



## Critical Writing Prize 2019: The Winners

### We are pleased to announce the winners of the Critical Writing Prize 2019

#### Education category

The winner is Amanda Summers for her essay *Reducing the gender pay gap: Could more women in STEM be the answer?*

A special Highly Commended award was also presented to Rohit Sharma, Newcastle University, for her essay *Back to the Future*.

#### Social Work category

The winner is Adrian Bloxham for his essay, *Observations and Reflections on my First Year Placement*.

#### Nursing and allied subjects

The winner is Sara Marr-Phillips for her essay *A Pain in the Neck: A Critical Review on the Efficacy and Risks of Cervical Spinal Collars in the Prehospital Environment*.

The winners received £200 worth of Critical Publishing books and the winning essays are available to read on *The Critical Blog*: <https://thecriticalblog.wordpress.com>.

The **Critical Writing Prize 2019**, sponsored by Critical Publishing, is awarded for the best student essay demonstrating a high level of critical thinking. The prize, now in its fifth, year, is open to any undergraduate or postgraduate student from the full range of social work, nursing and education related disciplines.

Jane Bottomley, Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Senior Fellow of the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes, and this year's judge, commented on this year's entrants:

*"I had the great privilege and the great pleasure to judge the Critical Prize this year. However, it was by no means easy to select winners from such a wealth of interesting, engaging, critical student writing! It is marvellous to be reminded of the quality of writing that is being produced by students in these hugely important disciplines...In the end, the winners were the ones who I felt brought everything – concepts, argument, evidence, criticality –*

*together in a particularly elegant way, combining clarity of thought and persuasive writing. But, as I said, it was a really tough call!"*

The winner in the social work category, **Adrian Bloxham** of **Anglia Ruskin University**, nominated by his lecturer **Dr Wendy Coxshall**, said:

*"I would just like to say how absolutely delighted I am to receive this wonderful award from Critical Publishing. It is a great privilege and I am very grateful to the judge, Jane Bottomley, for selecting my essay. Not only am I very pleased from a personal perspective, I also think this award is a fitting reflection of the excellent support that myself and my fellow students have received from the teaching staff at Anglia Ruskin University."*

The winner in the education category **Amanda Summers** of the **University of Derby**, nominated by his lecturer, **Jennifer Marshall**, was surprised by the news:

*"I was completely surprised but absolutely delighted to receive the Critical Prize for Writing in education. After coming back to university following a long break it's been so rewarding return to academic life and I thoroughly enjoyed researching and writing this essay. It's great to know that someone enjoyed reading it too!"*

The winner in the nursing category **Sara Marr-Phillips** of **University of Greenwich** nominated by her lecturer, **Scott Goudie** said:

*"Being awarded a prize for critical writing is super exciting. Critical assessment of current literature is extremely important for clinical practice. I am really proud to have produced a piece that has implications for clinical practice in prehospital and hospital settings. Having feedback on my essay from Jane Bottomley was a particularly special moment. This prize will motivate me to keep working on and improving my academic writing throughout my course and into my career."*

Julia Morris, Education Director at Critical Publishing explained:

*"As the name of our company suggests, we value criticality and believe critical thinking should be a key attribute of effective professionals in education, nursing and social work. We want to encourage students in these subject areas, working at all levels, to improve their critical skills. The Critical Writing Prize, now in its fifth year, both promotes and rewards excellence in this area and we continue to be amazed by the high levels of entries we receive from the professionals of the future."*

###

For further information please contact:

Di Page, Critical Publishing [di@criticalpublishing.com](mailto:di@criticalpublishing.com) 01727 851 462

[www.criticalpublishing.com](http://www.criticalpublishing.com)