

Press Release 10 June 2015

The Holberg Prize awarded to Marina Warner today

The Holberg Prize was today officially awarded to British author, scholar and critic Marina Warner by H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Norway.

In a prestigious award ceremony in the Haakon's Hall, the King's banqueting hall, Dame Marina Warner today received the international research award of 4.5 million NOK (approximately €538,000 or \$735,000).

- The Holberg Prize is a most unexpected honour and I thank you for this generosity and recognition from the bottom of my heart, said the 2015 Laureate.

Imagination can save lives

Dame Marina Warner receives the prize for her work on analyzing fairy tales and myths, and how these reflect their time and place especially in relation to gender roles and culture.

- From my point of view, the idea that the imagination can save your life – Scheherazade's strategy – rightly places the emphasis on finding the myth to live by. The struggle for common ground, justice, co-existence without murderous strife needs words – not the single scripts of the fundamentalists of all kinds, but the complex, patterned, nuanced and yet no less enthralling literature made by anonymous voices in the past and authors today, the Laureate said in her speech.

Warner wishes to spend part of her prize money on cultural preservation amongst refugees and migrants.

Roots of international conflicts

Today, the Nils Klim Prize for young scholars below the age of 35 was also awarded by the Norwegian Minister of Education and Research to Danish EU-scholar Rebecca Adler-Nissen during the same ceremony. Adler-Nissen received the prize for integrating sociology into the predominantly rationalist field of international relations.

- Today, the world is struggling with a range of international conflicts and we urgently need to address the roots of these conflicts. In the coming years, I hope to advance our understanding of diplomacy together with colleagues here and across the world. I will focus on how diplomacy's focus on discretion and confidentiality can work in the age of constant media attention and communication. This question is important because it concerns, most fundamentally, the risk of conflict and possibility of peace, said Adler-Nissen in her speech.

Speeches and one photo is attached. More photos available on request.

The jury's citations and more information is available at www.holbergprisen.no/en

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