

2022 Wellek Prize for an edited collection:

Comintern Aesthetics, edited by Amelia M. Glaser and Steven S. Lee (U Toronto P 2020)

The first Wellek Prize awarded to an edited collection goes to this ambitious exploration of the legacy of the Communist International (1919-43) for contemporary literary and media studies. *Comintern Aesthetics* reconstructs the transnational networks that once linked, and continue to inspire, leftist writers, artists, and filmmakers from around the world. The volume's geographical scope is immense, with its twenty contributors tracing aesthetic and political connections between Soviet Russia and China, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Spain, Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia, Hungary, England, Brazil, and the United States. Revising in the process a host of received distinctions (among them, the ingrained opposition between modernism and socialist realism), the editors offer the Comintern as a model for a decentered and anticapitalist Comparative Literature whose necessity, clearly, is as acute today as it was last century: "For our own time," the editors conclude, "Comintern aesthetics reminds us of a broad, sustained effort to think, feel, organize, and create on an international scale against the currents of global capital and historical catastrophe."