

2019 Costa Book Awards: Category Judging Panels

First Novel

The judges for the 2019 Costa First Novel Award are:



Clare Mackintosh

Author

Clare is the multi-award-winning author of *I Let You Go*, the fastest-selling title by a new crime writer in 2015. All four of her novels have been Sunday Times bestsellers and three have been selected for the Richard & Judy Book Club. Together, Clare's books have been published in more than 40 countries and sold more than two million copies worldwide.



Will Smith

Bookseller, Sam Read Bookseller, Grasmere

Will has been working at Sam Read Bookseller for six years, but he's been in the business since 2001. He has a PhD in Canadian Literature and is currently a Teaching Associate at the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication. He writes book reviews for *Cumbria Life* magazine.



Mahsuda Snaith

Writer

Mahsuda is the winner of the SI Leeds Literary Prize and Bristol Short Story Prize. Her debut novel, *The Things We Thought We Knew*, was a World Book Night Book 2019 and her second novel, *How to Find Home*, was chosen as a BBC Radio 4 'Book at Bedtime'. She was named an *Observer* New Face of Fiction in 2017.

Novel

The judges for the 2019 Costa Novel Award are:



John Boyne

Novelist

John Boyne is the author of 11 novels for adults, six for young readers and a collection of short stories, including the international bestsellers *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, *The Heart's Invisible Furies* and *A Ladder to the Sky*. His books are published in over 50 languages.



Francesca Brown

Contributing Books Editor, Stylist

Francesca is Stylist's Contributing Books Editor, working across the weekly magazine and web. Her role means she's interviewed some of contemporary fiction's greatest names including Marian Keyes, Eimear McBride, Marlon James, Yaa Gyasi, Nina Stibbe and Philip Pullman while reading A LOT of books.



Sarah Turner

Trading Controller (e-commerce), WHSmith

Sarah's love of bookselling began with a Saturday job aged 15 in her local independent bookshop in Rutland. A varied career in retail brought her to WHSmith in 2005 and she's headed up the eCommerce Trading function for the past 10 years.

Biography

The judges for the 2019 Costa Biography Award are:



Professor Suzannah Lipscomb

Historian, Author and Broadcaster

Professor Suzannah Lipscomb is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster. Professor of History at the University of Roehampton and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, she holds a MA, MSt, and DPhil from Lincoln and Balliol Colleges, Oxford. She's written five books and presented 13 TV history documentary series.



James Marriott

Deputy Books Editor, The Times

James Marriott is the Deputy Books Editor of *The Times* where he also writes occasional opinion columns and features.



Will Rycroft

Audience Development Manager, Waterstones

Will is Audience Development Manager at Waterstones where he looks after social media channels, creates digital content, interviews authors and produces and hosts The Waterstones Podcast. He's also the author of *All Quiet on the West End Front* - a memoir about his life as an actor and the 4.5 years he spent in *War Horse*.

Poetry

The judges for the 2019 Costa Poetry Award are:



Kate Clanchy

Writer

Kate is a teacher and writer of works including *England*, *Poems from a School*, an anthology of her migrant students' poems and *Some Kids I Taught and What They Taught Me*, a memoir of 30 years in schools. She's won a Forward Prize for her poetry and the BBC Short Story Prize for her fiction.



Jade Cuttle

Poet, songwriter and critic

Jade graduated from Cambridge with First-Class Honours before completing an MA in Creative Writing at UEA. She works at The Poetry Society and is Deputy Poetry Editor at *Ambit*. As poet and plant-whisperer, she's written for Radio 3, the Proms and its Contains Strong Language Festival, whilst her prose has been selected for various prizes and awards. An album of her poem-songs will be released this year.



Rohan Silva

Co-founder & CEO, Second Home

A former senior policy advisor to David Cameron and special adviser to George Osborne, Rohan is credited as the brains behind the Tech City project. Some of the most progressive pieces of government policy in recent years bear his imprint. Rohan is now a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of Second Home.

Children's Book

The judges for the 2019 Children's Book Award are:



Charlotte Eyre

Children's Editor, *The Bookseller*

Charlotte Eyre is Children's Editor at *The Bookseller* magazine, where she covers the children's and YA book market, interviewing a wide variety of authors and industry figures. She programmes the annual Bookseller Children's Conference and launched the YA Book Prize. She's a regular on BBC Radio 4 and has written for national publications.



Bali Rai

Writer

Bali is the multi-award-winning author of over forty YA, teen and children's books. A passionate advocate for reading and literacy, he has worked with the Agency's Reading Ahead project, the BBC's Love to Read campaign, and the National Literacy Trust, Booktrust, RNIB and British Library.



Danny van Emden

Children's Buyer and Deputy Manager, West End Lane Books

Danny is Children's Buyer and Deputy Manager at West End Lane Books. She began her career as a journalist before moving into marketing in the music industry where she spent 15 years. She moved into bookselling after being made redundant, and describes the move as a 'gloriously happy accident'.