

ACLA Horst Frenz Prize 2022

J. Scott Miller (Brigham Young University) and Janet A. Walker (Rutgers University)

Winner: Angela Haddad (NYU), who delivered the paper “Eastern Mediterranean Migrant Entanglements: Orientalism and the Historical Novel” at the ACLA 2021 seminar “Eccentric Comparatisms, Worlds Otherwise: South-South Exchanges, Alternative Orientalisms, Strategic Occidentalisms.”

Angela Haddad’s exceptional essay “Eastern Mediterranean Migrant Entanglements: Orientalism and the Historical Novel” avoids the center-periphery dynamics that characterize many attempts to deal with the cultural productions of the whole world, focusing instead on literary interactions between South and South. In a beautifully organized and written comparative study, Haddad analyzes how Eastern Mediterranean migration from Lebanon to Martinique and Colombia around the turn of the twentieth century is articulated in novels published at the turn of the twenty-first century. Haddad’s study is a wonderful examination of migrant entanglements in three works, one from Lebanon, one from Martinique, and one from Colombia, that cover three languages: Arabic, French, and Spanish. It is the kind of comparative study that yields the fresh, new insights possible only through such a carefully conducted reading.