

**The Anna Balakian Prize Committee**  
**Report**  
**Submitted by E.V.Ramakrishnan, Chair**

As the Chair of the Anna Balakian Prize Committee, I would like to report that the following eminent scholars of comparative literature have consented to serve as jury members for the 2025 Prize:

1. Professor Rita Terezinha Schmidt, Professor in Literature and Linguistics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.
2. Prof. Wen-chin Ouyang, Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at SOAS, University of London.

Brief bio-notes of the members of the jury are given below:

Professor Rita Terezinha Schmidt

M.A. and Ph. D. in Literature at the University of Pittsburgh, EUA. Member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in Literature and Linguistics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, since 1993, working in the areas of American Literature, Theory, and Comparative Literature. President of the Brazilian Association of American Studies (ABEA) 1995-1997 and Vice- President of the Brazilian Association of Comparative Literature (ABRALIC) in 2002-2004. Member of ICLA's Executive Committee in 2019-2022 and reelected for the period 2022-2025. Since 1998 I have been a recipient of a monthly research grant from the Brazilian National Council of Research (CNPq) based on evaluation of my research projects by peers. Besides supervising M.A. and PhD students along the years, publications include books and articles in national and international periodicals. Areas of research: feminist theories, decolonial perspectives in Latin America and Brazilian literary historiography with a project that has involved recuperation of Brazilian women writers of the past, particularly of the XIX century, by means of reeditions of novels and works of poetry.

Professor Wen-chin Ouyang

Wen-chin Ouyang is Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature at SOAS, University of London. She is Fellow of the British Academy and Academician of Academia Sinica. Born in Taiwan and raised in Libya, she completed her BA in Arabic at Tripoli University and PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at Columbia University in New York City. She is the author of *Literary Criticism in Medieval Arabic-Islamic Culture: The Making of a Tradition* (1997), *Poetics of Love in the Arabic Novel* (2012) and *Politics of Nostalgia in the Arabic Novel* (2013). She has also published widely on *The Thousand and One Nights*, often in comparison with classical and modern Arabic narrative traditions, European and Hollywood cinema, magic realism, and

Chinese storytelling. She founded and co-edits *Edinburgh Studies in Classical Arabic Literature*. She has been the Editor-in-Chief of *Middle Eastern Literatures* since 2011. She also co-chairs the Editorial Committee of *Legenda Studies in Comparative Literature*. She was a member of the judging panel for Man Booker International Prize for Fiction 2013-15. She also judged the Saif Ghobash Banipal Literary Translation Prize in 2017. A native speaker of Arabic and Chinese, she has been working towards Arabic-Chinese comparative literary and cultural studies, including Silk Road Studies.

A detailed press note regarding the Anna Balakian Prize will be published in the AILA/ICLA Newsletter in the next issue.

I seek the support of all the members of the Executive Council and the Chairpersons of various research committees in giving wide publicity to the Anna Balakian Prize.

E. V.Ramakrishnan  
Chair,  
Anna Balakian Prize Jury