

The James Randall Leader Prize for an outstanding article published in 2020 goes to **Usha Vishnuvajjala** for her article “‘Me rewes sore:’ Women’s Friendship, Affect and Loyalty in *Ywain and Gawain*’, published in *Arthurian Literature* 35. Vishnuvajjala offers an interesting reading of an under-researched theme in a poem that is, in comparison to its famous Chrétien counterpart, relatively understudied. Vishnuvajjala highlights the ‘variety of friendships’ at work in *Ywayne and Gawayne*, with particular attention given to the poet’s exploration of different aspects of the *political* nature of Lunet and Alundyne’s relationship. For Vishnuvajjala, *Ywayne and Gawayne* ‘reveals that the interplay between gender, affective friendship and obligation in medieval romance is more complicated than it seems’. The article as a whole is a very delicate handling of a complicated issue and an insightful focus on the formal system of mutual obligations, duties, and alliances evident in the central women’s friendship. Building on scholarship that situates the poem in its fourteenth-century contexts, Vishnuvajjala offers a successful and unusual blend of attention to manuscript layout with close reading and the current theoretical concern with both gender and emotion.