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MLA AWARDS SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR STUDIES IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES TO MIKHAIL EPSTEIN FOR *IDEAS AGAINST IDEOCRACY* AND TO RORY FINNIN FOR *BLOOD OF OTHERS*

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its fifteenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures to Mikhail Epstein, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Cultural Theory and Russian Literature, emeritus, at Emory University, for his book *Ideas against Ideocracy: Non-Marxist Thought of the Late Soviet Period (1953–1991)*, published by Bloomsbury, and to Rory Finnin, professor of Ukrainian studies at the University of Cambridge, for his work *Blood of Others: Stalin's Crimean Atrocity and the Poetics of Solidarity*, published by the University of Toronto Press. The prize is awarded biennially for an outstanding scholarly work on the linguistics or literatures of the Slavic languages, including Belarussian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, and Ukrainian.

The prize is one of twenty-two awards that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Jacob Emery (Indiana Univ., Bloomington), chair; Anne Lounsbury (New York Univ.); and Robin Feuer Miller (Brandeis Univ.). The committee's citation for Epstein's book reads:

Mikhail Epstein's magisterial *Ideas against Ideocracy: Non-Marxist Thought of the Late Soviet Period (1953–1991)* completes the project begun in its companion volume, the 2020 *Phoenix of Philosophy: Russian Thought of the Late Soviet Period*, tracing the development of Eurasianist, Christian, cosmist, and postmodern strands. Epstein clarifies and contextualizes the contributions of a dizzying range of thinkers, and his painstaking scholarship, lucid explication, and capacious archive make this an essential guide to the fertile and sometimes eccentric riot of ideas that emerged in the late Soviet period. Despite its omnivorous scope, however, his account is never merely encyclopedic. Epstein's framing arguments about the saturation of Soviet life with the philosophical and about the Soviet consummation and exhaustion of the Platonic tradition will foster productive disputation for years to come.

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

Rory Finnin's *Blood of Others: Stalin's Crimean Atrocity and the Poetics of Solidarity* draws together poetry, prose fiction, and films in Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar, Turkish, and Russian, allowing for an understanding of the region—and of the ethnic group at its center, the Crimean Tatars—that is kaleidoscopic and panoramic. Situating Crimea and the Black Sea neither at the margin of empires nor at the border of continents but at the center of a cohesive region, Finnin looks backward and forward from the moment in 1944 when Crimean Tatars were accused of treason, dispossessed, and

expelled from their homeland by the Soviet state. Informed by careful historical contextualizing and by theorizing how literature is able to mobilize sympathy, Finnin contributes to our understanding of how literature can work both to underwrite and to undermine settler colonialism.

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 750 scholarly and professional development sessions. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards, was presented for the first time in 1995. 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 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 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](#).

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).