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A. Owen Aldridge Prize (best paper by a graduate student)

Committee:

- Chair: Jessica Hurley (George Mason University), Term: 2023-2026
- Christophe Koné (Williams College), Term: 2024-2027
- Julie Francoise-Tolliver (University of Oklahoma), Term: 2025-2028

Winner: *Aleppo's Other Storybooks: Scottish Physicians, Maronite Ḥakawātīs, and Improvisational Literature* by Allison Gibeily

The judges are delighted to award the 2026 A. Owen Aldridge Prize to “Aleppo’s Other Storybooks: Scottish Physicians, Maronite *Ḥakawātīs*, and Improvisational Literature.” Moving deftly between the storytelling practices of eighteenth-century Aleppo and the attempts of Scottish writers of the same period to pin down the Oriental tale as a written record, this essay reconfigures our understanding of this genre as a deeply embodied, improvisational storytelling practice whose affordances both shaped and resisted attempts at translation. The *ḥikāya*, the essay convincingly argues, requires its own theoretical frameworks of story, language, and the body – frameworks which this essay unfolds with detail and care. “Aleppo’s Other Storybooks” is a powerful example of how comparative methods can challenge our understanding of colonial and anticolonial literatures, both engaging with and showing the importance of moving beyond traditional ways of theorizing (post)colonial literatures.