

Beat: Travel

GAIA VINCE WINNER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY WINTON PRIZE - FIRST SOLO FEMALE WINNER

ADVENTURES IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

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USPA NEWS - Gaia Vince is the author of 'Adventures in the Anthropocene - A journey to the heart of the planet we made'. She is a journalist and broadcaster based in London, who was named the winner of the 2015 Royal Society Winton prize for Science Books at a ceremony in London on Thursday evening...

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The Royal Society is a Fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Their origins lie in a 1660 "invisible college" of natural philosophers and physicians. Today they are the UK's national science academy and a Fellowship of some 1,600 of the world's most eminent scientists.

'The leading scientific lights of the past four centuries can all be found among the 8,000 Fellows elected to the Society to date. From Newton to Darwin to Einstein and beyond, pioneers and paragons in their fields are elected by their peers. Current Fellows include Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Richard Dawkins, Stephen Hawking and Tim Berners-Lee.'

'Over time, the criteria for, and transparency of election to the Fellowship became stricter, and Fellows were elected solely on the merit of their scientific work. The first female Fellows were elected in 1945 " Dorothy Hodgkin, elected in 1947, remains Britain's only female Nobel Prize-winning scientist. ' (The Royal Society)

In a unanimous decision from the judging panel, Vince emerged victorious from a strong shortlist, including bestsellers Alex Through the Looking-Glass by Alex Bellos and The Man Who Couldn't Stop by David Adam, to take home the £25,000 prize. The ceremony was hosted by Professor Brian Cox OBE, currently the Royal Society's Professor of Public Engagement in Science.

Chair of judges Ian Stewart said: "This is an underreported area of science and a truly original story. We were all humbled by Vince's commitment to this book " she quit her job and spent 800 days on the global road to gather her evidence. She has captured the issue of the day in a way that is ultimately empowering without ever being complacent. We are very proud to recognise this ambitious and essential work."

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