



**The Inaugural Royal Studies Journal
Early Career and Young Researcher's
Article Prize**

**(in association with Canterbury
Christ Church
University)**

Zita Eva Rohr

**Chair, Article Prize Committee, for
the Royal Studies Journal**

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The *Royal Studies Journal* is delighted to announce the winner of its inaugural article prize, which recognizes new research from post-graduate students and early career scholars. The winner of the Article Prize received an award of £50 and the opportunity for her successful article to be published in the *Royal Studies Journal*. The award is funded by a generous grant from Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU). The formal announcement of the prize winner was made at the Kings & Queens Fifth Annual Conference “Dynastic Loyalties”, hosted by Clemson University, South Carolina, at the conference reception on 9 April 2016.

Launched in June 2015 in Lisbon, the *Royal Studies Journal* Early Career and Young Researcher's prize is to be awarded annually to a current early career or young researcher for the best published scholarly article-length work (approx. 5,000-10,000 words), based on original research on any topic that falls within the scope of royal studies. The *Royal Studies Journal* and its prize sponsor, CCCU, are committed to assisting, encouraging, and supporting the career development of early career and young researchers in a highly competitive professional research environment. The submissions can be an unpublished original work, or a work published during the previous two calendar years, either as an article in a journal or a chapter in an edited volume.

This inaugural year, we received five submissions from post-graduate students close to the completion of their PhDs. Their submissions covered diverse topics in the field of royal studies and encompassed the medieval to the early modern periods, in diverse geographies, with articles submitted in the three ‘official’ languages of the *Royal Studies Journal* (English, French and Spanish). Some fifteen international readers were generous enough to give us some of their precious time to evaluate the submissions, and their final reports were submitted to the Article Prize Subcommittee for consideration. The Subcommittee included Drs Elena Woodacre and Núria Silleras-Fernández, with Dr Zita Rohr acting as its convener and Chair. The Subcommittee voted upon the ultimate prize winner, basing its final decision upon the careful and objective reports prepared for it by its international readers. While the submissions for the inaugural award were solid and very promising, we hope to attract a greater diversity of submissions next year, particularly those from Early Career Researchers (those within the first five-seven

larly those from Early Career Researchers (those within the first five-seven years of their doctoral awards). So, please spread the word and reach out to your colleagues and collaborators beyond the Royal Studies Network.

Rocío Martínez López was awarded the prize for her article, “La infanta se ha de casar con quien facilite la paz o disponga los medios para la guerra. Las negociaciones para la realización del matrimonio entre la infanta María Teresa y Leopoldo I (1654-1657).” It was published in *Revista de Historia Moderna*, 33 (2015), 79-99. We are happy that Rocío has taken the opportunity afforded by the Article Prize to prepare an eventual version in English of her prize-winning article for publication in this issue of the *Royal Studies Journal*, thereby communicating her blossoming research credentials to an even wider pool of international scholars.

Rocío Martínez López is a PhD student at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) of Madrid, Spain. She was awarded a four year grant by the Spanish Government to undertake her doctorate, and is currently researching her dissertation under the supervision of Luis Antonio Ribot García. Her thesis focuses upon the childless (and genetically unfortunate) Charles II of Spain's succession problems, and the repercussions this had for European diplomacy in the second half of the seventeenth century. Last year, Rocío benefited from the opportunity to be a guest researcher at the prestigious University of Vienna, and she likewise has been accepted as a guest researcher at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich for the spring semester this year. Both scholarly sojourns have been made possible by travel grants awarded to her by the Spanish government. Rocío is the lead organizer for the “Kings and Queens” Sixth Annual Conference, “Behind the Throne”, to be held in Madrid in 2017.

Rocío's international readers recognized the strengths of her work commenting that it makes important contributions to the fields of Hapsburg Studies, Spanish Succession, and Marriage and Diplomacy, adding that Austrian inheritance through princesses is not usually a topic for early modernists in Spain. They found her paper to be a sound and convincing chronological study of marriage negotiations for María Teresa, and that it is entirely persuasive in the corrective it offers to established ideas regarding this period of history. Rocío's paper was judged to be confidently written and consistently fluid to read, displaying good narrative abilities, especially considering “the aridity that all too often plagues historical writing and ‘high’ politics”. Very well done indeed, Rocío. Congratulations from us all here at the *Royal Studies Journal*, Canterbury Christ Church University, and the wider Royal Studies Network of which you are an integral part.

As Rocío was unable to attend the formal announcement of the prize in South Carolina, she sent us her greetings as well as some heart-felt and sincere thoughts upon hearing of her award.

Hello to you all. I hope you are enjoying the “Kings and Queens” Fifth Annual Conference. I am sorry to miss it, as I am sure it is proving to be magnificent.

I would to thank the *Royal Studies Journal*, the Canterbury Christ Church University and the Early Career and Young Researcher's Prize Subcommittee for inaugurating this award, as well as my parents, Mariano and Esperanza, and my sister Sonsoles, for their unwavering support. I feel really honoured in winning it and there are no words to really convey how grateful I am for this award, especially when it was accorded to me by experts who are such an inspiration for young historians like me.

That said, I think that the true thanks and congratulations should go to all who fight to give young researchers and historians new opportunities to build their own futures in a calling they love, something that is rarely easy, especially in such difficult economic times. Therefore, these brief words of appreciation have “thank you” as their main theme. Thank you to all those great historians who are an inspiration for the younger generation of us. Thank you to all the professors and experts in the field who are fighting day after day to assist their students and young specialist academics and researchers to reach their greater potentials. I would not be in the happy position of receiving this award, or approaching the submission of my dissertation, without all the wonderful specialists who have been given me their selfless support, and a helping hand during my professional life. Thank you also to all my fellow young historians, who are working tirelessly to achieve their dreams, sometimes in really appalling circumstances. Please, never give up hope. I am sure that, with work and perseverance, we are all destined to do great things in our respective fields of endeavour.

I do not wish to bore you any further. In closing, I just want to reiterate my thanks for this award. I assure you that I shall bear it with enormous pride. Best wishes to you all, and I hope to see you next year in Madrid.

Follow the link below to Rocío's article in Spanish:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.14198/RHM2015.33.04>

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