

Winner: William Stroebel, University of Michigan

TITLE: “*Fluid Books Fluid Borders: Modern Greek and Turkish Book Networks in a Shifting Sea.*”

CITATION:

Based in prodigious archival research, Stroebel’s timely and compelling study explores the ways Greek and Turkish literature developed in fertile intertextual and interlingual networks during a period of great political upheaval in the Eastern Mediterranean in the first half of the twentieth century. In the wake of the Ottoman Empire, even as both Greece and Turkey pursued nationalist agendas based in the consolidation of cultural tradition, the literatures of the region refused to stay put, driven by unruly patterns of exchange across the putative boundaries of states, media, and languages. Through adroit close readings of the construction and circulation of key texts — from the “multiform” editions of C. P. Cavafy’s poetry, to the fluid textual assemblages of Amhet Hamdi Tanpınar, to the protean testimonial fiction of Halide Edib Adıvar, to the commonplace book compiled by the exiled priest Agathangelos in the late 1920s — Stroebel elucidates the parallels between heterogenous and collaborative textual networks, on the one hand, and intimations of political community, on the other.