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**MLA PRIZE FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS AWARDED TO JORDAN S. CARROLL
FOR *READING THE OBSCENE*; JEREMY COLANGELO AND MARY C. FLANNERY
TO RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS**

New York, NY – 7 December 2022 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced the winner of its thirty-fourth Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars. Receiving the award is Jordan S. Carroll, visiting assistant professor of English at the University of Puget Sound, for his book *Reading the Obscene: Transgressive Editors and the Class Politics of US Literature*, published by Stanford University Press. Jeremy Colangelo, writing lecturer at the University of Western Ontario, is receiving an honorable mention for *Diaphanous Bodies: Ability, Disability, and Modernist Irish Literature*, published by the University of Michigan Press. Mary C. Flannery, who currently holds a Swiss National Science Foundation Eccellenza Professorial Fellowship at the University of Bern, is receiving an honorable mention for *Practising Shame: Female Honour in Later Medieval England*, published by Manchester University Press. The prize honors distinguished published research in the fields of modern languages and literatures, including English, and recognizes achievements and contributions of independent scholars.

The MLA Prize for Independent Scholars 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, appointed by the association's Committee on Honors and Awards, were Abigail Manzella (Truman State Univ.); Aaron Santesso (Georgia Inst. of Tech.), chair; Talia Schaffer (Queens Coll., City Univ. of New York); Nancy Warren (Texas A&M Univ., College Station); and Jonathan Zwicker (Univ. of California, Berkeley).

The citation for Carroll's book reads:

In Reading the Obscene: Transgressive Editors and the Class Politics of US Literature, Jordan S. Carroll insightfully analyzes the role twentieth-century editors played in the fight against literary censorship, focusing on the relationship between these editors and a readership drawn from the professional-managerial class. The editors set out to tame the obscene and make the reading of scandalous texts a rite of passage for professional-managerial men. This editorial stance allowed these male readers to see such writings as a game to play and a puzzle to solve—a learned detachment tied to the professional and indeed to the making of the professional-managerial class itself. Carroll writes with control and precision as he mobilizes multiple genres in service of his fascinating claims.

The committee's citation for Colangelo's book reads:

Diaphanous Bodies: Ability, Disability, and Modernist Irish Literature is an impressive disability studies monograph that focuses on the role of the abled. Jeremy Colangelo

argues that the modernist able body seems “diaphanous,” leaving no mark on the environment. That such a body cannot exist has not discouraged the marginalization of the disabled body as an opposite, distinct category to the abled one. In carefully researched and detailed chapters on Joyce, Beckett, Egerton, and Bowen, Colangelo combines contemporary disability studies scholarship with theoretical and philosophical frameworks to offer new insights into the problem of the disappearing body.

The committee’s citation for Flannery’s book reads:

In Practising Shame: Female Honour in Later Medieval England, Mary C. Flannery focuses on a key element of women’s experience during the Middle Ages: how to demonstrate chastity. Since private acts and unknown thoughts could not be fully surveilled or accurately evaluated, chastity became an affective performance. Flannery shows how the enactment of “shamefastness” and the honing of a sense of shame were deployed to create feminine honor. But the performative nature of shame, ironically, could simultaneously call into question the authenticity of honor, since it could be practiced through inward and outward conduct and gestures. The overt practice of shame, Flannery argues, ultimately hints at the instability of artificial gender roles and the dangers of rigid social expectations for female behavior.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 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 Independent Scholars, awarded under the auspices of the MLA’s Committee on Honors and Awards, was first presented in 1983. 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 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 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](#).