

Professor Clemency Montelle - Agnes Mary Clerke Medal

Professor Clemency Montelle (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) is awarded the 2026 Agnes Mary Clerke Medal for her outstanding research in the history of astronomy.

Combining knowledge of mathematical techniques, ancient languages and historiography, Professor Montelle has produced ground-breaking scholarship on ancient and Indian mathematical astronomy. Her work is widely admired as an essential contribution to our understanding of the field and for revealing and addressing earlier historiographical biases.

Internationally recognised, she is noted for technical articles, critical editions of primary source texts and historical surveys that unite deep scholarship with clarity and accessibility.

Through her published works, Professor Montelle has also developed and shared novel methodological insights into how to research, translate and represent complex sources such as Sanskrit astronomical tables. Her fluency in several ancient languages, together with her sensitivity to the social and cultural contexts within which astronomical practice was developed, has allowed her to shed new light on connections among major pre-modern Eurasian scientific traditions.

As well as producing her own specialised and highly original research, Professor Montelle is known for her leadership in collaborative research and for her promotion and generous support of the global community of historians of astronomy.