MLA’S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR ITALIAN STUDIES AWARDED TO SERENELLA IOVINO FOR ECOCRITICISM AND ITALY; WILLIAM J. KENNEDY AND RHIANNON NOEL WELCH RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS


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 6 January 2018, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in New York City. The members of the selection committee were Clorinda Donato (California State Univ., Long Beach); Eleonora Stoppino (Univ. of Illinois, Urbana), chair; and Alessandro Vettori (Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick).

The selection committee’s citation for Iovino’s book reads:

“A groundbreaking book, Serenella Iovino’s *Ecocriticism and Italy: Ecology, Resistance, and Liberation* will help shape Italian studies over the coming decades. Firmly rooted in a philosophical perspective, the work articulates questions of ethics, place, and ecology in the Italian context and makes a convincing case for ecocriticism and environmental humanities. Iovino displays clarity of purpose and a superior ability to bring focus to a discipline that points the way to the future, while arguing for the capacity of literature to make sense of what we are experiencing as both personal and community narrative. An extremely engaging read, this book will find an audience well beyond Italian studies.

Serenella Iovino is a professor of comparative literature at the University of Turin. A research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, she is a founding member and past president of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment. Serenella has written on a wide range of topics, including environmental ethics and ecocritical theory, bioregionalism and landscape studies, ecofeminism and posthumanism, comparative literature and environmental...
humanities. Her recent publications include *Material Ecocriticism* and *Environmental Humanities: Voices from the Anthropocene*, both edited with Serpil Oppermann, and *Ecologia letteraria. Ecocriticism and Italy: Ecology, Resistance, and Liberation* was also awarded the American Association for Italian Studies Book Prize in the category of twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The committee’s citation for Kennedy’s work reads:


William J. Kennedy is the Avalon Foundation Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at Cornell University, which he has been affiliated with since 1970. He received his PhD from Yale University. Kennedy is the author of *Rhetorical Norms in Renaissance Literature*, *Authorizing Petrarch*, *The Site of Petrarchism: Early Modern National Sentiment in Italy, France, and England*, and *Jacopo Sannazaro and the Uses of Pastoral*, which received the 1982–84 Howard R. Marraro Prize. He is coeditor of *Writing in the Disciplines* and has guest-edited two volumes of *Annals of Scholarship*. His current project, entitled *Global Shakespeare*, is a book-length study of Shakespeare’s impact on twentieth- and twenty-first-century fiction, drama, and poetry in Russia, India, North Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Japan.

The committee’s citation for Welch’s book reads:

At once wide-ranging and comprehensive, *Vital Subjects: Race and Biopolitics in Italy, 1860–1920* redesigns the perspective of Italy’s relation to race, politics, and identity in the postunification period while proposing an innovative approach to biopolitics. By bringing together the work of foundational thinkers such as Agamben and Esposito with a wide array of literary texts, Rhiannon Noel Welch exposes some of the blind spots of Italian modernity, including colonialism, a conflicted unawareness of race, and control over reproduction.

Rhiannon Noel Welch is an assistant professor in the Department of Italian, the Program in Comparative Literature, and the Program in Cinema Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She received her MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. Welch’s essays have appeared in journals such as *Italica, Cultural Anthropology, Annali d’italianistica*, and a forthcoming volume of *California Italian Studies* and as chapters in numerous books, including, most recently, *Italian Mobilities*, edited by Ruth Ben-Ghiat and Stephanie Hom. Her current book project focuses on biopolitics and the visual cultures of the Mediterranean migration crisis.

The Modern Language Association of America and its nearly 24,000 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; this year’s convention in New York City is expected to draw 7,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at 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. Recent recipients include Cristina Della Coletta, Joseph Luzzi, Michelangelo Sabatino, Alessia Ricciardi, and Nick Wilding.

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. Mildenberger 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 a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project; 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 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.

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).