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Charles Bernheimer Prize (outstanding dissertation in comparative literature)

Committee:

- Chair: Lynn Itagaki (Claremont McKenna College), Term: 2023-2026
- Keya Ganguly (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Term: 2024-2027
- Julie Napolin (The New School), Term: 2025-2028

Winner: *An Enemy Within: Imagining the Collaborator in Transwar France and Korea* by
Melissa Karp

Working across different historical and geographical sites of imperial and colonial conflict address the Japanese Occupation of Korea (1910-45) and Nazi Occupation of France (1940-44), Melissa Karp's dissertation, "An Enemy Within: Imagining the Collaborator in Transwar France and Korea" is exemplary for its ambitious scope, theoretical contributions, and genuinely comparatist framework that repositions the figure of the collaborator, from an enemy, comprador, and anti-hero into a complex, nation-building subject that also challenges the very solidity of "national" formations. As the collaborator comes into being through national injury and memory, but also through border crossing, Karp offers a deeply nuanced intellectual history of the collaborator as a comparative literary object and vexed historical subject. In prose that is poised and clever, Karp weaves literature, film, and fieldwork on museums and memorials into a dissertation that vexes the concepts of nation, historicity, translation, and the asymmetries of colonial domination through her evocative "dialectics of the collaborator."