



July 15, 2024

For Immediate Release

MELUS Launches New Book Prize

MELUS has created a new book prize to be awarded biennially. A cash prize will be awarded to an academic monograph that aligns with the mission of MELUS, primarily focused on multiple ethnicities, comparative ethnicities, or mixed identities in texts of the United States or of the U.S. and the Americas. The monograph may be single-authored or co-authored, and must be published by a university or trade press. Eligible books may be focused on literature, culture, rhetoric, theory, or biography, provided they contain a significant literary component or clear applicability to ethnic literary study.

The inaugural award recipient will be chosen from books published within the 2023 and 2024 calendar years. Nominations are now open and the submissions deadline is December 20, 2024. The prize will be announced in the fall of 2025. The winning book will also receive special promotion at the Society's annual spring conference following the announcement of the award.

Judges for the 2023-24 Prize Cycle: Fred Gardaphé (committee chair) of Queens College/CUNY and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute; Amy Gore, North Dakota State University; Gary Totten, UNLV/*MELUS* journal editor; Wenying Xu, Jacksonville University

Founded in 1973, MELUS endeavors to expand the definition of new, more broadly conceived US literature through the study and teaching of Latinx, Native American, African American, Asian and Pacific American, and ethnically specific Euro-American literary works, their authors, and their cultural contexts. The Society's award-winning journal *MELUS*, published by Oxford University Press journals, is considered the premier international publication focused on multiethnic literary studies.

Nominations:

MELUS

ATTN: Book Prize

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4 copies of nominated books must be received by Dec. 20, 2024.

Nominations may be made by publishers, members of MELUS, or by authors self-nominating.

Nominators must arrange with the publisher to have four copies of the books sent to the above address for consideration.

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See an online version of this press release at <https://melus.org>