



THE MARGARET BUSBY *NEW DAUGHTERS OF* AFRICA AWARD, 2020-21

We are delighted to introduce you to the inaugural award winner, Idza Luhumyo, who will be starting at SOAS in autumn 2020. This award would not have been possible without your support. Thank you.

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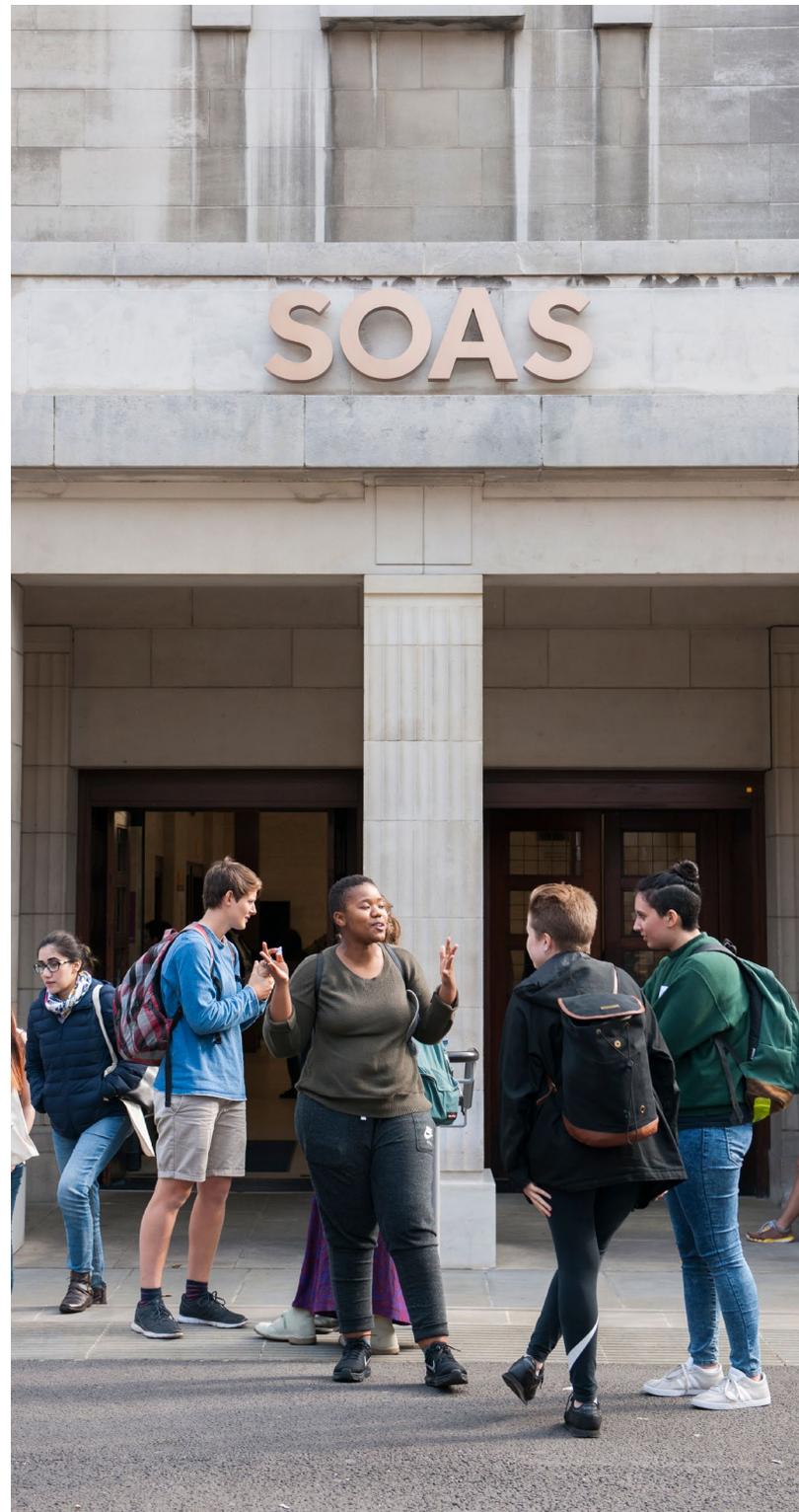
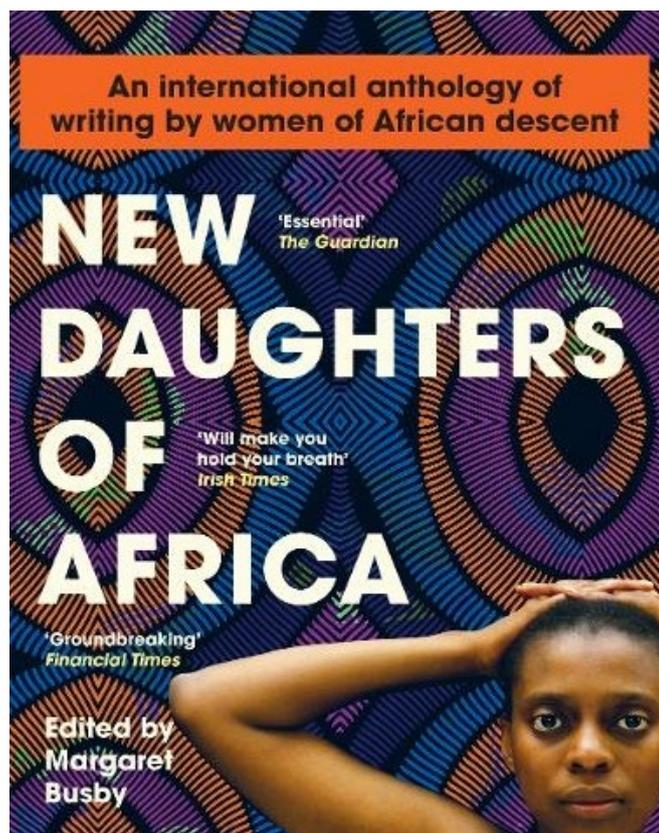
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Alongside the writers who donated their fees, publisher Myriad Editions and International Students House, your support has enabled us to launch this award, and we are deeply grateful to you. The inaugural recipient of The Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award will be starting her studies at SOAS University of London this autumn.

The award was launched last year to coincide with the publication of *New Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Writing by Women of African Descent* edited by Margaret Busby, world-renowned writer, publisher and SOAS Honorary Fellow.

The award is offered to a female black African student who has received an offer of admission to pursue an MA at SOAS in African Studies, Comparative Literature or Translation (in African languages) and who has a particular interest in studying African literature.

The first award winner is Idza Luhumyo, and she explains in this report what receiving this prestigious award means to her.



New Daughters of Africa showcases the work of more than 200 women writers of African descent from across the globe to celebrate their contributions to literature and international culture. Among the 200 contributors are SOAS Honorary Graduate Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Patience Agbabi, Malorie Blackman, Bernadine Evaristo, Andrea Levy, Nawal El Saadawi, Zadie Smith and Andrea Stuart.

Each of the contributors agreed to waive their usual fees in order to support the Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award at SOAS.

Your donation has enabled Idza to undertake a Master's degree at SOAS. Here, in her own words, Idza explains what the award means to her.



"I will forever remember the Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award for providing me the chance to realise my career ambitions."

"To be able to study at SOAS on a scholarship is nothing short of a gift."

My name is Idza Luhumyo. I am a writer from Kenya currently living in between Nairobi and Kilifi. I trained as a lawyer at the University of Nairobi. In 2019, I was admitted to the bar and became an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. I currently work as a screenwriter and copywriter in Nairobi. I consider myself to be an interdisciplinary cultural worker. My primary form of artistic expression is literature. However, I also have keen interest in critical legal studies and critical film theory.

Starting September 2020, I will be studying towards a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature (Africa/Asia) at SOAS. As a person who is just venturing out on a career in cultural work in an increasingly connected world, I believe that obtaining an MA in Comparative Literature will build on my interdisciplinary background and allow me to think deeply and critically about the stories around us.

I am primarily interested in critical theory as a broad framework from which to engage not just with literature, but also with other cultural forms. Many of the countries in Africa and Asia - the areas of focus in the MA programme I will be joining - belong to the category of 'developing countries'. The programme will therefore provide me with a useful point of departure from which to explore how the subaltern presents itself in literature.

To be able to study at SOAS on a scholarship is nothing short of a gift. I am grateful for the opportunity I will get to study not just at a world-class institution, but also in a city that is famous for being a melting pot of cultures. As I set out on what I hope will be a successful career in cultural work, I will forever remember the Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award for providing me the chance to realise my career ambitions.



"I'm delighted for Idza and look forward to welcoming her in London later this year. It was such a thrill to shine a light on the remarkable creativity of every writer gathered in the pages of *New Daughters of Africa* and they must all take credit for their part in enabling the very special legacy that the award represents. This is a truly empowering moment that we will build on, to make it a lasting inspiration and a pointer towards what becomes possible through imaginative collaboration."

Margaret Busby OBE, Hon. FRSL



"We are truly honoured and proud to welcome the talented Idza Luhumyo to SOAS. We have a long history of scholarship and teaching in African literature, translation and languages where since its inception in 1917 students learnt African languages at SOAS. We are excited to see the impact that The Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award will have on generations of female African writers."

Dr Ida Hadjivayanis

Lecturer, African Languages, Cultures and Literatures at SOAS



Thank you for your generous support of the Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award at SOAS. We hope you have enjoyed hearing from Idza Luhumyo and we look forward to updating you on her progress later this year.

We are now looking ahead to 2021-22 for support to fund the next Margaret Busby *New Daughters of Africa* Award. If you would like to ensure another student like Idza has the opportunity to study at SOAS, please get in touch. Thank you for your support.

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