

## **National Centre for Writing supports next generation of emerging literary translators**

**\*\*Embargoed 8pm Monday 30 September 2019\*\***

The winners of the Emerging Literary Translator Mentorships Programme have been announced by the National Centre for Writing (NCW) at a ceremony at Free Word on International Translation Day. Every year the programme supports a new cohort of literary translators, particularly for languages that are under-represented in English translation.

Now entering its tenth year, the prestigious scheme was founded by writer, editor and translator Daniel Hahn and is organised by the National Centre for Writing. It has so far supported 89 translators in 40 languages.

The winners of the 2019-2020 Emerging Literary Translator Mentorships Programme are:

- Italian - Elena Pala
- Korean - Rachel Park
- Norwegian - Megan Turney
- Polish - Marek Maj
- Russian - Siân Valvis
- Tilted Axis Mentorship for a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic literary translator – Yan Chen

In addition, through their Young Translators' Prize, Harvill Secker is supporting a mentorship for a translator working from French to English. This year's winner is Anna Leader.

Each mentee will be matched up with an experienced translator for a six-month period during which they work together on practical translation projects, developing their craft through working on a chosen text or texts.

The winners will go on to join alumnae such as Sophie Hughes, whose translation of Alia Trabucco Zerán's *The Remainder* was shortlisted for the 2019 Man Booker International Prize.

Chris Gribble, Chief Executive of NCW said:

'We're really pleased to support such an exciting new cohort of literary translators this year. The work of literary translators is too often undervalued in the literary world and this scheme is one way of ensuring that the brilliant work they do for readers and lovers of books attracts the investment it deserves. The translators will get support from some of the most established practitioners in the industry, all of whom are committed to opening up this vital profession to new voices. We've rarely needed more global reach in our culture than we do today and that is why we are putting literary translation at the heart of our programming at NCW.'

Yan Chen, winner of the Tilted Axis Mentorship, said:

'I'm humbled and honoured to be embarking on this journey, and I'm over the moon about having the privilege of being mentored by the versatile and prolific Jeremy Tiang, one of the leading literary translators of Chinese to English working today.'

'The National Centre for Writing has built a unique and vital support system with the Emerging Translator Mentorships programme, and it's truly heartening to witness and become part of the NCW's continued efforts to nourish early-career translators and champion voices from outside the Anglophone world.'

The mentees will showcase their work at the London Book Fair in 2020.

The Emerging Translator Mentorships Programme is supported by Arts Council England, Institut Francais, the Italian Cultural Institute, Harvill Secker, the Literary Translation Institute of Korea, the Norwegian Embassy and NORLA, the Polish Cultural Institute, Pro-Helvetia, the Russian Institute for Literary Translation and Tilted Axis Press

[www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk)

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. For comment and interviews contact Alice Kent, Communications Director  
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2. **The Patrons of the National Centre for Writing are -**  
Margaret Atwood  
John Boyne  
JM Coetzee  
Anthony Horowitz OBE  
Jon McGregor  
Kei Miller  
Sarah Perry  
Elif Shafak  
Ali Smith CBE  
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3. **About National Centre for Writing (NCW)**  
NCW is a literature development organisation based in Norwich England's first UNESCO City of Literature. The National Centre for Writing at Dragon Hall promotes great literature, inspires communities through the power of writing, reading and literary translation, nurtures literary talent and hosts world-class events. [www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk) The National Centre for Writing is supported by Arts Council England, Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and the University of East Anglia.