

Understanding Unbelief Media Award

The Understanding Unbelief project based at the University of Kent, is pleased to announce its sponsorship of an **international media award to encourage reporting on the world views, beliefs and experiences of people identifying as 'unbelievers' or non-religious.**

The Understanding Unbelief project is a multi-disciplinary research programme mapping non-religion around the world. Its findings are already being disseminated through publications, conferences and public engagement activities. The aim of this award is to increase popular awareness and understanding of the broad issues raised by this emerging field of academic research.

£4000 prize money is available to journalists and programme makers deemed by the judges to have made a significant contribution to the reporting of non-religion through their work. The winner will be awarded £2000. There will be two runner-up prizes of £1000, one of which will be specifically reserved for younger entrants between the age of 18 and 30.

Articles and broadcasts published on any media platform between January 1st 2018 and September 30th 2019 can be submitted for the awards. This might include film broadcast on TV or online, written pieces published in newspapers or online, and sound broadcast on radio or as podcast. Shortlisting will be done by a group of media professionals, alongside members of the Understanding Unbelief Team, and the winners will be announced at an event later in the year. Submissions from anywhere in the world will be welcomed but entries must be in English.

Principal investigator on the Understanding Unbelief programme Dr Lois Lee says: "One billion people worldwide say they have no religion. We want to recognise the work of journalists and programme makers who are exploring the nature and diversity of these people's beliefs and practices and the impact they have on their social and personal lives – including the way that they engage with religion. "

Further details about the award and how to apply go to:

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/understandingunbelief/media-award/apply/>

All inquiries to info@understanding-unbelief.net

Guidance for applicants

Applications can come from anywhere in the world, but the report or broadcast must be in English

Submissions can be:

- Film – broadcast on television or online platform. Entries must be a single episode no longer than one hour
- Written – published in newspapers or online publications
- Sound – broadcast on radio or online podcast. Entries must not exceed one hour

The report or broadcast must have been published between January 1st 2018 and September 30th 2019

The award will be given to someone who has:

- demonstrated insight into the phenomenon of unbelief, through original investigation
- showed clear understanding of the nature of unbelief
- explained the impact on the lives of those whose stories are told
- used appropriate and insightful commentators to explain the phenomenon
- showed imaginative approach to presenting these findings through print, online, film or audio, on one or multiple platforms

The closing date for entries is October 7th 2019

Entries will be shortlisted by a steering group of broadcasters, journalists and other media professionals, alongside members of the Understanding Unbelief Team

The prizes are: winner of 2k and runners up of £1k each. In order to encourage media professionals at the start of their career, one of the £1,000 prizes will be awarded to someone aged 18 – 30

To enter complete the form below or download it from the website and email back to info@understanding-unbelief.net

If you are applying with a print or online media piece you can send a pdf of the article along with your application form. If you are applying with a sound or film broadcast please send the files by wetransfer to the same email address.

Alternatively you can post the application form and hardcopies or material on a USB stick to:

Claire Berlyn, Understanding Unbelief, School of European Cultures and Languages, Cornwallis North-West, University of Kent. Canterbury, Kent, England CT2 7NZ

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Application form

Name			
Address			
Email			
Phone			
Date of birth	(we are asking for this because one of the awards will go to someone aged 18-30)		
Please indicate if you are	Freelance	Self-employed	Employed
(if employed) Name of employer			
Title of broadcast/article			
Name of publication/platform(s) where it appeared			

Date of publication		
(if applicable) URL		
Short description of the programme, key personnel involved and motivation (300 words)		
Impact made by the programme- e.g., comment, feedback, change (300 words)		
PDF of article sent with application?	Yes	No
Audio/video files sent by we transfer?	Yes Date sent.....	No

Please send your application form to: info@understanding-unbelief.net

If you do not want to return your submission electronically please post the application form along with a copy of your submission or audio/video files on a USB stick to Claire Berlyn, Understanding Unbelief, School of European Cultures and Languages, Cornwallis North-West, University of Kent. Canterbury, Kent, England CT2 7NZ

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