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MLA AWARDS PRIZE FOR AN EDITED COLLECTION TO *LATINX ENVIRONMENTALISMS* AND TO *THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE*; *SLAVERY AND THE POST-BLACK IMAGINATION* RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION

New York, NY – 7 December 2022 – The Modern Language Association of America has announced the cowinners of the first Modern Language Association Prize for an Edited Collection. Sarah D. Wald, associate professor of environmental studies and English at the University of Oregon; David J. Vázquez, associate professor of literature and critical race, gender, and culture studies at American University; Priscilla Solis Ybarra, associate professor of English at the University of North Texas; and Sarah Jaquette Ray, professor of environmental studies at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, will receive the award for *Latinx Environmentalisms: Place, Justice, and the Decolonial*, published by Temple University Press. Melanie Benson Taylor, professor of English and Native American studies at Dartmouth College, will receive the award for *The Cambridge History of Native American Literature*, published by Cambridge University Press. An honorable mention will go to Bertram D. Ashe, professor of English at the University of Richmond, and Ilka Saal, professor of American literature at the University of Erfurt, for *Slavery and the Post-Black Imagination*, published by the University of Washington Press.

The prize is one of nineteen awards that will be presented on 6 January 2023, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in San Francisco. The members of the selection committee were Ambreen Hai (Smith Coll.); Alexa Alice Joubin (George Washington Univ.), chair; and Deanna Kreisel (Univ. of Mississippi).

The committee’s citation for *Latinx Environmentalisms* reads:

Latinx Environmentalisms: Place, Justice, and the Decolonial is a capacious and generative collection of essays dedicated to decolonizing environmentalist thought. Many of the writers in this volume have avoided the label *environmentalist*, assuming that the environmental movement in the United States is a primarily white enterprise. *Latinx Environmentalisms* works to explore, and ultimately undo, this long-standing assumption through a series of provocative essays and interviews with Latinx writers and scholars that demonstrate the multiple ways in which communities often not seen as part of the “dominant environmental . . . imaginary” have “long held environmental values.” These essays, along with the incisive introduction by the editors—Sarah D. Wald, David J. Vázquez, Priscilla Solis Ybarra, and Sarah Jaquette Ray—and the afterward by Stacy Alaimo, are a must for scholars interested in environmental studies, ecocriticism, and decolonization.

The committee's citation for *The Cambridge History of Native American Literature* reads:

Melanie Benson Taylor's colossal, field-defining *The Cambridge History of Native American Literature* brings together nearly three dozen prominent and upcoming literary and visual arts scholars, poets, and fiction writers to explore rich and rewarding intersections between Native American literary culture and performance, media, Black, Canadian, feminist, and queer cultures. The contributions also speak to political and aesthetic concerns across the genres of poetry, drama, and speculative and horror fiction. This capacious volume critiques as much as it expands the field's purview of teleological history. Bringing the entire enterprise fully up-to-date is the volume's sophisticated exploration of contemporary implications of the tension between Indigenous digital interventions in colonialist culture and the concept of "digital indigeneity" or digital Natives.

The committee's citation for *Slavery and the Post-Black Imagination* reads:

Slavery and the Post-Black Imagination is a timely, inventive, and pathbreaking collection of ten essays that explore how late-twentieth- and early-twenty-first-century African American writers and artists have reimagined transatlantic slavery and its legacies for the contemporary moment. After Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, these neo-slave narratives reveal a different politics and poetics in their approach to the past, a break evinced through content and form: they have become transnational and global and have developed new idioms and self-aware, often playful strategies in a variety of genres. Bertram D. Ashe and Ilka Saal's collection has been edited to show both range and depth, offering fresh insights and theoretically informed ways of understanding a new body of Black cultural production and situating that body with dexterity and impressive scholarly expertise in fraught questions of the moment.

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 meetings on a wide variety of subjects. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The MLA Prize for an Edited Collection was established by the MLA Executive Council in 2020 and will be awarded biennially in odd-numbered years.

The MLA Prize for an Edited Collection is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's 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 Collaborative, 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 in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; 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](#).