

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



**The Royal Society
of Literature**

Top authors select 40 new Fellows under 40

The Royal Society of Literature announces today an outstanding panel of its Fellows, who will recruit a new generation of writers into its ranks.

Fellowship of the RSL is a unique literary honour, awarded by the RSL since its foundation in 1820. Each Fellow must have published at least two works of literary merit in the UK. There are currently 506 Fellows, with an average age of 70. For 2018, the RSL has made the unprecedented decision to appoint 40 new Fellows aged under 40. For the first time, too, the RSL has invited publishers, literary agents and others outside the Society to put names forward for consideration. The 40 Under 40 will be in addition to the RSL's usual annual election of 30 new Fellows of all ages.

The RSL is now delighted to confirm that the panel which will assess the recommendations: **Tahmima Anam, Helen Edmundson, Bernardine Evaristo, Lavinia Greenlaw, David Hare, Alexandra Harris, Blake Morrison, Daljit Nagra, Ali Smith** and **Sarah Waters**. The panel will be chaired by novelist **Kamila Shamsie**, who is long-listed for the 2017 Man Booker Prize. With literary experience including playwriting, poetry, fiction and non-fiction, all the members of the panel are RSL Fellows.

Recommendation of new Fellows

Recommendations are still welcome. We are seeking recommendations for writers, under the age of 40, of diverse literary forms, including writers of drama, fiction, graphic fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenplays. Those who wish to recommend a writer for Fellowship as part of the 40 Under 40 project should complete the **recommendation form** available from **www.rsliterature.org**

Closing date for recommendations is Saturday 30 September 2017

Press should contact

**Annette Brook, Communications Manager
020 7845 4680 or annette@rsliterature.org**