

2022 Wellek Prize honorable mention for a monograph:

Jini Kim Watson, *Cold War Reckonings: Authoritarianism and the Genres of Decolonization* (Fordham UP 2021)

Jini Kim Watson's *Cold War Reckonings: Authoritarianism and the Genres of Decolonization* is an erudite and compelling exploration of the cultural productions of non-communist authoritarianism in East and Southeast Asia during the Cold War and its aftermath. In this study, Watson rethinks narratives of decolonization and associations with the "free world" in order to challenge prevalent distinctions that divided the world between a first-world liberalism, economically free and capitalist, arrayed in opposition to third world illiberal and unfree forms of socialism. Exploring the cultural positions of numerous authors, artists, and filmmakers, whether seen as supportive of authoritarian rule or as dissidents, Watson gives air to their critiques of the universalist claims of liberalism within the constrained binaries of the Cold War. Through a remarkable set of analyses, Watson reconsiders the analytic frameworks produced both by Cold War and postcolonial epistemes through the works of writers and filmmakers including Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Kim Chi-ha, Ninotchka Rosca, Mohamed Latiff Mohamed, Jeremy Tiang, Hwang Sok-yong, Han Kang, Sonny Liew, and Yoon Je-kyoon.