





The Southern African History Book Prize

The SAHS and HASA are inaugurating a book prize for the best scholarly history publication in book form. The book should be published by a southern African-based press and should be of scholarly and academic merit, as recognised by peers.

The book should offer original research with fresh insights and interpretations. An excellent book is one that is notable for its cogency of writing, breadth of historical sources consulted, and the novelty of insights into the topic, as well as its contribution to southern African historiography.

HASA and SAHS have therefore joined forces to propose the establishment of a Southern African History Book Prize. The criteria and process for awarding the prize are laid out below.

The first prize will be awarded at the 29th Biennial SAHS conference at the University of Johannesburg in June 2024 and will consider books published with an ISBN publication date of 2021 or 2022.

Eligible candidates will be:

- A southern African citizen or non-citizen who has been resident in southern Africa for at least three consecutive years.
- A member of SAHS and/or HASA at the time of nomination.

The eligible book will be:

- Published/co-published by a southern African press.
- Peer Reviewed
- A monograph based on original research and making a novel contribution to the field.
- Published in English
- Published within two years preceding the award.

The nomination process:

- Publishers or fellow academics can nominate a book by submitting a letter of motivation.
- Nomination requires the author's consent.
- The publisher must make both hard copies and digital copies (PDF) of the book available to the SAHS/HASA joint committee and the full adjudication committee.
- Nominations must be submitted at least 6 months before the awarding of the prize
 (for the inaugural 2024 prize, nominations need to be submitted by 31 January 2024)
- Nominations must be submitted to: southernafricanhistbookprize@gmail.com

The prize:

- The prize will be awarded every year, alternating between the biennial conferences of the respective awarding societies.
- The award is worth R20 000 (HASA will contribute R10 000 and SAHS will contribute R10 000)

The selection process:

- A joint SAHS/HASA committee of six members will create a shortlist of four books.
- Thereafter, an adjudicating panel of three judges will make their selection from the shortlist.
- The committee reserves the right not to award a book prize for any given year.

