

CLAIRE KRAMSCH AND LIHUA ZHANG TO RECEIVE THE MLA'S KENNETH W. MILDENBERGER PRIZE FOR *THE MULTILINGUAL INSTRUCTOR: WHAT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE AND WHY IT MATTERS*

New York, NY– 4 December 2019 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its thirty-fifth Kenneth W. Mildener Prize to Claire Kramersch, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Lihua Zhang, of the University of California, Berkeley, for their book *The Multilingual Instructor: What Foreign Language Teachers Say about Their Experience and Why It Matters*, published by Oxford University Press. The prize is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature with strong application to the teaching of languages other than English.

The Kenneth W. Mildener Prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 11 January 2020, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Seattle. The members of this year's Mildener Prize Selection Committee were Katharina Gerstenberger (Univ. of Utah); Carolina Gonzalez (Florida State Univ.), chair; and Kate Paesani (Univ. of Minnesota, Twin Cities). The selection committee's citation for the winning book reads:

With *The Multilingual Instructor*, Claire Kramersch and Lihua Zhang offer a groundbreaking study on teacher professional identity in relation to multilingualism and multiculturalism in United States postsecondary language teaching contexts. The study is theoretically sophisticated and empirically rich, and qualitative data analyses provide nuanced understandings of teacher perspectives on identity and multilingualism that seriously call into question the native/non-native dichotomy. Paying particular attention to the importance of affect, Kramersch and Zhang broaden our understanding of what it means to teach and to learn foreign languages in the United States. *The Multilingual Instructor* is well written, engaging, and has important implications for researchers and practitioners across languages, levels, and contexts. It is an outstanding, relevant, and innovative book that broadens our understanding of L2 teaching and will have a lasting impact on the profession.

Claire Kramersch studied German language and literature at the École Normale and the University of Paris-Sorbonne. She taught at MIT and Cornell University and has been at the University of California, Berkeley, since 1990, where she is emerita professor of German and affiliate professor of Education. Her major publications include *Discourse Analysis and Second Language Teaching; Interaction et discours dans la classe de langue; Reden, Mitreden, Dazwischenreden: Managing Conversations in German; Foreign Language Research in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Text and Context: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Language Study; Context and Culture in Language Teaching*, which received the 1993 Kenneth W. Mildener Prize; and *The Multilingual Subject*, which received the 2009 Mildener Prize. Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Studies in Second Language Acquisition, The Modern Language Journal, Die Unterrichtspraxis, The Canadian Modern Language Review, Profession, ADFL Bulletin, PMLA,*

The Journal of Sociolinguistics, and *Language, Culture and Curriculum*. She was the 1994–95 president of the American Association of Applied Linguistics and was coeditor of the journal *Applied Linguistics* from 1998 to 2003. She is the founder and editor in chief of *L2 Journal* and served as president of the International Association of Applied Linguistics from 2014 to 2017.

Lihua Zhang is senior lecturer of Chinese at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her PhD in German from the University of California, Berkeley, her MA in Germanic philology and linguistics from the University of Alberta, and a diploma in German from Fudan University, Shanghai. She is the author of *A Contrastive Study of Aspectuality in German, English, and Chinese* and coeditor of *Interdigitations: Essays for Irmengard Rauch*. Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Heritage Language Journal* and *L2 Journal*.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 25,000 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 2020 convention in Seattle is expected to draw over 5,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1979. First presented in 1980, the prize is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards. From 1998 to 2002, the prize was awarded in alternate years to an outstanding book and an outstanding article in the field. From 2004 to 2007, the Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize was selected by a committee that also reviewed work for the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize, which is awarded for an outstanding work in the fields of language, culture, literacy, and literature and that has a strong application to the teaching of English.

Recent winners of the Mildenberger Prize include Diane Larsen-Freeman, Claire Kramsch, Norman Segalowitz, Susan M. Gass and Alison Mackey, James P. Lantolf and Matthew E. Poehner, and Erin Kearney.

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 Howard R. Marraro 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 Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship; 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 MLA Prize for an Edited Collection; 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.

Kenneth W. Mildenberger (1921–79) devoted his distinguished career to the advancement of the study of foreign languages. He received his PhD in 1951 from New York University and an honorary doctorate of laws from Middlebury College in 1963. He joined the staff of the MLA in 1952 and served as associate secretary and director of the association's Foreign Language Program until 1958. He then moved to Washington, DC, where he served first as assistant chief

of the Language Development Section in the United States Office of Education and then as chief until 1961. From 1962 to 1965 he served as director of the Division of College and University Assistance of the United States Office of Education. After his government service, Mildenerger returned to the MLA as deputy executive secretary and treasurer. During his career at the MLA he was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Applied Linguistics, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and the first ERIC Clearinghouse on Foreign Languages. He also directed numerous research projects, edited special publications, and was the founding editor of *Foreign Language Annals*.