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## **MLA'S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR ITALIAN STUDIES AWARDED TO VICTORIA DE GRAZIA FOR *THE PERFECT FASCIST***

New York, NY – 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its eleventh Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies to Victoria de Grazia, Moore Collegiate Professor of History at Columbia University, for *The Perfect Fascist: A Story of Love, Power, and Morality in Mussolini's Italy*, published by Harvard University Press.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies is awarded biennially, and alternately with the Howard R. Marraro Prize, for an outstanding book by a member of the association in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian. From 1996 until 2000, the two prizes were awarded jointly.

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 Sabrina Ferri (Univ. of Notre Dame), chair; Dana E. Renga (Ohio State Univ.); and Barbara Spackman (Univ. of California, Berkeley).

The selection committee's citation for de Grazia's book reads:

Elegantly written, thoroughly researched, and persuasively argued, Victoria de Grazia's *The Perfect Fascist* tells a compelling tale of private, affective life during the fascist period against the backdrop of a vividly drawn social, political, and military history of the regime itself. A lesson in microhistory and social history, the book explores the complex and often contradictory intersections between an individual's life and national destiny, shedding new light on issues relating to race, gender, power, politics, and public space. A powerful reminder of the fragility of individuals vis-à-vis the course of history, de Grazia's timely book is a model for future scholarship on Italian cultural history.

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 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies 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 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 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; 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](#).

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Endowment Fund was established and donated by Aldo Scaglione to the Modern Language Association in 1987. The fund honors the memory of Scaglione's late wife, Jeanne Daman Scaglione. A Roman Catholic, Jeanne Daman was headmistress of a Jewish kindergarten in Brussels, Belgium. When arrests and deportations of Jews began in 1942, she worked with Belgian and Jewish resistance units, helping to find hiding places for two thousand children throughout Belgium. She also helped rescue many Jewish men about to be deported as slave laborers by obtaining false papers for them. Jeanne Scaglione's life and contributions to humanity are commemorated in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Aldo Scaglione, a member of the Modern Language Association from 1957 until his death in 2013, was Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature at New York University. A native of Torino, Italy, he received a doctorate in modern letters from the University of Torino. He taught at the University of Toulouse and the University of Chicago. From 1952 to 1968 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and from 1968 to 1987 he was W. R. Kenan Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1987 he came to New York University as professor of Italian and then chair of the Department of Italian. Scaglione was a Fulbright Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow, held senior fellowships from the Newberry Library and the German Academic Exchange Service, and was a visiting professor at Yale University, the City University of New York, and the Humanities Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1975 he was named Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. Scaglione was president of the American Boccaccio Association and was a member of the MLA Executive Council from 1981 to 1984. His published books include *Nature and Love in the Late Middle Ages* (1963); *Ars Grammatica* (1970); *The Classical Theory of Composition* (1972); *The Theory of German Word Order* (1981); *The Liberal Arts and the Jesuit College System* (1986); *Knights at Court: Courtliness, Chivalry, and Courtesy from Ottonian Germany to the Italian Renaissance* (1991); and *Essays on the Arts of Discourse: Linguistics, Rhetoric, Poetics* (1998).