

Andrea Pető receives the 2018 ALLEA Madame de Staël Prize

European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel awarded the Prize to Andrea Pető, Professor of the Central European University, during a festive ceremony at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia.

16 May 2018 (Sofia, Bulgaria) Andrea Pető, Professor at the Department of Gender Studies of the Central European University in Budapest (Hungary), received the 2018 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values today at the [Bulgarian Academy of Sciences](#) in Sofia. She was honoured for her outstanding scholarly contribution on Europe's memory of the Second World War, the Holocaust and political extremism from a gender perspective.

Professor Pető is the fifth scholar to be awarded the 20,000 EUR Prize, at the initiative of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, with the co-sponsorship of the Italian foundation Compagnia di San Paolo.

European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society **Mariya Gabriel** handed over the Prize certificate during an award ceremony organised as part of the European academies' annual meeting. Commissioner Gabriel praised Pető's ingenuity in approaching Europe's history and memory.

"Andrea Pető is a worthy recipient of this year's Mme de Staël prize for her groundbreaking intellectual contributions in her work on women's history in Eastern Europe. The Mme de Staël prize is unique in highlighting the importance of the social sciences and the vision of a common European identity. My congratulations to Andrea Pető for this prize and to ALLEA for choosing such an outstanding scholar", Gabriel said.

In her acceptance speech, Pető reminded the audience to remember the "great women predecessors" in science such as Madame de Staël, who have fought for Europe's common values. In a lecture on the parallel stories of Europe, Pető delved into the lives and struggles of Anne Louise Germaine Necker, Madame de Staël-Holstein, namesake of the ALLEA prize and a leading intellectual figure of Europe's 19th century, as well as Júlia Rajk, the wife of László Rajk, the Hungarian Minister of Interior Affairs executed during the country's first Stalinist show trial in 1949.

"We can all derive strength from this individual, physical joy. And we need to derive strength for our value-based fight, just



Professor Andrea Pető (Central European University), the 2018 ALLEA Madame de Staël for Cultural Values

like Germaine and Júlia did, because they knew that it will be a long one. There is but one thing we cannot avoid when it comes to a fight: fighting it", she remarked.

Professor **Günter Stock**, ALLEA President and chairman of the Prize jury welcomed the 2018 laureate by pointing out that exploring the relationship between gender and memory is indeed a necessary activity to unsilence women in their historical context and he finished with a cautionary reminder: Andrea Pető's "work of unsilencing oppressed groups can only flourish when academics are free to pursue their research unimpeded by higher powers, no matter if they are governmental, economical, or indeed societal".

The ALLEA Prize was established to commemorate that despite variations in

definition and geographical boundaries over the centuries, there has always been a deep-rooted understanding of European culture as connected by an inherent diversity supported by a dynamic and vigorous intellectualism.

About Andrea Pető

Andrea Pető (Budapest, 1964) is Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest (Hungary) and a Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Author of 5 monographs, editor of 31 volumes, as well as 261 articles and chapters in books published in seventeen languages. In 2005, she was awarded the Officer's Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary by the President of the Hungarian Republic and the Bolyai Prize by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2006.

Her publications include *Geschlecht, Politik und Stalinismus in*

Ungarn. Eine Biographie von Júlia Rajk (2007); *Women in Hungarian Politics 1945-1951* (2003); *Napasszonyok és Holdkissasszonyok. A mai magyar konzervatív női politizálás alaklata* (2003), *Interdisciplinary Handbook Gender: War* (2017), *Women and Holocaust: New Perspectives and Challenges* (2015), co-authored with Louise Hecht and Karolina Krasuska; *Gender and Far Right Politics in Europe* (2016), co-authored with Michaela Köttig and Renate Bitzan; *Gendered Wars, Gendered Memories. Feminist Conversations on War, Genocide and Political Violence* (2016), co-authored with Ayşe Gül Altınay, and *Political Justice in Budapest after World War II*, co-authored with Ildikó Barna (2015), among others.

About ALLEA

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

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The Compagnia di San Paolo, founded in 1563 as a charitable brotherhood, is today one of the largest private-law foundations in Europe. It pursues aims of public interest and social use, in order to foster the civil, cultural and economic development of the community in which it operates. The Compagnia is active in the sectors of research and health, art, cultural heritage and activities, cultural innovation, social policies, and philanthropy.

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About the ALLEA Prize

ALLEA established the *All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values* to pay tribute to the boundless intellectual, cultural diversity and richness of Europe, and to highlight how remarkable scholarly work, particularly in the fields of the humanities and social sciences, contributes to the understanding of Europe as a cultural and intellectual entity. The Prize is awarded to eminent scholars whose work represents a significant contribution to these objectives.

[Learn more about the ALLEA Prize](#)

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