IRES held its first virtual symposium for doctoral students October 28-30, 2020. Doctoral students from around the globe were invited to submit a video presentation of their research in the areas of real estate finance and investment, urban and housing economics, urban planning, real estate sustainability and related fields. Nine students from among these were selected by the committee to make a live presentation and receive feedback from a mentor. Three students were chosen to receive best presentation awards of $1,000 sponsored by the James R. Webb ARES Foundation.

The three winners of the presentation awards are:

**Ren Ren**, University of Hong Kong

“The boom-bust asymmetry of supply elasticity and property price changes: New evidence from within-city analysis”

**Marina Koelbl**, University of Regensburg

“Is mandatory risk reporting informative? Evidence from US REITs using machine learning for text analysis”

**Felix Gauger**, TU Darmstadt

“Coworking spaces and start-ups: Empirical evidence from a product market competition perspective”

Congratulations to the winners as well as the other finalists.
Finalists:

**Lingshan Xie** (University College London)  
“Proximity to COVID-19 cases and real estate equity returns”

**Charlotte van der Lijn** (University of Sheffield)  
“Spatial online housing search in the UK”

**Simon Stehle** (University of Konstanz)  
“The effect of public property valuation”

**Aleksandar Petresk** (Jönköping International Business School)  
“Spatial memory or spatial shock: employing transactional spatio-temporal GARCH on property prices”

**Han Liu** (The George Washington University)  
“How should we measure shocks to housing return: Total versus appreciation returns?”

**Wei Lin** (University of St. Gallen)  
“Pricing the location of commercial properties”

Mentors:  
Dr. Kola Akinsomi, Dr. Yi Fan, Dr. Jeremy Gabe, Dr. Kwan Ok Lee, Dr. Rose Lai, Dr. Masaki Mori, Dr. Woei Chyung Wong, Dr. Peter Wyatt, and Dr. Nafeesa Yunus.

The Symposium was organized by an international committee comprised of Dr. Masaki Mori (chair), Dr. Jeremy Gabe, Dr. Kwan Ok Lee, Dr. Paloma Talavull de La Paz, and Mr. Alessandro Verdrassi. The International Real Estate Society (IRES) is a federation of regional real estate societies that encourages global cooperation on research and education. The mission of IRES is to: (1) encourage communication, cooperation, and coordination regarding real estate research and education; (2) encourage and assist in establishment of real estate education and research programs; (3) encourage research on international real estate topics; and (4) encourage and facilitate faculty exchanges. The federation consists of the American Real Estate Society, European Real Estate Society, Pacific Rim Real Estate Society, Asian Real Estate Society, African Real Estate Society, and Latin American Real Estate Society. Further information can be found at the IRES website, [www.iresnet.net](http://www.iresnet.net).