

2018

Newsletter of the Department of English (NODE)



Department of English

International Islamic University, Islamabad

Editorial Team



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Editorial

In its fourth year, the node of our NODE has already grown into a fruit-laden branch! The sections that follow show how great this branch is in its presentation of the fruit it carries.

Switch from this botanical metaphor, put on a lens of personification and you would see that NODE now has a big eye to keep on things happening not just within the department but also around the globe. Its hands are great at handling the stuff it deems useful. It keeps its files and folders neat!

In the reports section, you would see it applauding faculty publications, lectures, seminars and workshops organized by the Contemporary Poetics Forum, the Career Counselling Society and the English Literary Society. In the students' corner, you would find it telling the success tales of our inspiring local and international students and our alumni. Fond of literature, it also compiles information on who made it to receiving the greatest literary prizes around the world.

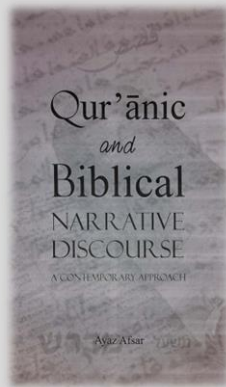
If you like what NODE brings to you, please contribute your stories!



News Section

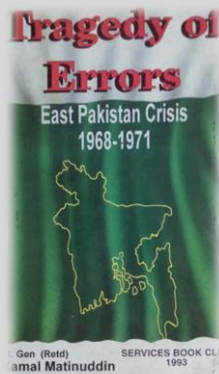
Research and Publications

Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar published an article titled “A Descriptive Study of Hindko Segmental Features” in the *Kashmir Journal of Language Research* (Vol. 21, no. 1, 87-96).

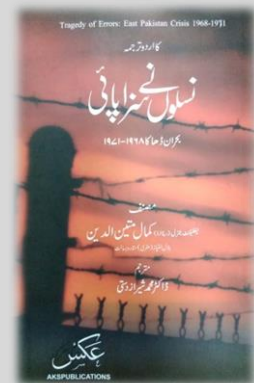


Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar has been working on a book (forthcoming) titled *Qur'anic and Biblical Narrative Discourse*.

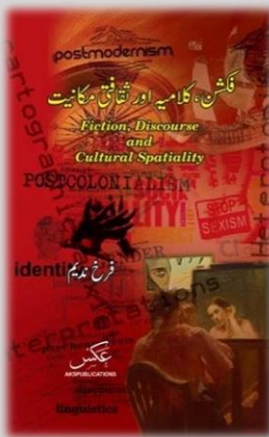
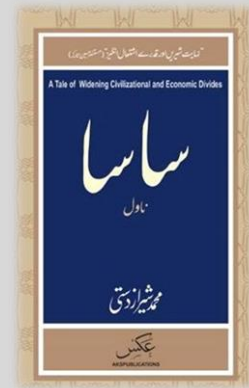
The book is currently with the publisher and will be released soon.



Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz translated the book *Tragedy of Errors* into Urdu. The book was published by Aks Publications.



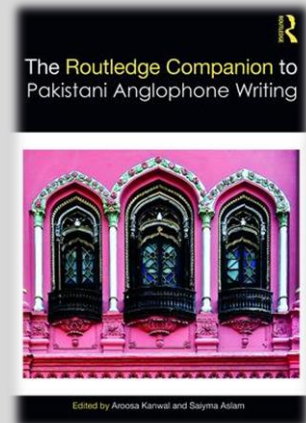
Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz published a novel in Urdu.
The book was published by Aks Publications.



Mr. Farrukh Nadeem published a book in Urdu called
Fiction, Discourse, and Cultural Spatiality.
The book was published by Aks Publications.

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal and Dr. Saiyma Aslam
edited *The Routledge Companion to Pakistani
Anglophone Writing*.

Papers written by Ms. Usma Abid Ansaari
and Ms. Asma Mansoor were published
as chapters in the collection.





Dr. Aroosa Kanwal published an article titled “Apology or no Apology: Indigenous Models of Subjection and Emancipation in Pakistani Anglophone Fiction” in the *Journal of International Women's Studies* (Vol. 19, no. 6, 118-131).

Fresh PhD and MPhil Scholars

*The Following Students have Successfully
Finished their PhD:*

Muhammad Ajmal Khan

Saleem Akhtar Khan

Muhammad Ali

Waheed Ahmad Khan

Ameer Sultan

*The Following Students have Successfully
Finished their MPhil Degree:*

Waqas Ahmad

Muhammad Numan

Faheem Khaliqdad Awan

Syed Mukhtar Hussain Shah

Haleem Khan

Aqib Javaid Parry

Muzaffar Hussain

Muhammad Qasim

Mueen Akhtar Thair

Fawad Khan

Muhammad Arif Amanat

Qasim Jamil Usmani

Book Launch

“Fiction, Discourse, and Cultural Spatiality”

By Mr. Farrukh Nadeem



The book launching ceremony for Mr. Farrukh Nadeem’s book *فکشن، کلامیہ، اور ثقافتی مکانات* (*Fiction, Discourse, and Cultural Spatiality*) was held on the 16th of May 2018 at the Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium of the International Islamic University. Mr. Farrukh is a lecturer at the department of English and teaches subjects related to creative writing, literary criticism, and American Literature. The event was hosted jointly by the

department, the English Literary Society, the Contemporary Poetics Forum, and the Literary Society of Pakistan. The ceremony began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by observations and remarks by various scholars, including Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz Dasti, Dr. Humaira Ishfaq, Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, Dr. Kamran Kazmi, Mr. Rafaqat Raazi, Dr. Munazza Yaqoob, and Dr. Muawar Iqbal Gondal. Apart from appreciating his work, the speakers also asked Mr. Farrukh some questions regarding the book and urged him to translate it into English. Mr. Farrukh also thanked everyone for their comments and answered questions raised by the audience. Copies of the book were also available for purchase and were signed by Mr. Farrukh if asked.

IIUI Holds 2-Day

“CASS/IIUI Workshop in Corpus Linguistics”

The Department of English organized the “CASS/IIUI Workshop in Corpus Linguistics” in collaboration with Lancaster University’s Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Sciences (CASS). Dr. Andrew Hardie, a renowned corpus linguist from Lancaster University, was the resource person of the lectures and trainings that were held on the 22nd and 23rd of October, 2018. Forty eight participants from eleven different universities of Pakistan attended the workshop, which was a continuation of the Corpus Linguistics Workshops held in IIUI in 2012 and 2015. In the closing ceremony, Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, and Dr. Khalid Mahmood emphasized the need for research in corpus linguistics in Pakistan and they thanked Dr. Hardie for making the whole thing possible.



Contemporary Poetics Forum

Originally called the Contemporary Poetics Series, the Contemporary Poetics Forum was conceived in the spring semester, 2018, and launched formally in the fall semester. The goal of the forum is to conduct literary and academic activities and promote a culture of learning in Pakistan. The Forum aims at exposing students to the latest research in their field and bringing them in contact with major critics and writers. The following sessions were arranged by the CPF this year:

1. *Book Launching Ceremony ("Fiction, Discourse, and Cultural Spatiality" by Farrukh Nadeem)* in collaboration with the English Literary Society and Literary Society of Pakistan (16 May 2018)
2. *Abdullah Hussein (1931-2015): Pakistan's Chronicler of Defiance and Hope* with Mr. Raza Naeem (17 September 2018)
3. *The Self, the Subject, and the Author* with Mr. Shehryar Khan (03 October 2018)
4. *The Art and Craft of Creative Writing* with Mr. M. Hameed Shahid (10 October 2018)
5. *Literature and Life* with Mr. Munir Fayyaz (17 October 2018)
6. *Literature as Conversation* with Dr. Sibghatullah Khan (24 October 2018)
7. *Literature and Sufism* with Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir (31 October 2018)
8. *Pakistani English Literature: Emergence of a New Voice* with Mr. Harris Khalique (15 November 2018)
9. *Paracolonialism: A Case Study of Post-1988 Anglophone Pakistani Fiction* with Dr. Ali Usman Saleem (20 November 2018)
10. *Morpho Phonemic and Thematic Study of Selected Quranic Chapters* with Dr. Ahsan ur-Rahman (28 November 2018)
11. *The Presence of a Language: Cross-Lingual Influences in Creative Writing* with Mr. Aamer Hussain (29 November 2018)
12. *New Questions in Literary Criticism* with Mr. Qasim Yaqoob (6 December 2018)
13. *Nature and its Poetics* with Mr. Wajahat Malik (12 December 2018)
14. *Becoming Iftikhar Arif: A Literary Journey* with Iftikhar Arif (18 December 2018)
15. *The New Modernist Studies: Current Trends in US Literary Criticism* with Dr. Laura Ann Winkiel (26 December 2018)
16. *Poetry Reading* with Mr. Raza Ali Hasan (26 December 2018)
17. *Critical Theory and Challenges for Students in Research* with Prof. Dr. Abdul Wahab Suri (27 December 2018)



Character Building and Career Counselling Society

The Character Building & Career Counselling Society was formed to help the students of the department acquire sound character building traits, strong personality development tools, and professional career-based skills and to thus be able to aim higher and achieve more, both as students as well as members of the academia and the community. The society was formed in the semester of fall 2018 and arranged the following sessions immediately after being launched:



1. *Character Building for the Youth in light of the Life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ* with Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman Asim (December 2018)

English Literary Society (Male Section)

1) ELS Reading Circles

- “Never Stop on the Motorway” by Jeffrey Archer (3 May 2018)
- “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” by Rudyard Kipling (25 September 2018)



ELS Reading Circles allow students to express their views on various literary and popular texts and to discuss and analyse them without any intervention from the teachers’ side. Two reading circles were held this year and were moderated by ELS members.

2) Seminars, Workshops, and Other Activities

- *Creative Writing (Writing Fiction)* with Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, in collaboration with Lincoln Corner, Islamabad (13 March 2018)
- *Book Launching Ceremony (“Fiction, Discourse, and Cultural Spatiality” by Farrukh Nadeem)* in collaboration with the Contemporary Poetics forum and Literary Society of Pakistan (16 May 2018)
- *Seven Steps to Outlining a Plot (Based on an Article by K. M. Weiland)* with Muhammad Munhib Shah (MPhil Student) (17 May 2018)
- *What is Literature?* with Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, and Mr. Mahmood ul Hasan (14 September 2018)



Awards and Achievements

Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar was appointed
Dean of the Faculty of Languages and
Literature



Dr Aroosa Kanwal won the
Professional Achievement Award from
the British Council Alumni Awards, 2018.

Dr. Amal Sayyid, Dr. Uzma Abid Ansaari,
and Dr. Rafia Bilal completed their PhD.



Students' Corner

Be a Student as long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life. (Henry L. Doherty)



Meet our Students!



Shah Usman Riwayat is currently studying in the final term of the BS programme. He is actively involved in organizing different sessions with the English Literary Society and is also a former Friend of Corner (FOC) at the Lincoln Corner, Islamabad. Talking to NODE, Usman stated that he wanted to study literature despite having been a pre-engineering student in high school. When asked why that was so, he said that “Literature is directly concerned with our lives and with our day-to-day activities. It talks of human values, a topic which is just as important as but not the main concern of science subjects.” He also discussed his experience of studying literature at the department, saying that it has taught him to accept the fact that people have differing opinions. Usman said that he is inspired by the works of Charles Dickens because of how they highlight social issues and raise questions regarding human values and society. He also claims to be a fan of Shakespeare’s dramas because of their artistic use of language and the fact that they are still relevant to our lives. Regarding the various challenges that he faced in his studies, he said that interacting with scholars and literary personalities was difficult for him at first, but he refused to give up and was thus able to improve his skills of communication. He believes that he has grown a lot and that the combination of academic and co-curricular activities that he found in the department was really helpful for him.

We would like to congratulate him on his successes and wish him best of luck in the final year of his studies!

Meet our International Students!

Zhan Zi Fen (Ahmad) is a Chinese student of the department currently in his final term. He is from the Qinghai province of China, which is a Muslim majority area in the North-Western part of the country and also home to the Qinghai Lake. Ahmad’s father is a retired government employee and a lawyer by profession. He also has a younger brother who is studying computer science. Regarding his academic background, Zhan says that he studied at the Guang He Foreign Language Vocational College and the Xun Hua High School. He also said that he has spent more than two years in a *Ma’had*, from where he received his basic religious education.



When asked about his journey from China to Pakistan, Zhan said that he was brought up in a religious family and that his father used to stress the need for effective and practical education. This, he said, inspired him to pursue a career in Islamic Studies as he had already studied the basics of that discipline and had a good grip on the Arabic language. He applied for several foreign universities, hoping to get admission in Libya, but this dream was shattered when the Libyan Civil War broke out. By then, Zhan had gotten married and it was his wife who then convinced him to study in Pakistan.

Zhan also mentioned that he came to the International Islamic University in order to study the Islamic Sciences. However, after having passed his English Language Proficiency Exam, Zhan realised that English was used more commonly in the department than Arabic. Disappointed at first, Zhan then resolved to get admission in the English department because of the importance that this language has gained in the contemporary world. Soon after, Zhan had become part of the BS programme.



Regarding the various challenges he faced, Zhan said that he initially had to face a lot of problems because of his poor language skills. He also said, however, that after spending more than three years in the department, he has improved a lot. He also mentioned that he is currently one of the few Chinese students who have been able to reach the final term of the programme, with many others giving up halfway through. Talking about the university and the department, he also said that he found the people here to be caring, respectful, and of good moral character. He is also of the opinion

that having separate male and female departments allows both genders to seek equal opportunities for learning and that it is a positive step on the part of the administration. He is thankful to his teachers and friends for supporting him, and says that he really likes the cultural diversity in Pakistan and the generosity that the Pakistani people have shown him. He also mentioned that he really enjoys the local food.

Zhan has been blessed with an adorable two year old daughter named Sana, and the greatest sacrifice that he has had to make is perhaps to live far from his family in order to get an education.

We wish him best of luck in his studies and in all future endeavours!

The Alumni Corner

Dr. Ali Usman Saleem, Assistant Professor of English at Government College University Faisalabad, belongs to Toba Tek Singh. His early education is from Faisalabad. He did his Masters in English Literature from Government College University Lahore in 2002, M.Phil from International Islamic University Islamabad in 2011, and PhD from University of Bedfordshire, UK in 2015. During his Masters he was President of the Dramatics Club at GCU Lahore and acted in and produced various theatrical performances for which he won the Roll of Honour. He was also the editor of Beacon (English section), the prestigious annual student magazine of New Hostel GCUL. He taught at Forman Christian College University Lahore from 2003-2004. In 2004 he joined Government College University Faisalabad as a lecturer and then got promoted to the position of Assistant Professor in 2015. At GCUF he has also served as Director Students Affairs for about two years and, being a strong advocate of student empowerment, helped transform the traditional campus culture to a more vibrant and interactive student-centred one. He strongly believes in the role of universities in promoting



arts and cultural activities as a tool to bring peace, harmony, and instilling a sense of community building in the society.



He has helped in organizing two international conferences in the field of Literature and Linguistics in Faisalabad during the last two years. He is currently supervising two PhD students and has supervised more than 20 M.Phil theses. His area of interest is Pakistani Literature in English, South Asian Literature, and 9/11 and War on Terror Discourse and Literature. The title of his PhD research was *Paracolonialism: A Case of Post-1988 Anglophone Pakistani Fiction*, which he completed under the supervision of Prof. Alexis Weedon. Prof. Alexis Weedon is Research Professor of Publishing in Research

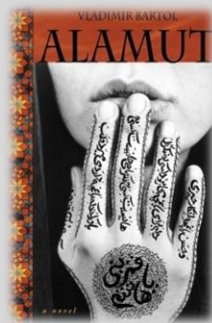
Institute for Media, Art and Performance and UNESCO Chair in New Media Forms of the Book. Dr. Saleem's research argues that, being embedded in the socio-political milieu of the country, Anglophone Pakistani fiction provides a critical perspective on some of the important contemporary issues facing the country, such as feminism, class struggle, misuse of religious discourse, sectarianism, terrorism, and fragmentation of the Pakistani society. By contextualizing the works of four Pakistani fiction writers, Sara Suleri, Kamila Shamsie, Mohsin Hamid, and Mohammed Hanif in the theoretical paradigms of modernism, postmodernism, and postcolonialism, his research identifies salient facets and characteristics of Pakistani Anglophone fiction produced during the last three decades.

More importantly, his research identifies a shift in postcolonial writings and narrative techniques. Instead of contextualizing their work in the colonial experience of the British Raj or its aftermath, Pakistani writers consciously dissociate themselves from it and use this dissociation as a narrative strategy to hold the current indigenous leadership accountable for the socio-political chaos in Pakistan. The thesis argues that this characteristic of Anglophone Pakistani fiction indicates the emergence of a new phase, 'Paracolonialism' or 'Paracolonial fiction,' which rejects the influence of colonialism on the socio-economic and political crisis of the Third World countries and deconstructs various factors which led to their post-independence unstable economy and social fragmentation.

Reviews and Recommendations

Vladimir Bartol's *Alamut*

Set in medieval Persia, Vladimir Bartol's novel takes one into the world of cults and cult politics. It has been read, over the years, as an allegory for Mussolini's Italy and recently the September attacks of 2011. At a surface level, the novel reinforces stereotypes of the east as being a mysterious, charming, and fantastic world that is at the same time fanatical and dangerous, but at a deeper level, it also depicts medieval Persia as being a complex society. Through the depiction of Hasan bin al-Sabah and the Hashishin, Bartol has brought to life an interesting chapter of Persian political history, and through it he has revealed how ideology and



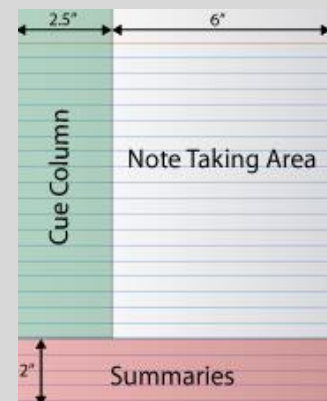
discourse work on the minds of people and how they are used by those in power to achieve what they desire. It also presents the readers with a number of unique characters, each having their own reasons for believing in al-Sabah's discourse. The characters are not mere types but alive, and the writer is able to maintain an element of mystery around the cult leader and also depict the thoughts and feelings of his other characters with expert ability. The novel is pleasant to read and thought provoking at the same time.

The Cornell System for Taking Notes

Note: The diagram has been taken from the following web-page.
<http://campusgrotto.com/cornell-note-taking-method.html>

Introduced by Walter Pauk and Ross J. Q. Owens in their book *How to Study in College*, the Cornell Note-Taking System is a method of note-taking that allows students to engage critically with any material they are reading or with the lectures they are attending in class. The Cornell System works by dividing the page into three sections:

1. The Note-Taking Area: This is the largest area on the page and the place where you mind-map, draw outlines, use arrows and connectors, and doodle as you read a book or listen to the teacher. This is, in other words, the place where you write your notes.
2. The Cue Column: This area is to the left of the page and is reserved for writing down headings, keywords, memos, sudden ideas and insights, questions for research later on or to ask at the end of the lecture, and references and sources which are recommended by your teacher or which you think might prove helpful. The purpose behind having a separate column for this is to allow you to organise your notes and at the same time to critically comment on what you are studying, as well as to have a set of quick reminders when you sit down to revise over the weekend.
3. The Summary Column: This is a small strip of paper at the bottom of the page and also the most crucial part of the Cornell System. The idea is that a few minutes after the lecture, one should write a short summary of what was discussed. Doing so allows one to consolidate their knowledge by quickly processing it, and the act of shortening it allows one to filter out unneeded information from the important parts. Also, it allows one to test their understanding and to note down any questions that they may need to research on over the weekend. It also makes revising your notes easy as you will not have to read the whole thing all over again in the future.



The basic idea behind the Cornell method is that in order to learn one has to critically engage with the material being discussed. This is why it requires us to write keywords and questions in the cue column, since doing so forces us to be more active in listening to the lecture. Similarly, writing a short summary afterwards allows one to check their understanding and to consolidate what was just discussed. And as long as the student is doing this, he or she need not follow this method completely and they may choose to adapt it or to use a different system that they have developed by themselves. The basic principle behind the Cornell System may be applied to reading as well as to classroom discussions, and if used effectively, it is a good starting point towards developing a personalised note-taking system.


For more information on note-taking methods

1. Pauk, Walter, and Ross J. Q. Owens. *How to Study in College*. 10th ed. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011. pp. 235-300.
2. Frank, Thomas. *10 Steps to Earning Awesome Grades (While Studying Less)*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015. pp.17-28.

Printable Templates based on the Cornell System

<https://www.uhv.edu/media/uhv/content-assets/documents/act/Cornell-Notes-Template.pdf>

<https://freeology.com/wp-content/files/cornellnotetaker2.pdf>



Literary Awards

2018

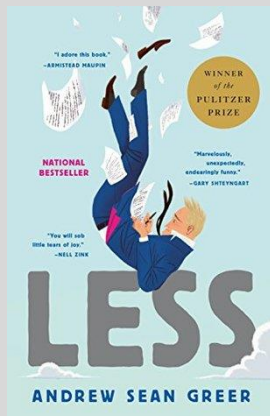
Our subject being Poetry, I propose to speak not only of the art in general but also of its species and their respective capacities; of the structure of plot required for a good poem; of the number and nature of the constituent parts of a poem; and likewise of any other matters in the same line of inquiry. (Aristotle)

Please note that a certain writer winning first prize does not mean that the others were not as good. Reading shortlisted and longlisted writers always proves to be a very beneficial and rewarding endeavour.

Major Literary Awards

The Nobel Prize in Literature

The 2018 Nobel Prize for literature has been postponed for now.

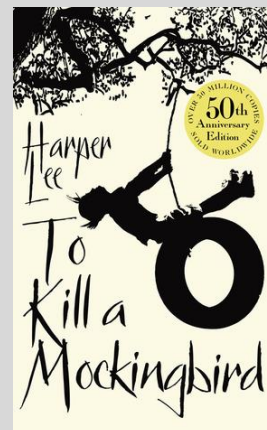


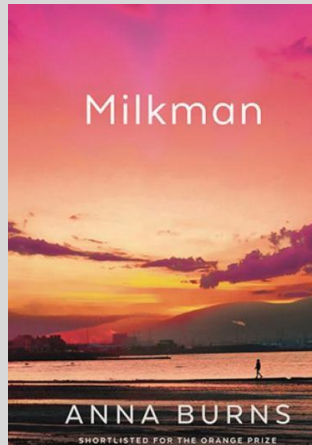
The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

The 2018 Pulitzer Prize for fiction has been won by Andrew Sean Greer's novel *Less*.

To Kill a Mockingbird
has been voted America's
most favourite novel.

For the complete list of The Great American Reads, please visit this [link](#).



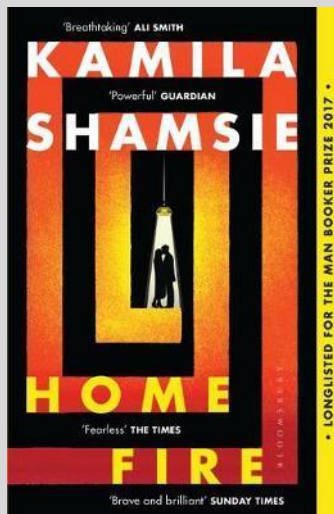
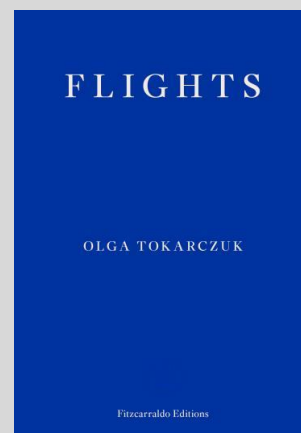


The Man Booker Prize

The 2018 Man Booker Prize has been won by Anna Burns' novel *Milkman*.

The Man Booker International

The Man Booker International has been won by Olga Tokarczuk's *Flights* (translated by Jennifer Croft).



The Women's Prize for Fiction

The Women's Prize for Fiction has been won by Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*.

The novel was also longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2017.

Awards for Popular Fiction

The Nebula Awards

N. K. Jemisin's *The Stone Sky*
(Best Novel)

Martha Wells' *All Systems Red*
(Best Novella)

Kely Robson's "A Human Strain"
(Best Novelette)

Rebecca Roanhorse's "Welcome to Your
Authentic Indian Experience™"
(Best Short Story)

Jordon Peele's *Get Out*
(Ray Bradbury Award)

Sam J. Miller's *The Art of Starving*
(Andre Norton Award)

William Gibson was also named the 35th
Damon Knight Grand Master

The Hugo Awards

N. K. Jemisin's *The Stone Sky*
(Best Novel)

Martha Wells' *All Systems Red*
(Best Novella)

Susanne Palmer's "The Secret Life of Bots"
(Best Novelette)

Rebecca Roanhorse's "Welcome to Your
Authentic Indian Experience™"
(Best Short Story)

Lois McMaster Bujold's *World of the Five
Gods*
(Best Series)

Ursula K. Le Guin's *No Time to Spare*
(Best Related Work)

Nnedi Okorafor's *Akata Warrior*
(Best Young Adult Book)

Rebecca Roanhorse
(Best New Writer)

The World Fantasy Awards

Charles de Lint
Elizabeth Wollheim
(Lifetime Achievement Award)

Ellen Klages' *Passing Strange*
(Best Novella)

The New Voices of Fantasy
(Best Anthology)

VictorE LaValle's *The Changeling*
Fonda Lee's *Jade City*
(Best Novel)

Natalia Theodoridou's
"The Birding: A Fairy Tale"
(Best Short Story)

Jane Yolen's *The Emerald Circus*
(Best Collection)

Awards for Poetry

Griffin Poetry Prize

Debths by Suson Howe
This Wound is a World by Bylly-Ray
Belcourt

Lifetime Recognition Award (Griffin Trust)

Ana Blandiana

Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry

Simon Armitage

The Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award

Conor Cleary

The National Poetry Competition

"The Open Field" by Dom Bury
"The Window" by Mary Jean
"Oiled Legs have their own Subtext" by
Momtaza Mehdi

The T. S. Eliot Prize

Night Sky with Exit Wounds
by Ocean Vuong

The Pulitzer Prize for Poetry

Half-Light by Frank Bidart

The Welsh Poetry Competition

"Prayer to a Jacaranda" by Judy Durrant
"Heft" by David J. Costello
"The Mole" by Jean James

The Frost Medal

Ron Padgett

The Walt Whitman Award

Brute by Emily Skaja

The Shelley Award

Gillian Conoley (2017)

The Wallace Stevens Award

Sonia Sanchez

The Keats-Shelley Prize

Conscientious Objector by Laurinda Lind
'Philosophic numbers smooth' by Tara Lee

The Young Romantics Prize

Storm by Allegra Mullan
'Of Liberty and Revolutions' by Mine
Kovavisarach

Awards for Drama

Governor General's Award for English-language drama

Botticelli in the Fire and Sunday in Sodom
By Jordan Tanahill

Please note that there are numerous awards for literary achievement and NODE cannot and need not cover them all. The above selection is only meant to cover some of the more well-known prizes and readers can search for more awards on the internet and even suggest what to include in later editions.

HEC Recognized Journals

Note: The list also contains journals that have applied for HEC recognition.

Journal	Institution
Kashmir Journal of Language Research	University of Azad Kashmir
ELF Annual Research Journal	Shah Abdul Latif University
Journal of Research (Humanities)	University of the Punjab (New Campus)
Me'yar (Bilingual)	International Islamic University
Journal of Contemporary Poetics	International Islamic University
Annual Journal of Language, Linguistics, and Literature	Fatima Jinnah Women's University
Pakistan Journal of Languages and Translation Studies	University of Gujrat
Journal of English Pedagogy	National University of Modern Languages
Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences	Quaid-i-Azam University

Newsletter of the Department of English

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