



Press Release 16 March 2010

Natalie Zemon Davis, Professor at University of Toronto, is awarded Holberg Prize 2010, and Johan Östling at Lund University is awarded Nils Klim Prize 2010.

The Holberg Prize is worth 785.000 USD/530.000 Euro and will be awarded 9. June in Bergen in Norway.

Excerpts from the citation of the Holberg Prize Academic Committee:

“Natalie Zemon Davis is one of the most creative historians writing today, an intellectual who is not hostage to any particular school of thought or politics. Her writing is richly textured, multi-faceted and meticulously documented. She shows how particular events can be narrated and analyzed so as to reveal deeper historical tendencies and underlying patterns of thought and action. Her work brings gender to the fore, while insisting that the relationship between men and women is always embedded in the cultural discourses and social organizations specific to their time.”

“Davis’ imaginative approach to history, coupled with intensive archival research, makes the past come alive; her fundamental method is to pursue a dialogue between the past and the present. The uniqueness of her work lies in connecting early modern Europe with new areas of comparative history, exploring cultural, geographical and religious interchange.” (...)

“Her current work examines slavery in Suriname through the lens of generational

encounters and crossings between slave and free, black and white, and people of different religions.“

“Natalie Zemon Davis’s contribution has provided many opportunities for innovative cross-fertilization between disciplines. She writes beautifully and knows how to tell a story, while at the same time remaining scrupulous in handling her empirical sources. The creativity and fearlessness of her work have inspired many younger historians, encouraging them to follow their own curiosity. As she herself has said: “I want to be an historian of hope who makes people aware of possibilities in the future”.”

Johan Östling is awarded the Nils Klim Prize 2010 to Nordic Scholars less than 35 years old. The prize is worth 30 000 EUR/42 000 USD, and will be awarded 9. June in Bergen in Norway.

Excerpts from the citation of the Holberg Prize Academic Committee:

“**Johan Östling** is a postdoctorate researcher at the Department of History at Lund University. His research interests include Swedish, German and European modern history. His doctoral thesis “Nazismens sensmoral. Svenska erfarenheter i andra världskrigets efterdyning”, defended in Lund 2008, presents a solidly grounded, innovative analysis of how the Nazi régime and the atrocities committed in the name of Germany influenced the Swedish public in the early post-war years. The “Nazi experience” caused an intellectual earthquake in Sweden and lead to a profound intellectual reorientation, away from German culture and towards the Anglo-Saxon world. “

“Johan Östling’s thesis makes an important contribution to our understanding of the repercussions of Nazism for postwar society. The Swedish case is examined against a broad international background that invites remembrance and interpretation by a wide European readership. Dr. Östling’s current project, which examines the transformation of the European universities within a grand historical perspective, well reflects his originality and innovative talents.“

The Holberg Prize and Nils Klim Prize, which were established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2003, are both awarded annually by the Board of the Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund. Both prizes are for scholarly work in the academic fields of the arts and humanities, social sciences, law and theology. The award ceremony takes place 9. June 2010 in Bergen, Norway. Holberg Prize Laureates: Ian Hacking (2009), Fredric R. Jameson (2008), Ronald Dworkin (2007), Shmuel N. Eisenstadt (2006), Jürgen Habermas (2005), Julia Kristeva (2004). Nils Klim Prize Laureates: David Bloch (2009), Anne Birgitta Pessi (2008), Carina Keskitalo (2007), Linda Wedlin (2006), Dag Trygve Truslew Haug (2005), Claes de Vreese (2004).

For more information and to download photos of prize winners:

www.holbergprisen.no

Information about the prizes/ awards:

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