MLA AWARDS HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE TO GIAN MARIA ANNOVI FOR PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: PERFORMING AUTHORSHIP; TERESA FIORE AND BARBARA SPACKMAN RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION

New York, NY – 5 December 2018 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced that its twenty-fifth Howard R. Marraro Prize will be presented this year to Gian Maria Annovi, of the University of Southern California, for his book Pier Paolo Pasolini: Performing Authorship, published by Columbia University Press. Receiving honorable mentions are Teresa Fiore, of Montclair State University, for Pre-occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy’s Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies, published by Fordham University Press, and Barbara Spackman, of the University of California, Berkeley, for Accidental Orientalists: Modern Italian Travelers in Ottoman Lands, published by Liverpool University Press.

The Howard R. Marraro Prize was established in 1973 and is awarded biennially and alternately with the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, for an outstanding book in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian. (The Marraro Prize was awarded jointly with the Scaglione Prize from 1996 until 2000.)

The Howard R. Marraro Prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 5 January 2019, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in Chicago. The members of the selection committee for this year’s Marraro prize competition were Paola Bonifazio (Univ. of Texas, Austin); Clorinda Donato (California State Univ., Long Beach), chair; and Armando Maggi (Univ. of Chicago). The selection committee’s citation for Annovi’s book reads:

Gian Maria Annovi’s Pier Paolo Pasolini: Performing Authorship takes a multimedial approach to performative authorship that offers a new point of departure for Pasolini scholarship. Pasolini’s poetics reverberate under Annovi’s deft selection and analysis of visual and literary texts. Written with sensitivity and great erudition, this book resets the bar in our assessment of Pasolini’s relevance and stature and engages a readership in many disciplines—film, theater, queer studies, literature, painting, and beyond. The author and authorial potential emerge anew in defiance of poststructural theory in Annovi’s reading of Pasolini.

Gian Maria Annovi is an associate professor of Italian and comparative literature at the University of Southern California. Originally from Italy, he studied at the University of Bologna; the Universitat de Barcelona, Spain; and the University of California, Los Angeles. Annovi received his PhD from Columbia University. He taught at the University of Denver from 2011 to 2013. His first book, Altri corpi. Poesia e corporalità negli anni Sessanta, focuses on the relation between decentered subjectivity and corporeality in the poetry of Rosselli, Zanzotto, Sanguineti, Porta, and Pasolini. Annovi is the editor of four volumes and the author of numerous book chapters and articles on Italian poetry, the Italian neo-avant-garde, and Pasolini. In 2015 he
received a Creative Capital | The Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant. Pier Paolo Pasolini: Performing Authorship has also received the International Flaiano Prize for Italian Studies.

The committee’s citation for Fiore’s book reads:

Teresa Fiore has done a masterful job of opening up a new, dynamic conversation between Italy and its diaspora populations in Pre-occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy’s Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies. Taking advantage of myriad sources and interdisciplinary approaches, Fiore presents the issue of immigration from an Italian standpoint with insight and great intellectual dynamism. She delineates the sweep of transnational trajectories and their protean legacies, offering tangible evidence of postcolonial Italy as part and parcel of its migrant past. The interweaving of sources from Italian communities across the globe documents a surprisingly cohesive nexus of diasporic experiences and identity reflections that inform the renewed desire among Italians for dialogue about the processes of displacement, identity formation, and belonging.

Teresa Fiore is the Theresa and Lawrence R. Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at Montclair State University. The recipient of several fellowships (De Bosis, Rockefeller, and Fulbright), she has been a visiting assistant professor at Harvard University, New York University, and Rutgers University. Fiore was editor of the 2006 issue of Quaderni del ’900, devoted to John Fante, and the coeditor of a special section of the Journal of Modern Italian Studies’s Fall 2018 issue about the migration crisis in the Mediterranean Sea. Her numerous articles have been published in Italian, English, and Spanish in journals and edited collections. Pre-occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy’s Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies received the American Association of Italian Studies Book Prize in the twentieth-twenty-first-century category and was among the five finalists for the 2018 Bridge Book Award.

The committee’s citation for Spackman’s book reads:

Barbara Spackman’s contribution to the archives of Italian and orientalist studies illuminates a heretofore little-known cluster of authors and cultural phenomena that invites us to rethink Italian modernity transhistorically. The lives of these “accidental orientalists” resonate profoundly as points of departure from which to reflect on Italy’s diasporic past and evolving diasporic present and future. Accidental Orientalists: Modern Italian Travelers in Ottoman Lands has opened a new chapter in the migration and movement of Italians in the Mediterranean basin across linguistic, gender, and religious boundaries. These affective adaptations and reactions contribute to the twenty-first-century cultural negotiations that inform narratives of identity, displacement, destabilization, and reconsolidation.

Barbara Spackman is a professor of Italian studies and comparative literature, and holder of the Giovanni and Ruth Elizabeth Cecchetti Chair in Italian Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her PhD from Yale University. Spackman has published on topics as diverse as Macaronic poetry, Machiavelli and gender, film of the fascist period, the rhetoric of sickness at the fin de siècle, Italian futurism, contemporary feminist theory, the rhetoric of Mussolini’s speeches, Orientalism in the nineteenth century, and migrant writing in the twenty-first. She is the author of Decadent Genealogies: The Rhetoric of Sickness from Baudelaire to D’Annunzio and Fascist Virilities: Rhetoric, Ideology, and Social Fantasy in Italy, which received the 1996–97 Howard R. Marraro and Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Italian Literary Studies. Accidental Orientalists: Modern Italian Travelers in Ottoman Lands has also won the American Association for Italian Studies Book Prize in the category of Renaissance, Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Italian Studies.
The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy. The MLA sustains one of the finest publication programs in the humanities, producing a variety of publications for language and literature professionals and for the general public. The association publishes the *MLA International Bibliography*, the only comprehensive bibliography in language and literature, available online. The MLA Annual Convention features meetings on a wide variety of subjects; the 2019 convention in Chicago is expected to draw 7,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Howard R. Marraro Prize is awarded under the auspices of the MLA’s Committee on Honors and Awards. Recent winners have been Christian Moevs, Graziella Parati, Diana Robin, Christine Poggi, Jane Tylus, Marco Ruffini, Justin Steinberg, and Marilyn Migiel.

Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.

The Howard R. Marraro Prize is supported by a fund established by Marraro during his lifetime and maintained by his bequest to the MLA. Marraro was born in Sicily in 1897. He emigrated to the United States in 1905 and received most of his schooling here before returning to Sicily in 1912. In 1915 he entered Columbia College as a freshman, thus beginning an association with the university that lasted all his life. He was appointed to the Columbia faculty in 1925, received his PhD in 1932, and rose from lecturer to professor. He died in 1972.