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Scientists under fire awarded the 2014 John Maddox Prize for Standing up for Science

28 October 2014

Posted on behalf of Sense About Science

Freelance journalist **Dr Emily Willingham** and early career scientist **Dr David Robert Grimes** have been awarded the international prize¹ for courage in promoting science and evidence on a matter of public interest, despite facing difficulty and hostility in doing so.

The judges awarded the 2014 Maddox Prize to these two people, who equally embody the spirit of the prize and who, at this relatively early stage in their lives, have yet to receive recognition for their work bringing science and evidence to the public. The winners reflect Sir John Maddox's passion for investigative journalism and for social engagement by young scientists.

David Grimes writes bravely on challenging and controversial issues, including nuclear power and climate change. He has persevered despite hostility and threats, such as on his writing about the evidence in the debate on abortion in Ireland. He does so while sustaining his career as a scientist at the University of Oxford.

Emily Willingham, a US writer, has brought discussion about evidence, from school shootings to home birth, to large audiences through her writing. She has continued to reach across conflict and disputes about evidence to the people trying to make sense of them. She is facing a lawsuit for an article about the purported link between vaccines and autism.

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