

ASSAf HUMANITIES BOOK AWARD

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Scholarly, non-fiction Humanities book

Closing date for
nominations
24 July 2026

Nominations must be
submitted to
mmaphuthi@assaf.org.za.

The ASSAf Humanities Selection Panel announces the call for the Humanities Book Prize Award. The ASSAf Humanities Book Prize Award draws attention to the importance and contribution of scholarly books to knowledge production and intellectual endeavours in South Africa. ASSAf promotes inclusiveness and provides equal access to opportunities and resources. The Prize is awarded biannually for outstanding books in humanities, social science, and performing arts.

The Panel seeks your assistance in nominating and identifying writers of a scholarly, well-written work of non-fiction, published up to three years (i.e. 2023, 2024 and 2025) prior to its nomination. The book should be noteworthy in its contribution to developing a new understanding and insight into a topic in the Humanities.

Nominations are invited for the following categories:
Established Scholar
Emerging Scholar

ELIGIBILITY

- Only scholarly non-fiction books are eligible for this award.
- Books written in any of the officially recognised South African languages are eligible for this award.
- All books (whether published locally or internationally) must have an ISBN number and a publication date between 2023 and 2025.
- In the case of single-authored books, the author need not necessarily be South African but must be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution of higher learning and/or research institution in South Africa.
- Where books are co-authored, at least one author must be employed by or affiliated to a South African institution of higher learning and/or research institution in South Africa.
- A book may be nominated in more than one year, provided that the second nomination, like the first, occurs no more than three years after the book was first published.
- While co-authored books are acceptable, edited books made up of essays by various authors, are not eligible for this award.

NOMINATION PROCESS

A nominator should be an individual who is from the nominee's own institution and/or someone who has specialist knowledge of the discipline or field within which the nominee works.

A nomination should comprise:

- A completed [nomination form](#).
- A motivation (maximum 500 words) for the book, together with a brief justification of why the nominee is best regarded as either an emerging or established scholar. The motivation should further indicate how the book contributes to developing new understanding and insight into a topic in the Humanities.
- Copies of published reviews of the book (or where these are absent, peer review reports from the publisher) should be included as appendices or fully referenced.
- Hard copies will be requested for the final rounds of the process.

ENTRY FEES AND DEADLINE

There is no entry fee.

The closing date for nominations is **24 July 2026**.

Winners will be notified in writing in March 2027.

AWARD CEREMONY

The awards will be made at an official ASSAf event. The awards ceremony will be hosted in October 2027.

FORM OF AWARD

- Established Researcher: Certificate of acknowledgement and a monetary award of R30 000.00
- Emerging Researcher: Certificate of acknowledgement and a monetary award of R20 000.00
- Where a prize-winning book has more than one author, the available award monies will be divided equally between the authors.
- ASSAf reserves the right not to make an award.

Nominations must be submitted electronically (per the attached specified format) and e-mailed to Mrs Mmaphuthi Rametse at mmaphuthi@assaf.org.za.

Established Scholar - Scholars who have more than 8 years of experience post-PhD. They have built a significant and widely recognised body of work, including multiple publications, influential papers, and often books. They frequently hold senior positions within academia or research institutions and are acknowledged by their peers as leaders or experts in their field, maintaining a sustained and influential presence over time.

Emerging Scholar - Scholars who have completed their PhD within the last 4-8 years. They are at an early stage in their career, actively developing their body of work and beginning to gain recognition within their field. Their contributions typically include a mix of published papers, conference presentations, and initial ventures into book publishing.