



# LOIS ROTH FOUNDATION

FOR CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REVIEW

Program Year  
2021 – 2022

### Fulbright & Academic Collaborations

*Project Support Awards are designed to supplement existing grant funding to help selected individuals enrich and expand their projects once they are in the field. After the pandemic-related hiatus, we are very glad to announce a full set of awards this year, as well as three new programs in honor of our 35th anniversary!*

**Australia.** After a two-year hiatus, we were very pleased to continue our collaboration with Fulbright Australia and present an award to **Elizabeth Schmidt** (Kent State), in support of her analysis of Australian media and policy on the rights and safety of LGBTQ refugees in detention.

**Denmark.** This award, offered together with the American Scandinavian Foundation, was presented to **David Norman** (UMI) for his book project *Home Rule Contemporary: Experimental Art and Self-Determination in Kalaallit Nunaati*, on post-colonial Inuit arts and its critical relevance to global art movements.

**Ecuador.** We are very pleased to welcome the Comisión Fulbright del Ecuador as a new Project Support partner, with an award to be presented early in 2023.

**Finland.** In cooperation with the Fulbright Center Helsinki, the Roth-Thomson Award was bestowed on **Kathlyn Elliott** (Georgetown) to support her research into the pedagogical tools used by the Finnish education system to prevent violent extremism.

**Morocco.** Our inaugural award for Morocco will help **Ryan Milov-Cordoba** (CUNY Grad School) visit remote areas and film documentation of Morocco's *Hakawati* story-telling tradition. His project is entitled *Streaming the Sooq: Presents, Futures, and Pasts of the Moroccan Darija Hakawati Tradition*.

**Norway.** In collaboration with Fulbright Norway, this award went to **Kathleen Maris Paltriner** (Univ of Iowa) to support her work in translating an anthology of Norwegian ecopoetry.

**Sweden.** The Roth-Thomson Award, administered with Fulbright Sweden, went to **Radhika Purandare** (College of NJ) to support her research on maternal health among immigrant populations in Sweden.

**Uruguay.** In concert with the Comisión Fulbright Uruguay, we bestowed our inaugural awards on two recipients. **Grace Perry** (Colorado College) is using her award for her research on “Exposing (Dis)connects Between Trans Life & Legislative Goals in Uruguay.” **Brandon Goodale** (WI-Madison) is using his to travel to remote populations for his dissertation on *Variation in Intonation of Uruguayan Spanish*.

**Fulbright Distinguished Lecture**  
This project is a collaboration with the US-UK Fulbright Commission and three UK universities—Pembroke College, Oxford, King's College London and the University of Edinburgh—which take turns hosting the lecture. The 2022 lecture was given by **John Kerry** at King's College London on Dec. 9, 2022. He spoke on “The Urgency of Global Climate Action.”

### Literature & Translation

**Arabic Literature Tour.** This US tour of an Arabic-language author and their translator offers students and faculty a chance to experience contemporary Arabic literature in person. Unfortunately, the tour had to be suspended once again due to pandemic-related travel restrictions.

**Dyankov Prize.** Suspended since 2019 because of the pandemic, the Krastan Dyankov Translation Prize will be awarded again in early winter 2022-23.

**MLA-Roth Award.** Bestowed in concert with the Modern Language Association, this year's award went to **Sasha Dugdale** for her translation of *In Memory of Memory: A Romance*, by the contemporary Russian poet Maria Stepanova (New Directions). Two Honorable Mentions were also awarded. The first went to **Jennifer Grotz** and **Piotr Sommer**, for their translation from the Polish of *Everything I Don't Know: Selected Poems*, by Jerzy Ficowski (World Poetry Books). The second went to **Mariana Past** and **Benjamin Hebblethwaite**, for their translation from the Creole of *Stirring the Pot of Haitian History* (Liverpool Univ Pr.), the groundbreaking Haitian anthropologist Michael-Rolph Trouillot's first book.

**Persian Translation Prize.** We were deeply saddened to hear in September of the passing of Dr. Franklin Lewis (UChicago), who co-created and ably led the jury for the biennial Persian Translation Prize for over 20 years. Dr. Sunil Sharma (Boston

Univ) has graciously agreed to chair the jury moving forward; he will be joined on the committee by former Persian Translation Prize winner Jawid Mojaddedi (Rutgers) and Justine Landau (Sorbonne).

**Sozopol Fiction Seminar.** The Elizabeth Kostova Foundation for Creative Writing has announced that the Sozopol Fiction Seminar will, at last, take place in person again on June 8-12, 2023, followed by their two-day CapitalLiterature programs in Sofia. We applaud their tenacity and creativity during the long pandemic period!

### Cultural Diplomacy

*Six exemplary cultural diplomats were recognized for their achievements by the US State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) on December 1, 2022. The Lois Roth Award goes to Foreign Service Officers, the Ilchman-Richardson Award to Washington-based ECA employees and the Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award and Career Achievement Award to locally employed cultural affairs specialists working on behalf of the U.S. abroad.*

**Lois Roth Award.** The Lois Roth Award went to **Jennifer Uhler**, the Regional English Language Officer for Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia, based in Tallinn. Keenly aware of how English language skills promote cross-cultural communication, open doors to educational and job opportunities and provide a way to share US culture and values, she has created teacher-training programs that,

continued and expanded by her successors, have lasted long beyond her previous assignments.

Cultural Affairs Officer **Richard Pinkham**, of the US Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan, was awarded an Honorable Mention for the breadth of cultural and educational programs he has mobilized to foster greater stability and cohesion in the South Caucasus. Through in-person and virtual exchanges—for think-tank analysts, academics and students—as well as English language teacher training and new American cultural programming spaces, he has significantly improved the lives of millions of Azerbaijanis, Armenians and Georgians.

**Ilchman-Richardson Award.** The Deputy Director of ECA’s Office of Citizen Exchanges, **Matthew McMahon**, is honored for his exceptionally successful work with international posts and regional bureaus. His work models the important role of ECA civil service managers, who help achieve US foreign policy goals with their subject matter expertise, management experience, broad regional awareness and knowledge of relevant domestic issues.

**Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award.** Public Engagement Specialist **Jane Susi**, at the US Embassy in Tallinn, Estonia, has overseen a range of programs that engage universities, think tanks and other policy-oriented NGOs for over 15 years. She has increased Estonian support for the Fulbright Program and greatly expanded its Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program, all while fostering diversity and inclusion in programs and grants, solidifying the Embassy’s cultural

outreach to communities outside of the capital city and training and mentoring staff throughout the region.

**Alaa Mufleh** of the US Embassy in Amman, Jordan received an Honorable Mention for her work as both an Emerging Voices Specialist and a Specialist in Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism. Her programs engage the country’s rising influencers and empower women and youth through experiential learning activities that mitigate vulnerability to radicalization across the country. The concert of jazz legend Herbie Hancock in a 2,000-year-old auditorium yielded videos and news coverage that brought jazz into the homes of every Jordanian.

**Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Career Achievement Award.** Cultural Specialist **Dorothy Ngalombi** is recognized for her work at the US Embassy in Kampala, Uganda for over 36 years. In addition to cultural programming, such as film festivals, concerts and women’s writing retreats, she has overseen the Fulbright Program. Her dedication to Fulbright scholars and alumni over the years has led to a strong network of supporters. An annual Fulbright Kajubi Lecture Series will be a lasting result of this, as is the alumni Lifetime Achievement Award created by the Public Affairs Section in Kampala in her name.

*Please visit our website for more about these extraordinary people and programs!*  
[www.loisrothfoundation.org](http://www.loisrothfoundation.org)

*The Lois Roth Foundation relies entirely on individual gifts to support its work. Your generous contribution is greatly appreciated. For annual giving or bequests, please contact us at [give@loisrothfoundation.org](mailto:give@loisrothfoundation.org) or 202-810-3806.*



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