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## ASECS Announces Winners of 2022 Aravamudan Prize

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) awards the Srinivas Aravamudan Prize annually to an article that pushes the boundaries, geographical and conceptual, of eighteenth-century studies, especially by using a transnational, comparative, or cosmopolitan approach.

The 2022 Aravamudan Prize is awarded to **Kerry Sinanan, “Lost Mothers in the Caribbean Plantation and Black Maternal and Infant Mortality,”** which was published in *Caribbean Literature in Transition. Volume 1. 1800-1920*. Eds. Evelyn O’Callaghan and Tim Watson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. One article has also been awarded honorable mention: **Carrie Shanafelt, “A World of Debt’: Quobna Ottobah Cugoano, The Wealth of Nations, and the End of Finance,”** which appeared in the Fall 2021 issue of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

**Kerry Sinanan’s** “Lost Mothers in the Caribbean Plantation and Black Maternal and Infant Mortality” is an effective and emotionally moving examination of the role of enslaved mothers and children in the language and aesthetics of the picturesque. Sinanan scrutinizes images of the Caribbean plantation by white slave owners to teach readers about the complexities of our current social constructs about race. Placing past assumptions about enslaved mothers alongside current attitudes to Black motherhood, this article reminds us of how deeply rooted prejudices are in historical injustice. Shifting fluidly from visual analysis to contemporary relevance, Sinanan makes a persuasive case for the urgency of close reading and for speaking with nuance about print and visual culture. These techniques, she shows, have a role to play in revealing the continuing artistic legacies of slavery.

**Carrie Shanafelt’s** “A World of Debt’: Quobna Ottobah Cugoano, The Wealth of Nations, and the End of Finance” is a forceful and persuasive account of Cugoano’s critique of late eighteenth-century economics and the Bank of England’s reliance on Caribbean slavery in *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery* (1787). The sharp, erudite analysis demonstrates an enviable command of historical economics and deftly links Cugoano’s historical concerns to eighteenth-century economic theory and present-day discussions of capitalist collapse and debt. Working within a tradition of moral and philosophical debate, Shanafelt demonstrates with enormous talent and command how claims about the free market are premised on separating the abuse of labor from the sentimental commerce of mercantilism.

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is a not-for-profit educational organization founded to promote the study of all aspects of the eighteenth century. It sponsors conferences, awards research fellowships and prizes, and publishes *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*.