



Contact: Paula M. Krebs
646 576-5102, awards@mla.org

CARMEN E. LAMAS TO RECEIVE MLA PRIZE IN UNITED STATES LATINA AND LATINO AND CHICANA AND CHICANO LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES FOR *THE LATINO CONTINUUM AND THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAS*

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its fifteenth MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies to Carmen E. Lamas, associate professor of English at the University of Virginia, for her book *The Latino Continuum and the Nineteenth-Century Americas: Literature, Translation, and Historiography*, published by Oxford University Press.

The MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies is one of twenty-two awards that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Ylce Irizarry (Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); Julie Minich (Univ. of Texas, Austin), chair; and Estelle Tarica (Univ. of California, Berkeley). The committee's citation for Lamas's book reads:

*In *The Latino Continuum and the Nineteenth-Century Americas: Literature, Translation, and Historiography*, Carmen E. Lamas treats the emergence of Latina/o literature in the 1800s as a literary and historical formation that decenters and reorients both US and Latin American cultural formations, fundamentally reconfiguring our understanding of the literary history of the American continent. Lamas recovers a continuum of *latinidad* that is neither confined to North America or South America nor wholly the purview of the past or present. In doing so, she places under scrutiny how the story of América has been written and narrated: which sources are chosen, how these sources are interpreted, and whose voices are heard. Lamas challenges us to reconsider which American futures have been imagined or foreclosed and to envision not only new pasts but also new futures.*

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 20,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy. The MLA sustains one of the finest publication programs in the humanities, producing a variety of publications for language and literature professionals and for the general public. The association publishes the *MLA International Bibliography*, the only comprehensive bibliography in language and literature, available online. The MLA Annual Convention features 750 scholarly and professional development sessions. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies was established in 2002 and is awarded under the auspices of the Committee on Honors and Awards. Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker

Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Howard R. Marraro Prize; the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for Bibliographical or Archival Scholarship; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; the MLA Prize for an Edited Collection; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, for African Studies, for East Asian Studies, for Middle Eastern Studies, and for South Asian Studies; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).