



## **‘WHY HAS THE RULE OF LAW BECOME SO FRAGILE?’ – NINE DOTS PRIZE OFFERS \$100,000 FOR THE BEST RESPONSE**

**Prize backed by Cambridge University - and leading figures including Anne Applebaum, Petina Gappah and David Runciman - promotes innovative thinking in response to global issues**

The Nine Dots Prize has today (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October) revealed the question it will pose as part of a global problem-solving competition, offering US\$100,000 and a book deal with Cambridge University Press for the winning response. The question for the 2023/2024 cycle is: ‘Why has the rule of law become so fragile?’

First launched in 2016 and now in its fourth cycle, the Nine Dots Prize encourages innovative thinking and engaging new writing that confronts some of the most significant issues of our time. The Prize is judged entirely anonymously and seeks submissions from both established names and emerging talent, including those who may not have been published before.

Entrants must respond to the set question in 3,000 words and provide an outline showing how they would expand their response into a short book of between 25,000-40,000 words, backed up with relevant research and evidence. The winner will receive editorial support from Cambridge University Press as well as the opportunity to spend a term at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), at Cambridge University, to help develop their ideas and focus on their writing.

The Prize will be judged by a 12-strong Board of internationally recognised and distinguished academics, authors, journalists and thinkers. In 2023/2024 they will include Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author **Anne Applebaum**; Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, **Professor David Runciman**; and international lawyer and writer, **Petina Gappah**. Three new members join the board for this cycle. They are: Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University, **Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni**; President of the World Federation of Science Journalists, **Milica Momcilovic**; and leading essayist and publisher, **Urvashi Butalia**. The Board is chaired by **Professor Simon Goldhill**, Professor in Greek Literature and Culture and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge.

Professor Goldhill said: “The Nine Dots Prize was founded to seek out inspired answers to the big issues of our times. The word ‘unprecedented’ is overused, but it does feel as if the years since our launch have been particularly full of dramatic events, challenges and changes across the globe. We always aim to set a question that reflects the world we’re living in currently but also has some longevity and looks to the future. We hope that this year’s question resonates with people all over the world and that, as a result, we see entries from more countries than ever before.”

Previous questions posed by the prize, in chronological order, are:

- Are digital technologies making politics impossible?
- Is there still no place like home?
- What does it mean to be young in an ageing world?

The resulting books have been published to critical acclaim:

- *Stand Out of Our Light: Freedom and Resistance in the Attention Economy* by James Williams was chosen as Princeton University's 2019 Pre-read, sent to all incoming students as an introduction to intellectual life at Princeton.
- *Bread, Cement, Cactus: A Memoir of Belonging and Dislocation* by Annie Zaidi was described by *The Observer* as a 'compelling exploration of the intimate and political sides of an itinerant life.'
- *Soro Soko: The Young Disruptors of an African Megacity* was praised by author Chibundu Onuzo, who said: "I wish this book existed when I was writing *Welcome to Lagos*. Trish Lorenz has done an excellent job of collating the hopes, dreams and frustrations of the young people of Lagos."

2021/2022 winner Trish Lorenz said: "Winning the Nine Dots Prize is life changing. I'd been travelling and reporting out of sub-Saharan Africa for over a decade and was frustrated that in the global North, narratives around the continent and its young people are often one dimensional. The prize enabled me to research, write and publish a story that otherwise would not have been told. Winning also includes the experience of working at Cambridge University and with Cambridge University Press. Being exposed to the university's world leading scholars, teachers and editors broadened my outlook on what it is possible to achieve. It has changed both how I work and the kinds of projects I'm considering for the future. The prize money is obviously incredible (and liberating) but it is the way the experience expands your horizons and capabilities – through the work involved in researching and delivering the book, the people you meet, the talks you attend and give – that I've found to be the biggest prize of all."

The Nine Dots Prize is open to anyone worldwide aged 18 years or over writing in English. Entries must be submitted via the online submission form by midday (GMT) on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. The winner will be announced in May 2023.

For more information, submissions guidance and to enter the Nine Dots Prize, visit <http://www.ninedotsprize.org/> and follow the Prize on Twitter [@NineDotsPrize](https://twitter.com/NineDotsPrize).

## Further Information

For further information and interviews with the Board, please contact Hedvig Lindström at Riot Communications on 07888 671 581 / [hedvig@riotcommunications.com](mailto:hedvig@riotcommunications.com)

### 1. About the Nine Dots Prize

The Nine Dots Prize is a prize for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. Its heartland is in the analysis of contemporary society and societal challenges, and it welcomes responses that draw on any perspective and discipline. Entrants are challenged to submit 3,000-word responses to a question set by the Board. The question for the fourth cycle is ‘Why has the rule of law become so fragile?’ The winner receives US\$100,000, which will support them to write a short book expanding on their ideas to be published by Cambridge University Press in a variety of formats, including open access, meaning the book can be downloaded free of charge.

The Nine Dots Prize is judged anonymously and funded by the Kadas Prize Foundation, an English registered charity established to fund research into significant but neglected questions relevant to today’s world. Its name references a lateral thinking puzzle that can only be solved by drawing outside of a box of nine dots arranged in three rows of three. It is supported by Cambridge University Press and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), both departments of the University of Cambridge.

Further information can be found at [www.ninedotsprize.org](http://www.ninedotsprize.org)

### 2. About the Kadas Prize Foundation

The Kadas Prize Foundation was established to fund research into significant but neglected questions relevant to today’s world. Its main charitable activity is as a prize-awarding body, enabling Prize winners to further their work in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences to the benefit of the public. The Foundation was established by Peter Kadas, who has worked around the world for a number of leading institutions. Originally from Hungary, he holds Canadian and UK citizenship and currently lives in Barcelona, where he is a Senior Adviser at BXR Corporate Consulting Partners SL, which is an adviser to investment group BXR Group.

### 3. About the Board

The Board is composed of 12 internationally recognised and distinguished academics, authors, journalists and thinkers. They are:

- **Yevgenia Albats** – Editor in Chief and CEO of the Moscow-based political weekly *The New Times* and author of *The State Within A State: KGB and Its Hold on Russia*
- **Professor Anne Applebaum** – *Washington Post* columnist, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and Professor of Practice, Institute of Global Affairs, LSE
- **Urvashi Butalia** – a highly-regarded essayist who writes for both national and international publications in India and abroad, and publisher at Zubaan (tongue, voice, language), an imprint of Kali, the leading publisher of women’s writing in India
- **Petina Gappah** – Zimbabwean writer with law degrees from Cambridge, Graz University and the University of Zimbabwe. Her debut story collection, *An Elegy for Easterly*, won the Guardian First Book Prize in 2009

- **Professor Simon Goldhill (Chair)** – Professor in Greek Literature and Culture and Fellow of King's College, University of Cambridge
- **Professor J. Jarpa Dawuni** – Associate Professor of Political Science at Howard University, Washington D.C., and a qualified Barrister-at-Law before the Superior Courts of Ghana
- **Peter Kadas** – Director of the Kadas Prize Foundation
- **Professor Roger Martin** – Professor Emeritus of the Martin Prosperity Institute and the Michael Lee-Chin Family Institute for Corporate Citizenship at the Rotman School of Management
- **Milica Momcilovic** – President of the World Federation of Science Journalists and editor of the Science Program at Radio Television of Serbia
- **Professor Joanna Page** – Professor of Latin American Studies and Director of the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) at the University of Cambridge
- **Professor Riccardo Rebonato** – Professor of Finance at EDHEC Business School, formerly Global Head of Rates and FX Research at PIMCO
- **Professor David Runciman** – Professor of Politics and Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge

#### 4. How to enter the Nine Dots Prize

Entrants to the Nine Dots Prize will be asked to submit an application in three parts:

- A summary **response to the question**. This response can be up to 3,000 words in length and will form the basis of the short book (of between 25,000 and 40,000 words) that the winner will produce. The summary should cover the main arguments the proposed book will make, the previous research or ideas on which it draws and the key conclusions it will reach.
- An **outline structure of this short book**, including provisional chapter headings, which can be up to 1,000 words in length.
- A **justification of their ability to complete the book** in the time given (approx. seven months). This will outline the entrant's previous experience in communicating effectively about research and ideas, and a commitment from them that their responsibilities will allow the book to be completed in the seven-month period. Where applicable this should include confirmation of support from the entrant's institution(s) or employer(s) that time off has been approved. It can be up to 1,000 words in length.

Full submissions guidance, terms and conditions, and other resources for potential applicants are available from [www.ninedotsprize.org](http://www.ninedotsprize.org)