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MLA AWARDS FENIA AND YAAKOV LEVIANT MEMORIAL PRIZE IN YIDDISH STUDIES TO AMELIA M. GLASER FOR *SONGS IN DARK TIMES* AND TO ALLISON SCHACHTER FOR *WOMEN WRITING JEWISH MODERNITY, 1919–1939*

New York, NY – 10 December 2024 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twelfth Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies for an outstanding scholarly work in the field of Yiddish. Amelia M. Glaser, professor of literature and endowed chair in Judaic studies at the University of California, San Diego, is receiving the award for *Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine*, published by Harvard University Press. Allison Schachter, professor of English, Jewish studies, and Russian and East European studies and Winkelried Family Chair in Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, is receiving the award for *Women Writing Jewish Modernity, 1919–1939*, published by Northwestern University Press. The prize is awarded each even-numbered year and is given alternately to an outstanding translation of a Yiddish literary work and to an outstanding scholarly work in English in the field of Yiddish.

The Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies is one of twenty-three publication awards that will be presented on 10 January 2025, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in New Orleans. The members of the selection committee were Naomi Brenner (Ohio State Univ., Columbus), chair; Justin Cammy (Smith Coll.); and Harriet Lisa Murav (Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Anita Norich (Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor) also contributed to the committee’s work. The committee’s citation for Glaser reads:

Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine examines the work of early-twentieth-century Yiddish internationalist poets, who embraced a global community of the oppressed using the poetic language of Jewish collective trauma. With a vast linguistic and geographic scope, Amelia M. Glaser’s book recovers and analyzes the global visions of a generation of leftist Yiddish modernists. Her work traces the Jewish passwords that poets applied to contemporary struggles, ranging from violence in Mandatory Palestine to the Spanish Civil War to the Hitler-Stalin Pact. Glaser’s deft analysis of Yiddish national and global poetics resonates long after the age of internationalism.

The committee’s citation for Schachter reads:

Women Writing Jewish Modernity, 1919–1939 is a groundbreaking work of scholarship that explores how early-twentieth-century Yiddish and Hebrew women writers used prose fiction to challenge canonicity and to offer new ways of writing Yiddish and Hebrew literature and shaping Jewish cultural modernity. Allison Schachter argues that early-twentieth-century women writers were uniquely positioned to develop new ways of reading and writing, as they situated the transformation of gender hierarchies at the heart of Jewish literary modernity. Analyzing the disruptive power of prose, Schachter’s book

creates a foundation for new works of Yiddish scholarship about women's cultural production.

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

Established in 2000 by the family of Fenia and Yaakov Leviant, the award honors those writers who have published an English translation of Yiddish literary works and scholars who have written a cultural study or critical biography in the field of Yiddish or edited a work on Yiddish folklore or linguistics. 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 Contingent Faculty and 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 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 prizewinners can be found on the [MLA website](http://www.mla.org).