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**MLA'S KATHERINE SINGER KOVACS PRIZE AWARDED TO ANNA KATHRYN KENDRICK FOR *HUMANIZING CHILDHOOD IN EARLY TWENTIETH-CENTURY SPAIN*; RICARDO PADRÓN RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION**

New York, NY – 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced its thirty-first annual Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures. The winner is Anna Kathryn Kendrick, clinical assistant professor of literature at New York University, Shanghai, for her book *Humanizing Childhood in Early Twentieth-Century Spain*, published by Legenda. Ricardo Padrón, professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia, has received an honorable mention for his book *The Indies of the Setting Sun: How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the Transpacific West*, published by the University of Chicago Press.

The Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize was established in 1990 by a gift from Joseph and Mimi B. Singer, parents of the late Katherine Singer Kovacs. The prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 8 January 2022, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Washington, DC. The members of the selection committee were Samuel Amago (Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill); Persephone Braham (Univ. of Delaware, Newark); Michelle Hamilton (Univ. of Minnesota, Twin Cities); John A. Ochoa (Penn State Univ.); and Elizabeth Scarlett (Univ. at Buffalo, State Univ. of New York), chair. The committee's citation for Kendrick's book reads:

Anna Kathryn Kendrick's study engages broadly and deeply with important developments in the field of education and developmental psychology and examines them in the context of a wide array of Spanish Silver Age sources. Meticulously assembled and written, *Humanizing Childhood in Twentieth-Century Spain* adds new dimensions to canonical texts (by José Ortega y Gasset, Jorge Guillén, Federico García Lorca, Juan Ramón Jiménez, and others) while also introducing new texts into the discussion.

The committee's citation of Padrón's work reads:

Ricardo Padrón chronicles the nonlinear process and competing interests that produced the names and established the locations of territories explored and claimed by the Spanish empire beyond Latin America. With significant implications for geography and historiography, *The Indies of the Setting Sun: How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the Transpacific West* fills gaps and dispels preconceived notions about the emergence of a cartography that reached around the globe.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 23,000 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](http://www.mla.org).

The prize is presented 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 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, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature; 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](#).

Katherine Singer Kovacs completed her undergraduate studies at Tufts University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and earned her MA and her PhD (in 1974) at Harvard University. She is the author of "*Le Rêve et la Vie*": *A Theatrical Experiment by Gustave Flaubert* and articles and reviews on Latin American literature, culture, and film and on comparative literature. Kovacs was a specialist in Spanish and Latin American literature and film. She taught at Stanford University, the University of Southern California, and Whittier College. She was associate editor and coeditor of *Humanities in Society*, a member of the executive committee of the *Quarterly Review of Film Studies*, and a consultant for *Latin American Perspectives*. Kovacs died in May 1989.