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ACLA Harry Levin Prize 2023: Honorable Mention

Committee: Tsitsi Jaji (chair), Samantha Pinto, Juan Ramos

Anjuli Fatima Raza Kolb, for *Epidemic Empire: Colonialism, Contagion and Terror, 1817-2020*.
University of Chicago Press, 2021.

Searing in its political engagement, *Epidemic Empire* meticulously traces how the figuration of racial and religious difference as medical risk has underwritten the violence of empire across South Asia, North Africa, and the diffuse geographies of the “war on terror.” Raza Kolb sustains her timely conceptual inquiry across a vast array of genres – novels, films, letters, clinical notes, administrative documents – in English and French, showing how metaphors of contagion long recognized as tools of ethnic vilification recur in the rhetorics of epidemiology and empire even as the nature of empire takes new forms. Timely, rigorous, and elegantly structured, *Epidemic Empire* ably choreographs comparative, postcolonial and American studies and reminds us of the ethical stakes of our field.