

And the Winner is...? Prizes and Awards in Arts and Culture

Monday 4th June 2018

One day symposium hosted by CAMEo Research Institute for Cultural and Media Economies,
University of Leicester

Keynote Speaker: Dr Anna Auguscik (University of Oldenburg)
author of *Prizing Debate: The Fourth Decade of the Booker Prize and the Contemporary Novel in the UK*. (Bielefeld: transcript, 2017).

'The custom of awarding prizes, medals, or trophies to artists [...] is both an utterly familiar and unexceptional practice and a profoundly strange and alienating one.'

- James F English, *Economy of Prestige: Prizes, Awards and the Circulation of Cultural Value* (2005), p.1

What is a cultural prize? Who receives them, and why? This one day symposium seeks to bring together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to discuss cultures of prize-giving, and the diverse range of cultural prizes and awards now circulating within the cultural industries, arts and wider creative economy. Cultural awards can be defined as prizes and honours gifted to cultural products, or their creators/producers, as signification of the product's high quality or prestige. Yet the status of such prizes and the ways in which they are imagined, created and allocated can tell us much about the politics of value and participation in the arts and cultural industries. The symposium provides the opportunity to discuss and compare research, approaches and methodologies with peers from other disciplinary fields in order to help develop a greater, and more comprehensive, understanding of cultural awards today.

Papers that foster broad and interdisciplinary discussion are invited from scholars researching cultural prizes and awards in the following or related fields:

- Publishing, Literature and Writing
- Craft and Design
- Food and Drink
- Film and Television
- Radio and Music
- Performing and Visual Arts
- Video Games

The kinds of themes and areas speakers may want to address include but are not limited to:

- Prestige and forms of capital
- Cultures of judgement and evaluation
- The spectacle and scandal of award culture
- Inclusion and diversity in award culture
- The role of sponsors (both corporate and philanthropic)
- The impact of awards in popular culture
- Dissemination and marketing (both of award winners and cultural awards themselves)

We also welcome papers from those who have new and innovative approaches to looking at award culture (i.e. crowdfunding finance models, competitive reality television, industry awards and their impact on working practices).

Dr Anna Auguscik will give a keynote lecture during the day based on research from her new book *Prizing Debate: The Fourth Decade of the Booker Prize and the Contemporary Novel in the UK* which was published in June 2017.

If you are interested in contributing a paper (20 minutes maximum), please submit a 150-word abstract and 100 word bio to cameo@le.ac.uk by 5pm, Monday 2nd April 2018. Registration for this event will be free of charge.