

ACLA Harry Levin Prize 2022

B. Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Tsitsi Jaji (Duke University)

Winner: Kristin Dickinson, for *DisOrientations: German-Turkish Cultural Contact in Translation (1811-1946)*. The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2021.

DisOrientations: German-Turkish Cultural Contact in Translation (1811-1946) is an outstanding monograph that sets new standards for comparing literatures of the Global South with those from the Global North. Dickinson inaugurates a conversation on Ottoman and modern Turkish literatures—woefully underrepresented in the Euro-American academy—while giving prominence to bi-directional translations of Turkish and German literary works. Moving beyond value-based critiques of translation that rely on terms such as “authenticity,” “interiority,” or “belatedness,” and transgressing the artificial borders of “untranslatability,” Dickinson powerfully formulates language in translation as “relational, linking meaning to movement and displacement.” Dickinson creates a fascinating genealogy of translation’s productions of socio-cultural meaning, and offers ways to conceive of the work of comparison-in-translation beyond “source” and “target” languages and literatures. Highlighting the new orientations, disorientations, and reorientations that translators and translation series inaugurate and facilitate, the book opens new avenues in several interlocking fields of Humanities: Comparative Literature, World Literature, Translation Studies, and Print Cultural Studies.