NE: hi my name’s Nikki Ewing and I won the judges runner up vote

MV: so my name’s moira Vincentelli and I won, I came first in this competition

TS: hi I’m Tracy Simpson and I won the judges runners up

TK: my name is Tom King and along with my colleague Chelsea Batty, we won the people’s choice

**What prompted you to enter the competition this year?**

NE: So it was an idea I had when I had started writing my thesis about the gaps, gender gaps in research, so it was based on a book I read called invisible women and it’s about gaps in research where we look at women’s experiences so I literally just scribbled down some stick people over different sectors or different areas where there’s a research gap and really thought that there was like female shaped gaps in these areas of research

MV: my work is about the hijab, and I work with refugees in Aberystwyth and for me, not knowing Muslim women I’ve had to really come to understand their culture, try to understand their culture, so it’s partly about me looking at the kind of stereotype world situation about the hijab and the reality of women’s lives in Wales, in kind of rural, even rural Wales you know small towns

TS: I’m doing some work on ecological citizenship and the notion of what is an ecological citizen because it’s quite broad and amorphous and we were doing a research visit to our own campus in Northop and I took some photographs there and one of them was with my colleague, whom I job share with, wondering through the undergrowth and that’s what research feels like, that wondering through the undergrowth, trying to find pathways, and I just thought it really summed up what we were trying to do on ecological citizenship, its great that it’s a Wrexham facility, not a lot of people know about it, it’s underused, could be used more and also it’s I think it was great to have my job share colleague in my image, so there you go

TK: so as well as my academic role here I still work quite heavily in the applied environment in sport, Chelsea does a lot of powerlifting so she actually approached me as a sports psychologist to help her with the psychological barriers that she was experiencing at that time, so we did a little bit of work behind the scenes to ensure that she was up to a performance and she’s actually entered the British Powerlifting Championships, been very successful in that so that was where the idea for the research came from

**How did you hear about the competition and what made you decide to enter this year?**

Well I’ve known about it for a little while and basically never got my act together so I really just thought I should, it wasn’t because of the image itself as such, I just thought oh, it happens every year, come to look at these events, get a free bit of cake, and I just thought well actually you know I should deserve that bit of cake

MV: I was encourage to, but right at the last minute, and I thought what can I do, and I had my curtain, and it was a nice sunny day outside my window and I though ooh, light things, ideas come to you very suddenly. If I’d had three months to think about it…

NE: that’s exactly where mine came from, is that I should’ve been writing or doing work on my thesis, and instead I saw the email for the competition and I knew one of my colleagues had entered the previous year and I just started jotting down on a piece of paper and then thought oh I’ll focus on this instead of actually what I should’ve been doing, writing my thesis

TK: we were encouraged to enter the competition, saw the email came through and I also saw there’d be free cake, no brainier really

**Any tips for anyone wanting to enter the competition next year?**

TS: just do it

NE: I think you think you have to be creative in that, and actually something really simple can convey something quite well, it doesn’t have to be complicated, you don’t have to be really good at using technology, it can just be simply a photograph or you know, something put over the top of a photograph

TK: I would second that, I think it’s the simplicity of the image sometimes makes it more valuable

**To sum up your experiences of the visualising research competition?**

TK: insightful

MV: it’s very interesting to see the range of research here

NE: yeah it’s inspiring really about what research is actually going on and what people thinking is that we all have the same challenges or worries about conducting research and that are we doing it right, is there a right way to do it

TS: yeah I think that echoing that really, you know it’s great to see the diversity of different formats, different ways of looking at research as an area, yeah just a really great competition