

London Renaissance Seminar Contribution Awards 2020-21

The LRS is delighted to name three scholars for outstanding contributions to the field of the Renaissance in 2020.



As an established researcher, **Professor Jennifer Richards** is an internationally leading scholar in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, and has made major contributions to the discipline over the course of her career. Her published research on Renaissance rhetoric, the history of reading, medical humanities, and soundscapes has been ground-breaking, influential, and award-winning. Her work as General Editor of the Oxford Edition of the Works of Thomas Nashe is a model of generous and supportive leadership for collaborative research, while her editorship of *Renaissance Studies* helped to sustain the intellectual conversations necessary to the health of the field. Professor Richards has also made major institutional contributions, both at the University of Newcastle and through funding councils and learned societies; many early career researchers, too, will attest to the value of her mentorship and support.

Dr Rachel Willie is an internationally recognized mid-career scholar who researches the intersection between seventeenth-century literature and the Bible, and deserves high praise for these achievements alone. She has also made an exceptional contribution to our field during the particularly difficult period of 2020/21 by fostering an online scholarly community through the Society for Renaissance Studies. Rachel has curated many events and seminars during the pandemic, and these have been recognized by her peers as exemplary in terms of both their quality and organization. Rachel is committed to public engagement, including work in schools, and advocates on behalf of early career researchers and scholars of colour. She is a terrific example of what can be achieved in our field, even during these most difficult times, and we are delighted to recognize her varied accomplishments with this award.

In the early career category, **Dr Natalya Din-Kariuki's** study of transnational and transcultural encounters and modes of cosmopolitanism in early modern travel writing promises to reshape and enlarge our notion of what constitutes literature during the early modern period. Her examination of these writings through the lens of classical rhetoric and humanist pedagogy address and change established and growing fields in significant ways. Recently appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick, Dr Din-Kariuki has received recognition for the promise and importance of her research by the award of postdoctoral fellowships by the University of Leeds, the Folger Institute in Washington, DC, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

In an impressive field, the panel of assessors also want to mention Lubaaba Al-Azami, Katherine Heavey, Islam Issa, Andy Kesson, Alice Leonard, Robert Stagg and Gillian Woods.

We would like to thank all nominators and, particularly, the panel of assessors, Katharine Craik, James Loxley and Mihoko Suzuki.