
All European Academies *Madame de Staël* Prize for Cultural Values

The **All European Academies *Madame de Staël* Prize for Cultural Values** is named after Anne Louise Germaine Necker, Madame de Staël-Holstein (1766-1817), who stands for a perception of Europe as shaped by its longstanding intellectual and cultural values.

The prize 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 and therewith exposes the multifaceted intellectual Europe of openness and colourful vibrancy. It also shows the importance of non-technological scholarly work and research for Europe.

Laureates are well known for their scholarly merits in the fields of history, political science, social science, religion, law or any other field in the humanities and their work is also of remarkable significance for the emerging and necessary values of Europe in present times. The reason for this focus is that there are many awards in Europe for political leaders, public intellectuals and artists, but we are not aware of an eminent prize that supports and acknowledges scholarly contributions to the intellectual entity and cultural values in Europe.

Selection process and Jury

An academic committee chaired by the President of the **European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, ALLEA**, and composed of renowned fellows of European Academies in the fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities collects nominations, evaluates the merits of the candidates and identifies the prize laureates. The jury is also responsible for selecting a laudator.

Composition of the Jury

- Günter Stock, Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities / Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA President and Chair)
- Oivind Andersen, Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
- Marie-Therese Flanagan, Royal Irish Academy
- Nicholas Mann, The British Academy
- Ed Noort, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Alberto Quadrio-Curzio, Academy of the Lincei, Italy

Award ceremony and endowment

The All European Academies *Madame de Staël* Prize for Cultural Values is awarded biennially and is endowed with 25,000 EUR. The prize is kindly co-sponsored by the **Stiftung Mercator**. It will be awarded for the first time on 9 April 2014 by President José Manuel Barroso. The award ceremony takes place in the *Palaise des Académies*, seat of five Belgian Academies in Brussels.

Madame de Staël

Anne Louise Germaine Necker, Madame de Staël-Holstein, 1766-1817, was the daughter of the French politician Jacques Necker and Suzanne Curchod; growing up, she was exposed to the intellectual salon her mother hosted in her house. In 1786 she married Baron de Staël-Holstein, the Swedish ambassador, and soon established her own salon as a centre of progressive political and intellectual discussions. In 1803, Staël was banned from Paris by Napoleon, and took up residence in Coppet near Lake Geneva, where she established a new salon.

Celebrated for her conversational eloquence, she participated actively in the political and intellectual life of her times. Her works, both critical and fictional, made their mark on the history of European Romanticism. In 1814, the French memoir writer Madame de Chastenay summed up her life in a single epigram. There were, she wrote, three great powers struggling against Napoleon for the soul of Europe: “England, Russia, and Madame de Staël.”

All European Academies (ALLEA)

www.allea.org

ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, was founded in 1994 and brings together more than 50 Academies in over 40 countries from the Council of Europe region. Member Academies operate as learned societies, think tanks or research performing organisations. They are self-governing communities of leaders of scholarly enquiry across all scientific disciplines. Independent from political, commercial and ideological interests, ALLEA provides access to an unparalleled human resource of intellectual excellence, experience and expertise.

ALLEA is guided by a common understanding of Europe bound together by historical, social, cultural and political factors as well as for scientific and economic reasons. ALLEA’s mission is to promote the exchange of information and experiences between Academies, strive for excellence and high ethical standards in the conduct of research, as well as for autonomy of science and scientific institutions and adequate working conditions for scientists and scholars. ALLEA aims to secure the preservation, protection and interpretation of the European cultural heritage and seeks to contribute to improving the conditions under which science and scholarship can fulfil this task and further excel.

Stiftung Mercator

<http://www.stiftung-mercator.de/en>

Stiftung Mercator is one of Germany’s largest foundations. It initiates and funds projects that promote better educational opportunities in schools and universities. In the spirit of Gerhard Mercator, it supports initiatives that embody the idea of open-mindedness and tolerance through intercultural encounters, encouraging the sharing of knowledge and culture. The foundation provides a platform for new ideas to enable people – regardless of their national, cultural or social background – to develop their personality, become involved in society and make the most of the opportunities available to them. In this way it wants to let ideas take flight. Stiftung Mercator takes an entrepreneurial, international and professional approach to its work. It has a particular affinity with the Ruhr area, the home of its founding family.

