

Winner: Aarthi Vadde, Duke University

Title: *Chimeras of Form: Modernist Internationalism Beyond Europe, 1914-2016* (Columbia University Press, 2016)

CITATION:

Tracing the emergence of a modernist internationalism from the works of Rabindranath Tagore to the more recent writings of Zadie Smith, Aarthi Vadde's *Chimeras of Form* expands both the historical and the geographical reach of modernist study. The notion of the chimera, both as a mythic figure of the unclassifiable body as well as the botanical and genetic figure of taxonomic rearrangement animates the study and provides a lens through which authors are seen to negotiate between utopian fantasy and political possibility. Recognizing what is perhaps the unfinishable rather than unfinished project of modernity, the book's mood of "pessoptimism" is registered through a series of lucid readings that focus on a variety of chimerical forms. If, as Vadde argues, the subjects of her study employ formal experimentation to expand the limits of what is sayable, this book will in turn make its mark on discussions of modernism, (post)colonialism and internationalisms yet to come.