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DARIA MIZZA AND FERNANDO RUBIO TO RECEIVE THE MLA'S KENNETH W. MILDENBERGER PRIZE FOR *CREATING EFFECTIVE BLENDED LANGUAGE LEARNING COURSES*; EVGENY DENGUB, IRINA DUBININA, AND JASON MERRILL TO RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION

New York, NY– 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its thirty-sixth Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize to Daria Mizza, assistant professor of educational studies at the American University in Cairo and head of language instructional technology at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and Fernando Rubio, professor of Spanish linguistics at the University of Utah, for their book *Creating Effective Blended Language Learning Courses: A Research-Based Guide from Planning to Evaluation*, published by Cambridge University Press. Evgeny Dengub, professor of Russian at the University of Southern California; Irina Dubinina, associate professor of Russian at Brandeis University; and Jason Merrill, professor of Russian at Michigan State University and the director of the School of Russian at the Middlebury Language Schools at Middlebury College, are receiving an honorable mention for their work *The Art of Teaching Russian*, published by Georgetown University Press. The prize is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature with strong application to the teaching of languages other than English.

The Kenneth W. Mildenberger 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 this year's Mildenberger Prize Selection Committee were Katharina Gerstenberger (Univ. of Utah), chair; Gillian Lord (Univ. of Florida); and Heather Willis Allen (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison). The selection committee's citation for the winning book reads:

> In *Creating Effective Blended Language Learning Courses*, Daria Mizza and Fernando Rubio present a well-organized and methodical guide for designing blended language learning courses—and a clear rationale for creating them—that takes into account the state of language education in higher education today in the United States. The volume is widely applicable across languages and uses accessible language that does not assume prior knowledge and is thus suitable for a broad audience. Offering a combination of second language acquisition theory and teaching practice, it is a great resource to teachers and contains practical advice in the creation, implementation, and assessment of blended language learning courses.

The committee's citation for the honorable mention reads:

> Edited by Evgeny Dengub, Irina Dubinina, and Jason Merrill, *The Art of Teaching Russian* covers a wide range of topics relevant to teaching Russian and will be a useful model for developing similar works on other languages. The writing is clear and

accessible to nonexperts, and the structure is well-conceived. Each chapter engages with recent scholarly literature as it introduces and discusses a specific concept in relation to the teaching of Russian, including textbook creation and use, teaching culture, and recent developments in the teaching of languages other than English in the United States. This is a real must-read handbook for those new to teaching collegiate-level Russian in the United States and a valuable resource for instructors of Russian at all levels of experience.

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. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1979. First presented in 1980, the prize is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards. From 1998 to 2002, the prize was awarded in alternate years to an outstanding book and an outstanding article in the field. From 2004 to 2007, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was selected by a committee that also reviewed work for the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, which is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature and that has a strong application to the teaching of English.

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 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 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.

Kenneth W. Mildenberger (1921–79) devoted his distinguished career to the advancement of the study of foreign languages. He received his PhD in 1951 from New York University and an honorary doctorate of laws from Middlebury College in 1963. He joined the staff of the MLA in 1952 and served as associate secretary and director of the association's Foreign Language Program until 1958. He then moved to Washington, DC, where he served first as assistant chief of the Language Development Section in the United States Office of Education and then as chief until 1961. From 1962 to 1965 he served as director of the Division of College and University Assistance of the United States Office of Education. After his government service, Mildenberger returned to the MLA as deputy executive secretary and treasurer. During his career at the MLA he was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Applied Linguistics, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and the first ERIC Clearinghouse on Foreign Languages. He also directed numerous research projects, edited special publications, and was the founding editor of *Foreign Language Annals*.