

PAST LAUREATES

LUISA PASSERINI was honoured in 2014 for her work as a cultural historian who has proven in her scholarly works that Europe may be better understood from its margins and from the outside than from what is considered its centre. In her project "Bodies Across Borders: Oral and Visual Memory in Europe and beyond", she investigates new forms of European identity.



Dame Helen Wallace received the Madame de Staël Prize in 2015 in recognition of her contributions to the understanding of political systems in Europe and for providing a compelling analysis of the complexity of European integration. As Foreign Secretary of the British Academy, Dame Helen applied her expertise and worked tirelessly for improved European inter-academic cooperation.



Rémi Brague earned the distinction in 2016 for his extensive historical, philosophical and theological expertise in contextualising the question: what makes Europe a cultural entity. His work on medieval philosophy is widely read and applied as a centre piece for the understanding of contemporary problems.



ALLEA - All European Academies, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, was founded in 1994 and currently unites 59 Academies from more than 40 countries in the Council of Europe region. Member Academies operate as learned societies, think tanks and research performing organisations. They are self-governing communities of leading scholars and researchers across all fields of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. ALLEA provides access to an unparalleled human resource of intellectual excellence, experience and expertise.

Independent from political, commercial and ideological interests, ALLEA contributes to the improvement of framework conditions under which science and scholarship excel. Together with its Member Academies, ALLEA holds a unique position to address the full range of structural and policy issues facing Europe in science, research and innovation, and informs European policy and society through evidence based advice. In its foundation, ALLEA is guided by a common understanding of Europe tied together by cultural, historical, social and political factors as well as by scientific and economic reasons.

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All European Academies
Madame de Staël Prize
for Cultural Values

The All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values

is awarded to eminent scholars whose work represents a significant contribution to the cultural and intellectual values of Europe and to the idea of European integration, thereby promoting and strengthening an understanding of Europe as multifaceted, intellectual, open and vibrant. The prize also seeks to underline the importance of non-technological scholarly work and research for European advancement.

Europe is remarkable in that its definition and geographic boundaries have varied over the centuries, yet there has always been a kind of constant understanding of European culture as rooted in an inherent openness supported by a dynamic and vigorous intellectualism. In a time when the cultural diversity of Europe seems to be increasingly threatened by scepticism, extremism and instability, this prize serves to remind us of this deep-rooted and revered characteristic of Europe.

A sense of belonging to Europe, to a community of values, of culture and interests, is essential to forge this common destiny ... each of us can make a difference in Europe and contribute to driving positive change. This is what ALLEA is doing through its wide range of activities.

- JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2009 - 2014), AWARD CEREMONY 2014

The prize forms part of a larger set of ALLEA activities aiming not only to promote the intellectual and cultural richness of Europe, but also to support and acknowledge scholarly contributions that benefit these most valuable of Europe's assets.



In 2014, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso handed over the inaugural prize to Professor Luisa Passerini. Photo by Philippe Veldeman

CRITERIA

Laureates are well known for their scholarly excellence in the fields of history, political science, social science, religion, law or any other field in the humanities. A laureate's work may also be of interdisciplinary nature and must represent a major contribution to the research on Europe in these respective areas.

At the same time, the laureate's work should also be of remarkable significance for the existing and emerging values of Europe which help to tackle current and future challenges such as inequality, political instability, religious diversity, demographic change, or migration, and not least scepticism towards European integration and unity.

The prize gives humanities a true European framework and helps establishing a distinct European cultural identity.

- JOHANNES HAHN, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY & ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AWARD CEREMONY 2016

NOMINATIONS AND JURY

Nominations are submitted by ALLEA Member Academies. On the basis of the proposals received, a Jury composed of eminent Member Academy representatives selects and nominates the laureate after a careful evaluation of the nominees' merits. The Jury seeks external peer assessment where applicable and is responsible for the selection of an appropriate laudator. All Jury members are renowned scientists and scholars in a broad range of fields relevant to the scope of the prize. The Jury is chaired by the ALLEA President.

It is luminaries like Madam de Staël who give flight to new ideas, who elevate the public discourse and make it easier for every citizen to come to their own conclusions about the politics they wish to follow.

- CARLOS MOEDAS, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION, AWARD CEREMONY 2015

Madame de Staël-Holstein (1766-1817), née Anne Louise Germaine Necker, created her own vibrant network of great European thinkers and championed the rise of the independent-minded female intellectual. Her salon promoted progressive and pragmatic political and intellectual discussions.



Her critical and fictional works were highly influential in the era of European Romanticism. In 1814, the French memoir writer Madame de Chastenay summed up her life in a single epigramme. There were, she wrote, three great powers struggling against Napoleon for the soul of Europe: "England, Russia, and Madame de Staël."