

The Anna Balakian Prize Committee

Report

23 June, 2025

As members of the Jury for the award of the Anna Balakian Prize 2025, constituted by the ICLA, we are happy to report the final outcome of the evaluation of books submitted for the Prize.

The Jury consists of the following members:

Prof. E.V.Ramakrishnan, Professor of English and Comparative Literature (Retd.), Professor Emeritus, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, India. Honorary Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Central University of Kerala, Kasargode, India.

Prof. Wen-chin Ouyang, Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at SOAS, University of London.

Prof. Sandra Maggio, Professor of English Literature, Department of Foreign Languages, The Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

At the outset, it may be mentioned that Prof. Rita Terezinha Schmidt, Professor in Literature and Linguistics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, who had consented to act as a member of the jury, had to withdraw from the process due to illness. Prof. Sandra Maggio who belongs to the Foreign

Languages department of the same university agreed to join as a member of the jury and complete the work of evaluation in the allotted time. Prof. Lucia Boldrini, the President of ICLA welcomed Prof. Sandra Maggio to the jury, and thanked her for taking up the responsibility at short notice.

In all we received nine entries for the Anna Balakian Prize 2025. Seven books were in English while one each was in French and Japanese. We took the help of Professor Steen Bille Jorgensen, Professor of French at Aarhus University to evaluate the entry in French. Prof. Sandra Maggio who is proficient in French, has gone through the French entry and evaluated it. Prof. Wen-chin got it evaluated by a colleague of his, Dr Ida Hadjvayanis, a specialist in Translation studies and competent in French. Prof. Noriko Hiraishi, University of Tsukuba, Japan evaluated the Japanese entry for us. Based on the English summary of the book, the jury members have also evaluated the book.

The following are the nine books we received for the Anna Balakian Prize 2025, in the alphabetical order.

Allogmany Hamidah, 2023. *Muslim Magical Realisms*. LINCOM GmbH, Muenchen (LINCOM Studies in Language and Literature).

Barral, Celine 2023. *Le Tact du polemiste: Charles Peguy, Karl Kraus, Lu Xun*. Classiques Garnier, Paris. **(In French)**.

Elhalwani, Amina 2024. *Staging Revolutions and the Many Faces of Modernism: Performing Politics in Irish and Egyptian Theatre*. Routledge, Abingdon/New York.

Irimia, Alexandra 2023. *Figures of Radical Absence: Blanks and Voids in Theory, Literature and the Arts*. DE GRUYTER GmbH, Berlin/Boston.

Krsteva, Marija 2023. *Towards a Theory of Life-Writing: Genre Blending*. Routledge, New York/London.

Kenji, OBA 2022. *The Missing America in the 1960s: A Comparative Study of Abe Kobo and Paul Auster*. Yokohama: Shumpusha Publishing. **(In Japanese)**

Ma, Xiaolu, 2024. *Transpatial Modernity: Chinese Cultural Encounters with Russia via Japan (1880-1930)*. Harvard University Asia Center, Cambridge (Mass.)/London.

Mangalagiri, Adhira 2023. *States of Disconnect: The China-India Literary Relations in the Twentieth Century*. Columbia University Press, New York.

Wolterman, Nick 2022. *Beckett's Imagined Interpreters and the Failures of Modernism*. Palgrave Macmillan.

We are happy to report that the books received represent a wide range of approaches and methodologies in dealing with texts, trends and trajectories belonging to multiple languages and literatures from several countries across the world.

They were evaluated with reference to the following criteria:

1. Originality of conception and formulation of the central argument.

2. Clarity and rigour of language and style.

3. Contribution of the book to the field of Comparative Literature Studies.

The following three books were selected in the order of merit, based on the marks awarded by the members of the jury:

1. Mangalagiri, Adhira, *States of Disconnect: The China-India Literary Relation in the Twentieth Century*.

Marks awarded: 27 (Wen-chin)+26 (E.V.)+29 (Sandra)=82 out of 90.

2. Xiaolou, Ma, *Transpatial Modernity: Chinese Cultural Encounters with Russia via Japan*.

Marks Awarded: 21+25+30=76 (out of 90)

3. Elhalwani, Amina, *Staging Revolutions and the Many Faces of Modernism: Performing Politics in Irish and Egyptian Theatre*.

Marks awarded: 15+24+29=68 out of 90.

The members of the jury are unanimous in selecting the above three books for their merits.

Looking to the rules of the Anna Balakian Prize, we, the members of the jury, recommend Adhira Mangalagiri's book, *States of Disconnect: The China-India Literary Relation in the Twentieth Century* for the award of the Anna Balakian Prize 2025 of the International Comparative Literature Association.

As we believe that Xiaolu Ma's book, *Transpatial Modernity: Chinese Cultural Encounters with Russia via Japan (1880-1930)*

merits attention as an important contribution to Comparative Literatures studies, we recommend that the book be awarded 'an Honourable mention'.

We thank the Executive Council of the ICLA, its president Prof. Lucia in particular, for support and co-operation.

Wen-chin Ouyang

Sandra Maggio

E.V.Ramakrishnan

Jury Member

Jury Member

Chair of the Jury