

News release

Nominations open for The Comment Awards 2016

Tuesday 3 May, 2016: Nominations have opened for The Comment Awards 2016, the annual awards recognising and celebrating the UK's best print and online commentators and their editors. The awards are the first of their kind in the UK, run by Editorial Intelligence, the knowledge networking business.

Now in their eighth year, this year's awards incorporate a new category to reflect the continually developing media landscape, as well as bringing back an old favourite. The new category, Contrarian of the Year will celebrate those writers who provoke debate and diversity in opinion. The popular Sports Commentator of the Year category returns after a year's absence and this year's eIDigest Special Award will go to the best Women's Voice in comment.

Nominations are open to everyone, from editors to readers, and can be submitted free of charge via the Comment Awards website (www.commentawards.com). All nominees have to write for the UK media and articles need to have been written between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016 inclusive.

Deadline for submissions is 30 June 2016.

This year's judges, chaired by **Sir Anthony Seldon**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Buckingham hail from an eclectic range of industries and background, and include: Visiting Professor, King's College London, **Douglas Alexander**; Founder, Media Diversified, **Samantha Asumadu**; Professor of Journalism, Middlesex University, **Kurt Barling**; **Dr Eliza Filby**, historian, broadcaster and businesswoman; **Howell James CBE**, CEO, Quiller Consultants; poet and novelist **Roz Kaveney**; **Liliane Landor**, Controller, Languages, Global News, BBC; **Elizabeth Pears**, UK Deputy News Editor, BuzzFeed; writer and broadcaster, **Trevor Phillips**; journalist and author, **William Sieghart**, entrepreneur and philanthropist; Editor in Chief, Christie's Magazine, **Sarah Spankie**.

Announcing the news, chair of judges Sir Anthony Seldon said:

"When did we last see a year so rich in comment opportunities? Panama paperfest but free speech closing down on university campuses. Goodbye Farage but hello Trump. Islam militancy uncontrollable, and anti-Semitism on the rise again. Project Fear from Remainers and Brexiters alike. AI taking our jobs and driving our cars. What next!?"

With nominations open to editors, writers and readers alike, The Comment Awards 2016 is set once again to turn the spotlight on the best of British comment journalism, celebrating a segment of our media that thoroughly deserves the attention."

Winners of The Comment Awards 2015 included: Janan Ganesh at the *Financial Times* for Commentariat of the Year; Simon Jenkins at *The Guardian* for Columnist of the Year; and Bintu Sannah at *the Observer* for Young Commentariat of the Year.

The Comment Awards 2016 categories in full include:

Arts, Culture and Entertainment Commentator of the Year
Business Commentator of the Year (Sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services)
Columnist of the Year
Comment Pages of the Year (Sponsored by Vodafone)
Comment Piece of the Year
Commentariat of the Year
NEW Contrarian of the Year
Economics Commentator of the Year
Foreign Commentator of the Year (Gifted to International Rescue Committee)
Independent Blogger of the Year
Media, Technology and Digital Commentator of the Year (Sponsored by Virgin Media)
Online Comment Site of the Year
Political Commentator of the Year (Sponsored by Weber Shandwick)
Science Commentator of the Year (Sponsored by Wellcome Trust)
Society and Diversity Commentator of the Year
Sports Commentator of the Year
Young Commentariat of the Year

Barclays is the lead partner to the awards, with LBC supporting as broadcast media partner. Additional category sponsors will be announced shortly.

The Comment Awards 2016 shortlist will be revealed on 21 September, while the winners will be announced at a special ceremony in London on 23 November.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Contact

Commentawards@editorialintelligence.com

About The Comment Awards

Established in 2009, the Comment Awards celebrate the achievements of the UK's finest and most influential print and online commentators and their editors. Run by Editorial Intelligence, the Comment Awards are the only awards of their kind in the UK: an opportunity for the industry to commend and support the best of UK comment journalism. The shortlist will be revealed on 21 September, while the winners will be announced at a special ceremony in London on 23 November.

About Editorial Intelligence

Editorial Intelligence was founded in 2005 by [Julia Hobsbawm](#), the world's first Professor in Networking and Honorary Visiting Professor in Networking at the Cass Business School, London, to help individuals and corporations seek personal and professional excellence, by developing deeper personal connections and having a more profound understanding of today's information overloaded landscape. Today, the team runs the knowledge networking group, [eiClub](#); the daily summary of UK comment media, [eiDigest](#); and conference series [Names Not Numbers](#).

During the last decade ei has spent ten years reading and summarising a whopping 100 million words of UK Comment & Opinion for the eiDigest and is about to run the eight annual UK Comment Awards celebrating the best of British comment.