

The Wolfson* History Prize

PRESS RELEASE
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WOLFSON HISTORY PRIZE JUDGES ANNOUNCED FOR 2018 **New judge appointed/dates for shortlist and winner announcements revealed**

The organisers of the Wolfson History Prize have made the following announcements.

The Chair of the Judges for the Wolfson History Prize 2018 will be **Professor Sir David Cannadine**, currently Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University and President of the British Academy. Joining him on the judging panel will be **Professor Sir Richard Evans** of the University of Cambridge; **Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch** of the University of Oxford; and, for the first time, **Professor Carole Hillenbrand** of the Universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews.

Educated at Cambridge, Oxford and Edinburgh, Carole Hillenbrand OBE FBA FRSE FR Hist. Soc., has been Professor Emerita of Islamic History at the University of Edinburgh since 2008 and Professorial Fellow of Islamic History at the University of St Andrews since 2013. She has held Visiting Fellowships in America and the Netherlands. She was awarded an Honorary Life Fellowship at Somerville College, Oxford in 2010 and a Corresponding Fellowship of the Medieval Academy of America in 2012. She was the first non-Muslim and the first woman to receive the King Faisal International Prize in Islamic Studies in 2005 and was awarded the British Academy/Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize for Global Cultural Understanding in 2016.

Professor Hillenbrand said: "I am honoured and delighted to be joining the panel of judges for the Wolfson History Prize. The many books considered for this distinguished award testify to the sheer reach and importance of history as a discipline. The study of history offers a career to the few but recreation to the many, and, beyond that, it has a perennial relevance to human affairs, not just in the past but right now, in our own turbulent times, and we all do well to learn its lessons."

First established in 1972, and awarded annually, Britain's foremost history prize promotes and encourages standards of excellence in the writing of readable and scholarly history suitable for a general audience. Previous winners of this prestigious award have included: Antony Beevor (for *Stalingrad*), Ian Kershaw (for *Hitler 1936-1945: Nemesis*), Antonia Fraser (for *The Weaker Vessel: Woman's Lot in Seventeenth-Century England*), Simon Schama (for *Patriots and Liberators: Revolution in the Netherlands, 1780-1813*) and Mary Beard (for *Pompeii: The Life of a Roman Town*). The winner of the Wolfson History Prize (2017) was Christopher de Hamel, for *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts*, published by Allen Lane.

Six shortlisted titles will be announced on Monday 16 April 2018, with the overall winner being revealed at a reception at Claridge's, London, on Monday 4 June 2018. The winning author will receive a prize of £40,000, with the five remaining shortlisted writers being awarded a prize of £4,000 each.

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation said: "We are very much looking forward to this year's Wolfson History Prize. The Prize remains the most lucrative and prestigious award available for historians in the UK and we are grateful to our expert panel of judges. It is a particular pleasure to welcome Carole Hillenbrand this year. She is a highly distinguished historian of the early Islamic period – and her expertise and breadth of perspective will be a huge asset to the Prize."

Note to editors

First awarded by the Wolfson Foundation in 1972, the Wolfson History Prize remains a beacon of the best historical writing being produced in the UK, reflecting qualities of both readability and excellence in writing and research. You can find out more at www.wolfson.org.uk/history-prize, and connect via [#WolfsonHistoryPrize](https://twitter.com/WolfsonHistoryPrize) and facebook.com/WolfsonHistoryPrize

The Wolfson Foundation (www.wolfson.org.uk) is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science, health, education and the arts. Since 1955 it has awarded over £800 million (£1.7 billion in real terms) to some 10,000 projects across the UK, all on the basis of expert peer review. Connect via twitter [@wolfsonfdn](https://twitter.com/wolfsonfdn) and facebook.com/wolfsonfoundation

The members of the judging panel are available for interview. For further information please contact: Alex Hippisley-Cox on 07921 127077 or email her at ahipcoxpr@btconnect.com