



DEBORAH ROGERS FOUNDATION  
*Literary Foundation & Writers' Award*

Embargoed until 8pm: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Announcement of the winner of the 2019 Deborah Rogers Foundation *David Miller Bursary*

- **Prema Raj** wins the 2019 DRF *David Miller Bursary Award* of £10,000
- **Camille Morard** and **Hana Murrell** are the runners-up

[www.deborahrogersfoundation.org](http://www.deborahrogersfoundation.org)

Supporting emerging talent in the literary world

The winner of the 2019 Deborah Rogers Foundation (DRF) *David Miller Bursary* is:

**Prema Raj** Rights Assistant at A. M. Heath Literary Agents

This was awarded today Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at a small ceremony in the offices of Rogers, Coleridge & White in London. Andrew Franklin (Chair of the Judges) introduced the three shortlisted applicants after which Lord Berkeley of Knighton (Chairman of the Deborah Rogers Foundation) announced Prema as the winner and presented her with a cheque.

The two runners-up were Camille Morard and Hana Murrell. They each received a cheque for £250.

The **DRF David Miller Bursary** is the second initiative of the **Deborah Rogers Foundation**. £10,000 is awarded to an ambitious and talented publishing professional, who has been working in either a literary agency or the rights department of a publishing house in the United Kingdom for at least two years, in order to give them the opportunity to spend eight weeks with publishers and agencies in a number of countries, thus broadening their experience at a significant stage in their career.

The judges of the 2019 DRF *David Miller* Bursary Award were:

Andrew Franklin, Chair (Managing Director of Profile Books), Sam Coates (winner of the inaugural 2017 DRF *David Miller* Bursary), William Fiennes (author and co-founder of First Story), Hannah Westland (Publisher of Serpent's Tail) and Rebecca Servadio (partner at London Literary Scouting).

The shortlist was compiled from a total of twelve applicants by a Board of Assessors who were Sam Copeland, Laurence Laluyaux and Stephen Edwards – all three Directors of RCW – together with Margaret Halton (PEW Literary), and Sam Edenborough (ILA).

Prema Raj will now select her work placements from the wide range of companies who have offered them and will take these up during the year. She has already identified areas of the publishing industry that she wishes to focus on. Tonight Prema received a cheque for £2,500 and will receive the balance of £7,500 once her plans are in place. When Prema has completed her travels she will be writing a report on her experiences which will be published on the DRF website.

The following international publishers and agencies have confirmed their willingness to work together with the DRF in sponsoring the new Bursary Award winner:-

Editorial Anagrama (Spain), Big Apple Agency (China), Capitana (Norway), De Bezige Bij (Holland), Giulio Einaudi Editore (Italy), Eric Yang Agency (Korea), Faber & Faber (UK), Fritz Agency (Switzerland), Farrar Straus and Giroux (US), Gallimard (France), Grove Atlantic (US), HarperCollins Inc (US), Hayakawa Publishing Corporation (Japan), Inkwell Management (US), Penguin Random House (UK), Profile Books (UK), Minumsa Publishing (Korea), Rosinante (Denmark) and The Agency (UK)

**Andrew Franklin**, Chair of the Judges, comments:

Rights is sometimes a neglected area of publishing but the international rights teams of publishers and literary agencies are the glue that sticks together our world of publishers and authors. So it is really fantastic that the Deborah Rogers Foundation created this bursary to showcase the best of the best. As with the first award, granted in 2017, the calibre of all the candidates is extraordinarily high. And the

winner is nothing short of amazing. We are delighted to recognise what Prema Raj has already achieved and her ambitions for her future.

**Gill Coleridge**, of Rogers Coleridge & White and Director of the Deborah Rogers Foundation comments:

One of Deborah's defining qualities was her total commitment to supporting and nurturing those with talent, whether a new author or someone within the agent and publishing community. Selling and managing rights is at the heart of our business so we set up this Bursary to help young professionals who are already working in this field develop their contacts and understanding of international publishing at a crucial point in their careers.

We are delighted by the response to this second Bursary Award and I know David Miller - who helped launch it and whose name we have now attached to it - would be too. We have a very deserving winner out of a strong shortlist and I wish Prema a very exciting and rewarding time over the coming months. We greatly look forward to hearing about her experiences.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:-**

Biography of the winner:

**Prema Raj**



Prema Raj graduated from the University of Oxford with an M.Phil in Italian Literature, having previously received a BA in Italian and English Literature from the University of Warwick in 2014. She joined A M Heath as an intern in October 2016, before taking on the permanent role of Rights Assistant. She handles translation rights for the Baltic countries, and across much of Eastern Europe, in addition to Greece, Israel, Russia and Turkey.

Biographies of the two runners-up:

**Camille Morard**



Born and raised in France, Camille Morard moved to London in 2012, right after completing her studies, graduated from a Publishing MA in Paris and a BA in French literature in Grenoble. She first joined the Foreign Rights team at the Quarto Group, discovering the world of co-editions and illustrated books. In 2015, Camille shifted to the fiction side of publishing and started as a Rights Assistant at Faber & Faber. As Rights Manager now, she currently handles translation rights across the Adult and Children's lists at Faber for Asia, Arabic language, Eastern Europe, Greece and France.

## Hana Murrell



Hana Murrell graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2012 with a BA in French and Italian, having spent her third year at the University of Bologna. After a Japanese course at Doshisha University, Kyoto, she interned at Andrew Nurnberg Associates in April 2014, which led to the position of Foreign Rights Assistant. Following Rights Manager maternity covers at Curtis Brown and then A. M. Heath, she took up her current position of Rights Manager at Blake Friedmann in August 2018. She handles translation rights in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Turkey, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia and Romania.

## **Deborah Rogers and the creation of the Foundation**

A literary agent all her professional life, Deborah Rogers (1938-2014) set up her own agency in 1967, and twenty years later formed Rogers Coleridge & White with Gill Coleridge and Pat White. One of the most influential literary agents of her generation, Deborah was renowned for her taste, her loyalty and her immense generosity in the support she gave to authors. Her sudden death sent a shockwave through the world of publishing and the many writers, publishers and agents whose lives she had touched. At the 2014 London Book Fair, Deborah was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award in International Publishing, the first agent to have received the honour.

Deborah's particular genius lay in identifying and supporting talented young people. The **Deborah Rogers Foundation (DRF)** was therefore set up in her memory to support emerging talent in the literary world specifically by means of two awards:- the **DRF Writers Award** for an unpublished writer to enable them to complete a first book, and the **DRF David Miller Bursary Award** to help a young agent gain worldwide work experience. The two awards run biennially, in alternate years. The Board is chaired by

Lord Berkeley of Knighton, and comprised of people who knew and loved Deborah, including RCW colleagues and writers Ian McEwan and William Fiennes.

### **The DRF David Miller Bursary**

The **DRF David Miller Bursary** is the second initiative of the **Deborah Rogers Foundation**. £10,000 is awarded to an ambitious and talented publishing professional, who has been working in either a literary agency or the rights department of a publishing house in the United Kingdom for at least two years, in order to give them the opportunity to spend eight weeks with publishers and agencies in a number of countries, thus broadening their experience at a significant stage in their career.

The idea for the Bursary was specifically championed by David Miller, who had worked with Deborah since 1990. His death at the age of 50 in December 2016 prompted many people in publishing to write with their memories of how David had personally helped them onward with their own career so the Board of the DRF were unanimous in attributing his name to the Bursary which he cared so much about. It was henceforth known as the **DRF David Miller Bursary**.

Applications for the 2019 Bursary opened on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and closed on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018. There were twelve applicants. Applications for the next Bursary, to be awarded in early 2021, will be invited in the summer/autumn of 2020.

### **The Deborah Rogers Foundation (DRF) Writers Award**

The third **DRF Writers Award** will be awarded in the summer of 2020. The submission date will be announced in the summer of 2019.

See the website for further details:

**[www.deborahrogersfoundation.org/writers-award](http://www.deborahrogersfoundation.org/writers-award)**

### **Winner of the 2016 DRF Writers Award:**

**Sharlene Teo / PONTI** - Picador, and the following international publishers: Aufbau Verlag GmbH & Co. KG (German), Buchet Chastel (French), Editora Intrínseca Ltda (Portuguese in Brazil), Edizioni E/O SRL (Italian), Keter Books Ltd (Hebrew), Rámus (Swedish), Simon & Schuster US (English), Teas Press Inc (Turkish), Uitgeverij De Bezige Bij bv (Dutch)

### **Runners-up of the 2016 DRF Writers Award:**

**Imogen Hermes Gowar / THE MERMAID AND MRS HANCOCK** - Harvill Secker, and the following international publishers: 21st Century (Hungarian), Albatros (Polish), Argo Publishers (Czech), Azbooka-Atticus (Russian), Bastei Lübbe Verlag (German),

Ediciones Siruela (Spanish), Editions Belfond (French), Einaudi Editore (Italian), HarperCollins US (English), Mitopeja (Croatian), Uitgeverij Atlas (Dutch)

**Guy Stagg / THE CROSSWAY** – Picador, and the following international publisher:  
Exmo Licence Limited (Russian)

**Winner of the 2018 DRF Writers Award:**

**Deepa Anappara / DJINN PATROL ON THE PURPLE LINE** – will be published by:-  
Chatto & Windus, and the following international publishers: Athenaeum/Magveto Books (Hungarian), Bokförlaget Polaris (Swedish), Book Road (Korean), Capitana Forlag (Norwegian), Companhia Das Letras (Portuguese in Brazil), Ediciones Destino (Spanish), Editions Plon un département de Place des éditeurs (French), Einaudi Stile Libero (Italian), Exmo Licence Limited (Russian), Hollands Diep (Dutch), Politikens Forlag (Danish), Random House USA (English), Rowohlt Verlag GmbH (German), S. Patakis Publications S.A. (Greek), Tchelet Books Steimatzky (Hebrew)

**Runners-up of the 2018 DRF Writers Award:**

**Chris Connolly / THE SPEED OF LIGHT AND HOW IT CANNOT HELP US**

**Dima Alzayat / ALLIGATOR & OTHER STORIES**

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## **Deborah Rogers Foundation**

The Foundation has charitable status and is supported entirely by voluntary donations. See website for further details of funding and donors:

**[www.deborahrogersfoundation.org/funding](http://www.deborahrogersfoundation.org/funding)**

**Chair:**

Lord Berkeley of Knighton CBE

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Tamsin Eastwood (Stone King LLP)  
Andrew Franklin (Profile Books)  
Dotti Irving (Four Colman Getty)  
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Zoe Waldie

For media information, please contact:

Gill Coleridge or Laurence Laluyaux  
Rogers Coleridge & White Ltd  
+44 207 221 3717  
[gill@rcwlitagency.com](mailto:gill@rcwlitagency.com)  
[l.laluyaux@rcwlitagency.com](mailto:l.laluyaux@rcwlitagency.com)

Andrew Franklin  
Profile Books Ltd  
+44 207 841 6300  
[andrew.franklin@profilebooks.com](mailto:andrew.franklin@profilebooks.com)

Dotti Irving,  
Four Colman Getty  
+44 (0) 20 3697 4240  
[Dotti.Irving@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:Dotti.Irving@fourcolmangetty.com)