

Laudation

For the Political Theory Prize 2026

The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize to **Shuk Ying Chan** for the **2026 ECPR Political Theory Prize**. The jury reported the following:

The jury recommends Dr Shuk Ying Chan from the University College London, as the winner of the Political Theory Award 2026 for her book *Postcolonial Global Justice*. The book brings together postcolonial thinkers and questions of global justice, in a truly original attempt to revive the latter debate and get it out of the stalemate between statist and cosmopolitans. Bringing these thinkers – Aimé Césaire, Franz Fanon, Kwame Nkrumah, and Jawaharlal Nehru – into the mainstream of global justice thinking is itself no small feat, and might easily have been a book project of its own. But the author also uses them to make a number of systematic arguments in the area of global trade justice, cultural hegemony, and the governance of global institutions, arguing for a radical egalitarianism, but which precisely requires taking group rights seriously. The quality of the argumentation is extremely high, especially given that the author moves between very different kinds of literatures. The recommendation the book ends up making are extremely plausible as strategies for working towards a decolonial world:

empowering disadvantaged groups and countries in international investment decisions; strengthening underrepresented voices in global cultural production, and improving the representation of poorer countries in the governance of global institutions. While there are, of course, questions about the realizability of these recommendations (a challenge that the book shares with much normative theorizing), they provide clear guidance about the direction to take.

The book has the potential of giving new momentum to debates in global justice, not only by bringing in new voices, but also by showing that political questions on the global level cannot be completely separated from economic and cultural questions, but need to be considered holistically, in order to arrive at a convincing view of global social egalitarianism. The broadening of the scope of discussion, along these two dimensions, is extremely valuable.

Ladislav Cabada

On behalf of the Political Theory Prize Jury
European Consortium for Political Research