

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Newnham Modern and Medieval Languages Essay Prize 2018-19

The Newnham Modern and Medieval Languages Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a UK school. This prize may be of particular interest to those currently studying, or considering studying, languages, but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects.

Entrants are invited to submit a response to any **one** of the questions overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions). Essays should be written primarily in English. All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **five** entries may be submitted per school.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Good essays will present a clear argument using specific examples, but beyond this many different approaches are welcome.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here:
<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/>

The **cover sheet** should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

The deadline for receipt is **12pm on Friday 8th March 2019**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Sophie Parry (Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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Questions

1. *‘Traduttore, traditore’* – the Italian saying means *‘The translator is a traitor’*.
This saying has inspired and frustrated translators: who wants a job of which the best that can be said is that if you do it well enough, it renders you invisible?

Write an essay on translation and its hazards in any area in which you have encountered it, from literature and film to marketplaces and A+E departments.

2. Write an essay which comes from one of the following quotations:
- a. *‘The universal does not bring people together, it divides them.’* Etienne Balibar

 - b. *‘The philosopher Vincent Descombes has aptly shown that the notion of identity is paradoxical, because while we attribute identity to individuals, identity itself looks for belonging. But I will add: one speaks of one’s own identity, or what sets one in relation with others, either to affirm what we have in common or, conversely, to distinguish oneself, or even to withdraw from the common. The one does not go without the other.’* Etienne Balibar

Both quotations come from a longer interview, which can be found here: <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3100-translation-and-conflict-the-vio>

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