

Press Release

15 March 2021

Choix Goncourt UK

12 British universities take part in the Choix Goncourt UK awarding the prestigious French prize to their favourite author from the shortlist of the Académie Goncourt.

From Oxford to Belfast, from Bath to Aberdeen, British students are choosing their winner among the shortlisted authors of the Prix Goncourt 2020: **Maël Renouard** (*L'historiographe du Royaume*), **Djaïli Amadou Amal** (*Les Impatientes*), **Camille de Toledo** (*Thésée, sa vie nouvelle*) and the winner of the prize in France, **Hervé Le Tellier** (*L'Anomalie*).

The winner will be announced on 18 March as part of an online ceremony opened by **French Ambassador Catherine Colonna** and live streamed from the French Institute in London.

This is the second edition of The Choix Goncourt UK, a joint initiative of the Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department of the French Embassy and the French Institute in London, in partnership with the Académie Goncourt, the Maison française d'Oxford, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and Librairie La Page.

The Prix Goncourt, France's oldest and most coveted literary prize, named after the Goncourt brothers, who were both writers, has set the pace of French publishing life since 1903. Famous awardees include Marcel Proust, Romain Gary (twice! the second time under the pseudonym Emile Ajar), Marguerite Duras and Michel Houellebecq, to name but a few.

This year, more than 100 students from UK based universities (King's College London, Royal Holloway University of London, Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Leeds, Southampton, Bath, Aberdeen, St Andrews, Queen's Belfast and Open University) were invited to discuss the shortlisted books from the prestigious French Académie Goncourt and award their Choix Goncourt UK.

On 18 March, universities delegates will gather online to debate in French and choose the one that would receive their Prize, before the announcement ceremony (see programme below).

Ahead of the big reveal, the Maison Française d'Oxford organised a series of special online events with the four shortlisted authors which are still available on [replay](#). This year's Choix Goncourt UK is part of [le Mois de la Francophonie](#).

The first Choix Goncourt UK was awarded to Jean-Paul Dubois for his book *Tous les hommes n'habitent pas le monde de la même façon*. [Watch](#) a presentation of the then selection by members of the student jury.

Choix Goncourt UK Announcement Ceremony Programme

Thursday 18 March 2021 - 4.30pm - livestream on the Institute's [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) channels

- Opening address by French Ambassador Catherine Colonna
- Address by Camille Laurens, member of the Académie Goncourt
- Address by David Campbell, President of the Choix Goncourt UK jury
- Presentation of the shortlisted novels by students and readings by actress Anne de Peuffeilhoux
- Big reveal of the Choix Goncourt UK

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