

DAVID AND HELEN KIMBLE PRIZE

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2019

The *Journal of Modern African Studies* is proud to announce the winner of the David and Helen Kimble Prize for the best article published in the journal in the previous year.



The prize is named in honour of David and Helen Kimble (pictured above), who co-founded the *Journal of Modern African Studies* in 1963, when both were living in Dar es Salaam due to David's appointment as a professor of political science at what was then the Tanzanian campus of the University of East Africa. However, the original idea for the journal had been conceived while both were living in Ghana. David and Helen jointly edited the journal in its formative years, thus establishing it as one of the leading academic journals in African Studies. The journal's home for its first thirty-five years was in, among other places, Tanzania, Morocco, Lesotho, Malawi and finally, England.

David passed away in 2009; Helen took an active interest in African affairs until her death in December 2019.

THE WINNER

The winner for 2019 is **Gretchen Baldwin**, for her article 'Constructing identity through commemoration: *Kwibuka* and the rise of survivor nationalism in post-conflict Rwanda,' published in vol. 57, issue 3. Based on intensive fieldwork, and combining empirical observation with critical analysis, Baldwin's article is in the best tradition of the journal. She details how official commemoration of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda paradoxically focuses on questions of ethnicity i.e. 'the genocide of the Tutsis,' even as official policy actively avoids discussing ethnic identity. In doing so, the characterisation of the 'Tutsi' as sole victims and implicit survivors has engendered a potentially destabilising self-image and a form of 'survivor nationalism' among 'Tutsi' youth, which aggravates societal friction. The article's theoretically-informed analysis makes a solid contribution to our understanding of current dynamics in Rwanda, as well as broader questions relating to identity politics in contemporary Africa.