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ACLA 2024 A. Owen Aldridge Prize: Winner

Committee:

Chair, Mark Sanders (NYU)
J. Daniel Elam (University of Hong Kong)
Jessica Hurley (George Mason University)

“Between Bandung and Havana: Emergent Solidarities and the Forgotten Poetry of Viva Cuba” by Lara Norgaard (Harvard University)

The judges unanimously agreed that “Between Bandung and Havana: Emergent Solidarities and the Forgotten Poetry of Viva Cuba” should receive this year's A. Owen Aldridge Prize. Meticulously attentive to historical context and poetic form, the essay expands from its focus on Indonesian and Cuban poets in the 1950s and 1960s to wrestle with expansive theoretical concerns and methodological approaches. From its clear-sighted approach to the unevenly forged poetics of leftist solidarity to its sustained analysis with cross-linguistic rhythm and sound, the essay is a model for how provocative, thoughtful, and ambitious work in comparative literary studies can be.