

Munich Security Conference 2019

John McCain Dissertation Award

Call for Nominations

The Award

The John McCain Dissertation Award is awarded annually to up to two outstanding doctoral dissertations for exceptional academic contributions in the field of political science, with an emphasis on the transatlantic relationship. It consists of several components, including participation in Munich Security Conference (MSC) events and activities, attractive publication options and a prize sum of up to 20.000 euros.

Background

Over the course of the past five decades, the Munich Security Conference has developed into the world's leading forum for the debate of international security policy. Each February, it brings together more than 450 senior decision-makers and thought-leaders from around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future challenges. Senator John McCain was part of the MSC family for more than four decades. After first attending the conference as a young Navy officer he eventually came to lead the United States Congressional Delegation in his role as senator. As such he played a key role in establishing the conference as an important forum for the transatlantic community. In times when the transatlantic bond can no longer be taken for granted, we are keen to honour the lifetime achievements of Senator John McCain by establishing the annual McCain Lecture and by awarding an annual John McCain Dissertation Award for academic excellence. Together with our partners, the Hochschule für Politik München/TUM School of Governance, the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science at LMU Munich, the University of the Federal Armed Forces, as well as the McCain Institute, we strive to establish the McCain Award as the most coveted prize of its kind.

Eligibility

Every doctoral dissertation in political science which fulfils the following basic criteria is eligible for consideration for the McCain Award in 2019: (1) it relates to the foreign and security policy aspect of the transatlantic relationship; (2) it is written in English or German; and (3) it has been completed and defended after October 2017. In order to be considered, a nomination letter written by a thesis supervisor or a member of the thesis committee is required. Self-nominations are not possible. Preference will be given to dissertations that have a clear policy component and relate to a topic close to Senator McCain's core interests, such as the democratic control of armed forces or the moral responsibility of the West.

Nominations & Selection Process

Nominations need to include a support letter by a supervisor or member of the thesis committee, a pdf copy of the full dissertation, an executive summary of no more than two pages and a brief academic CV. Entries are to be mailed to mccainaward@securityconference.de no later than January 4, 2019.

The selection process will be led by an expert jury which includes Eugénia da Conceição-Heldt (Hochschule für Politik München/TUM School of Governance), Carlo Masala (University of the Federal Armed Forces), Berthold Rittberger (Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science, LMU Munich), Trine Flockhart (Syddansk Universitet), Stephanie Hofmann (Graduate Institute Geneva) and Andrew Moravcsik (Princeton University).

The winner(s) will be notified by early February 2019. The MSC will officially announce the winner in the Federal Press Conference on February 11, 2019. The prize giving ceremony will take place in Munich on February 15, 2019 in the plenary hall of the Bavarian Parliament in the presence of Cindy McCain, the US Congressional Delegation and selected high-ranking MSC participants. It will be followed by a reception in the ceremonial rooms of the state parliament.