

The 2019 Natalia Benjamin Prize

In a strong field, the panel of judges thank and congratulate all entrants for their submissions. After careful deliberation they made a unanimous decision to award the 2019 prize to:

Joshua Burns

of the University of Southampton

"The 'Basques' in Britain: An examination of refugee children's agency and identity formation through self-produced journals *Amistad* and *Cambria House Journal* "

The scope, originality, contribution and primary research in Joshua Burns' dissertation impressed the judges. His study extends into the 1940s and covers a period often neglected by historians. He also refuses to see the children as passive victims whose views were simply blotted out by adults or lost because refugees, and especially child refugees, are often denied a voice. To demonstrate these points, he draws on rarely used journals produced by Basque child refugees. In these journals Basque children were able to challenge pernicious stereotypes of Spaniards. They also set out to construct the very political identities that children are often denied when portrayed simply as victims of the dangerous adult world.

Panel of Judges

Dr Peter Anderson, University of Leeds
Prof Tom Buchanan, University of Oxford,
Dr Ed Packard, Trustee BCA'37 UK