

Winners of the 2016 PCCBS Book Prize

Alastair Bellany and Thomas Cogswell, *The Murder of King James I* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2015)

This vividly written and compelling account traces allegations that King James I had been murdered through the 1620s and beyond. In doing so Bellany and Cogswell follow the allegations through a network of clandestine publishing in England and on the continent and demonstrate the ways in which English (and British) politics was tied to continental debates and conflicts. At the same time, they remind us of the ways in which scandals and libels shaped politics as much as did facts and rational calculation. Tracing the long tail of the allegations through the next forty years also provides a salutary reminder of the role of memory in politics. Bringing together the histories of politics, pamphleteering, and publishing, this is a virtuoso performance that transforms our understanding of the politics of the 17th century.

Marc Matera, *Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015)

This impressive book reshapes our understandings of London in the inter-war period by focusing on the ways it shaped anti-colonial and Black nationalist movements. Matera traces the multiple networks men and women from the colonies who studied and worked in London, and while there built connections that fostered cooperation and collaboration in the struggles for independence in British colonies around the world. These networks shaped politics, scholarship and music. As radicals and activists traveled between London and the colonies, ideas, sounds and friendships shaped the way they approached independence, and the connected intellectual and cultural worlds that accompanied it.