



# ROYAL STUDIES JOURNAL

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VI

*The Royal Studies Journal and The  
University of Winchester Early  
Career Researcher/Postgraduate  
Researcher Prizes*

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## **The 2019 *Royal Studies Journal* and The University of Winchester Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher Article Prize and Book Prize Report**

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**I**t is with great pleasure that I write to report upon, and announce, the outcomes of the Royal Studies Journal and The University of Winchester Prize campaigns for 2019.

### **Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher's Article Prize**

First, I turn your attention to our Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher's Article Prize. This year we received a very strong field of eight submissions—some published, some unpublished. As was the case for last year, the articles received ranged widely across topics and time periods, and the field was exceptionally—and gratifyingly—strong. You might recall that last year we had a tie for first place, as it would have been unfair to have chosen one equally judged submission over the other. Dr Alison Creber (Kings College London) received the 2018 award for her unpublished article, “The Princely Woman and the Emperor: Imagery of Female Rule in Benzo of Alba’s *Ad Heinricum IV*” (which was subsequently published in volume 5, issue 2 of the RSJ). Jessica O’Leary (Monash University, Australia) tied for the same prize for her published article, “Politics, Pedagogy, and Praise: Three Literary Texts Dedicated to Eleonora d’Aragona, Duchess of Ferrara.”

This year, we almost had another tie, with two published articles vying for first place. “Constructions of Queenship: Envisioning Women’s Sovereignty in *Havelok*,” by Dr Emma O’Loughlin Bérat (an independent researcher and research associate at the University of Bonn), was a strong contender.<sup>1</sup> Her distinguished reader observed that Bérat picked up on, and read acutely, the changing views that the poem explores of the possibility of female rulership by making good use of contemporary feminist scholarship on ideas of medieval queenship, proposing a range of medieval queens whose memory the poem might prompt. Like her reader, the prize judges felt that Bérat’s article deserved to be highly commended for its contribution to the field of royal and monarchical studies.

All of that taken into account, however, the ultimate winner of our 2019 Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher Article Prize stood out from this year’s very competitive field. We are thrilled therefore to announce that “A Queenly Affinity? Catherine of Aragon’s Estates and Henry VIII’s Great Matter,” by Dr Michelle Beer (an independent researcher based in Oakland, CA) was the ultimate prize-winning submission. Here is what her distinguished reader had to say in evaluating Dr Beer’s article for prize consideration:

An important, much needed study of the practice of queenship in the reign of Catherine of Aragon and an entirely new approach to the divorce ... This study extends the discussion of the queen’s estates beyond the Middle Ages, which has been the subject of excellent studies, to the early modern period

where there are few. A long-overdue serious study of her as queen, not as a much-loved and then cast-off wife ... The concluding points are quite strong and convincing about using longevity of loyalty to Catherine as a way to interpret the power of the bonds created by the queen's affinity. Her final point about how Catherine leveraged her reginal estates during the divorce trial is a significant element that has not been examined by others.

Michelle could not attend the formal announcement of her prize-winning entry, which was held during our eighth annual Kings and Queens Conference, *Resilio ergo Regno*, at a sunset reception in the magnificent surroundings of the Monastero dei Benedettini in Catania, Sicily. However, she sent us some kind and thoughtful words of thanks and appreciation:

I'm humbled to be awarded the Royal Studies Journal article prize for my work. The Royal Studies Journal; the prize's sponsor, The University of Winchester; and the Royal Studies Network's community of scholars have been both inspiring and supportive to me professionally for years, and I'm honoured to be recognized by them. This article is based on some of my earliest research as a graduate student, and I am so proud that other scholars have found its argument persuasive. Thank you again!

We are fortunate indeed to have been granted permission to re-publish Michelle's article in this issue of the Royal Studies Journal. I hope that you will find it as erudite and enlightening as we have.

Before moving on to the book prize announcement, we would like to mention three unpublished articles, all of which cover research from very promising postgraduate researchers in the field of royal and monarchical studies, which their readers and judges believe warrant mention and commendation:

- Louise Gay (Master's Student at the Université Toulouse II Jean-Jaurès): "Des commandements militaires féminins en guerre sainte: Marguerite de Provence et Sagar al-Durr lors de la septième croisade";
- Samuel Lane (DPhil Student at the University of Oxford): "Propaganda, Piety, and Politics in the Fifteenth Century: Henry V's vernacular War Letters to the City of London"; and
- Andrew Lind (PhD Researcher at the University of Glasgow): "'You may take the head from my shoulders, but not my heart from my sovereign': Understanding Scottish Royalist Allegiances During the British Civil Wars, 1639-1651."

All three of these postgraduate scholars were invited to submit their work for potential publication in the Royal Studies Journal. Since nominating their research for consideration for this year's Article Prize, two of their number have had their work accepted for publication elsewhere. The third entrant will indeed be putting forward a submission for our editors' consideration. The original research of these three postgraduate scholars is another clear indicator—if one were needed—of the burgeoning vibrancy and interest in the field of royal and monarchical studies. The whole point of the Royal Studies Journal Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher award is to encourage and nourish emerging scholars in our increasingly diverse and wide-ranging fields of endeavour.

## **Book Prize**

Now, to the book prize. This year we received three strong submissions—although we would have liked to have received more. That said, however, all three nominations were

uniformly competitive and worthy of consideration by their reviewers and judges. Having carefully considered the expert readers' reports, the judges have awarded the 2019 Royal Studies Journal and The University of Winchester Book Prize to Dr Lucy Pick (self-described medieval historian by day, historical novelist by night; formerly of the University of Chicago (1996-2018) in the post of Senior Lecturer in the History of Christianity) for her monograph, *Her Father's Daughter: Gender, Power, and Religion in the Early Spanish Kingdoms* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017). Her distinguished peer reviewers said this regarding Lucy's exacting study:

This is a very mature, excellently researched, engaging and fluently written study, which focuses on royal women and their central roles in the power structures of the northern Iberian Kingdoms from the eighth to the twelfth century. ... Pick's volume is a significant contribution to the field of Iberian monarchical studies.

As was the case for Dr Beer, Dr Pick could not be with us in Catania to accept her award. However, she requested that we pass on her thanks and, moreover, her apposite thoughts regarding the importance of royal and monarchical studies to our understanding of the mechanisms of power in our contemporary fast-paced and globalized societies. Lucy's musings are very worthy of our attention and contemplation:

I am tremendously honoured to be the recipient of the Royal Studies Journal Book prize for 2019. I only wish I could be there with you all. The field of Royal Studies is important because it allows us to attend to the subject of power and its myths in a way that is highly relevant for our own world. We learn that the notion of monarchy as the rule of a single all-powerful male with perfect agency and sovereignty, is a fiction. In my book, I attended to the networks of people that support the power of monarchy. Such networks are not simply an abstraction modern scholars make from contemporary relationships. Our historical actors were as eager as we are to insist on their location within networks of power, and to make them visible. These networks were among the sources of the power held by a royal woman like Urraca Fernández, who was at the centre of my book. They were networks of people, royal and noble, ecclesiastical and lay. Urraca, like many of her fellows, linked women together, donors to recipients, and herself to sources of spiritual power.

Thinking of power as something we have and can use because of our situation in series of networks has contemporary implications. Looking at power itself not as a finite substance, as something some people have so others don't, but rather as something that we deploy in our relationships with others can make us recognize our own power, the power of each individual, limited though it may be, at a time when a lot of us feel pretty powerless. The power we have now in our own lives lies in the networks of relationships we build, the communities we are part of, the leadership we show in them, and the influence we wield.

In closing this annual prize report, we have an exciting announcement to make regarding our two stand-alone prize schemes moving forward. Having received a new prize sponsor in The University of Winchester, we felt that this was an ideal moment to reconsider our prize campaigns. After consultation and considerable discussion, and in the interests of streamlining our annual campaign, doubling our annual prize purse, and concentrating our efforts, we have determined to refresh and re-launch our annual prize campaign. From next year onwards we will award one annual alternating prize worth £100 per year for:

\* Best Book of Scholarship in monarchical and/or royal studies (monograph or edited collection) on any subject and in any discipline (even years for the preceding two-year period)

\* Best Early Career Researcher/Postgraduate Researcher Article/Chapter of Scholarship in monarchical and/or royal studies on any subject and in any discipline (odd years for the preceding two-year period).

This means that next year's Royal Studies Journal and The University of Winchester annual prize for 2020 (an even year) will be open to the Best Book of Scholarship in monarchical studies and/or royal studies (monograph or edited collection) on any subject, covering any time period and geographical location, and in any discipline. Keep your eyes peeled on social media platforms and the Royal Studies Journal and Royal Studies Network websites for links to our competition details and submission guidelines, which will be available very soon.

Finally, and most importantly, I take this opportunity to thank all those authors (and nominators) who submitted articles and books for the judges' consideration. For me personally, it is an honour indeed to faire un tour through new, diverse, and exciting contributions and perspectives to and in the field of monarchical and royal studies. I would also like to express our boundless gratitude for the scholarly generosity and goodwill of our distinguished peer reviewers and prize judges. This award would not be possible without their valuable insights and finely honed expertise.