publications. For more information, or to join the network, email z.white@soton.ac.uk

The organisers would like to thank all those who took part in the competition, the judges, and those who spoke in the training panels. Special thanks is also owed to Phoebe who worked overtime to get the recordings out on our social media channels, and generated a mini-social media storm of interest in the concept. The General Committee are looking at options to host the competition again next year, and details will follow in due course. Congratulations to Eamonn and Sofya for their well-deserved, and hard-earned victories!