ACLA 2024 Harry Levin Prize: Winner

Committee:
Chair, Samantha Pinto (University of Texas at Austin)
Juan G. Ramos (College of the Holy Cross)
Seth Kimmel (Columbia)

Cannibal Translation: Literary Reciprocity in Contemporary Latin America, Isabel C. Gómez

Cannibal Translation makes a timely contribution to debates on how translation studies and world literature as categories both engage with and pose challenges for comparative literature as a field. Gómez’s use of various archival sources and methods from across national contexts animates the book’s astute close readings and hemispheric theoretical interventions. Cannibal Translation’s biggest contribution is its engagement with twentieth-century poetry from multiple geographical locations and through different languages. Both bold and lucid in its arguments about how poetic translation can work to undo and reveal itself, each chapter presents original and thoroughly researched case studies that speak to comparatists and specialists alike to center poetry’s role in comparative literature.