Étienne Balibar Prize in Cultural and Political Thought

The Department of French and the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society announce a new essay prize for undergraduates and for graduate students, respectively.

The Étienne Balibar undergraduate prize will be awarded annually to the best essay in cultural and political thought by a Columbia University undergraduate majoring/concentrating in French & Francophone Studies, Comparative Literature & Society or Medical Humanities.

The Étienne Balibar graduate prize will be awarded annually for the best essay in cultural and political theory by a Columbia Masters or PhD student in the Department of French and/or the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society.

Each prize recognizes the important contributions that political philosopher Étienne Balibar made as a scholar and teacher during his twelve years as a visiting professor at Columbia University. Submissions are invited on all areas of cultural and political thought, in particular topics explored by Étienne Balibar e.g., nation, citizenship, borders, migration, globalization, world systems, race, class, and the legacies and applications of Marx and Marxism. There are no restrictions with respect to methodology or disciplinary approach.

Submissions may be based on previous coursework or on a thesis/dissertation chapter. The prescribed length is 8 to 20 double-spaced pages for undergraduate submissions, and 10 to 30 double-spaced pages for submissions by graduate students.

Please clearly include your name, department, as well as your year in the undergraduate or the graduate program.

Please follow the Chicago notes & bibliography citation format.

All submissions will be evaluated by a committee of faculty from the Department of French and the Executive Committee of ICLS.

Note: There will also be student representation from the Gadfly magazine for evaluation of the undergraduate essay, which will publish the winning undergraduate essay.

Submissions must be sent electronically as a PDF by April 10, 2023 at 5pm with “LAST NAME-Étienne Balibar Essay Prize” in the subject header. Please submit essays to: ICLS@columbia.edu.

Questions may be addressed to Isabelle Chagnon, DAAF, Department of French (ic7@columbia.edu) or to Sarah Monks, Assistant Director, ICLS (sm3373@columbia.edu).

Results will be announced in early May. Each winner will receive a prize of $600.