

ACLS Open Access Book Prizes

Submission Information Session

Winter 2026

Sarah McKee, Project Manager



2026 Prize Eligibility

Publishers may submit entries in six categories:

1. Anthropology
2. Environmental Humanities (interdisciplinary)
3. History
4. Literary Studies
5. Multimodal (interdisciplinary)
6. Political Science

All entries must be open access monographs published from 2019 to 2024.

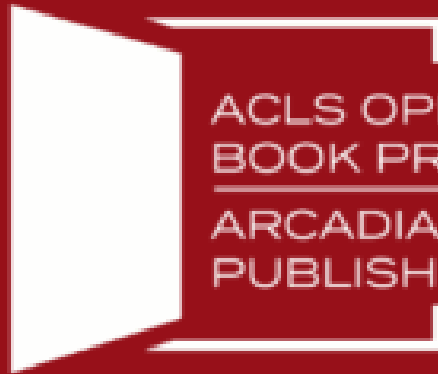
<https://www.acls.org/competitions/open-access-book-prizes/>



Open Access Monographs

- **Monographs** are defined here as long-form scholarly arguments on a single subject in the humanities or interpretative social sciences. Edited collections, anthologies, critical editions, textbooks, and creative works are not eligible for the prize.
- **Open access** is defined here as a digital work freely available to anyone, anywhere in the world, with internet access. Eligible submissions must be:
 - published simultaneously (within 12 months) with any editions made available for sale in either print or e-book formats
 - free of digital rights management
 - distributed on at least two platforms (may include the publisher's and/or author's website)



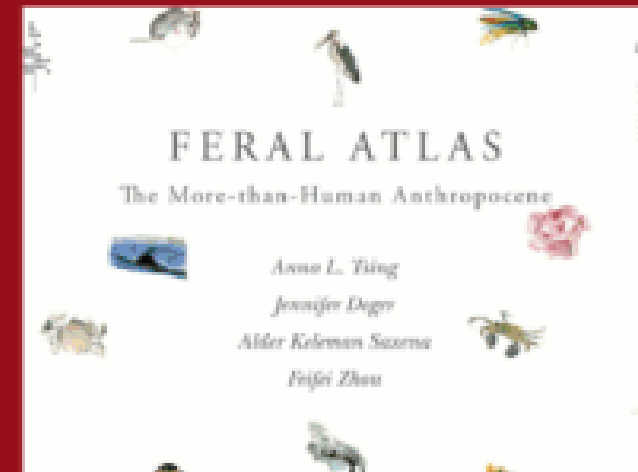
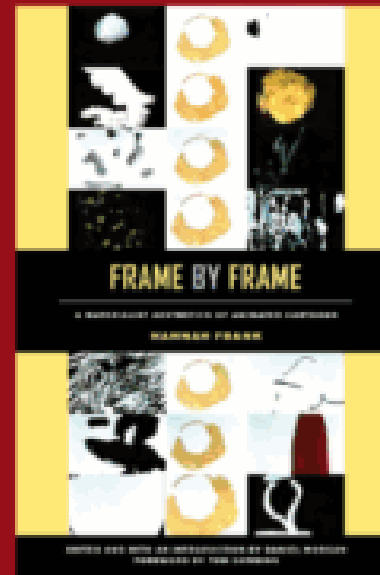
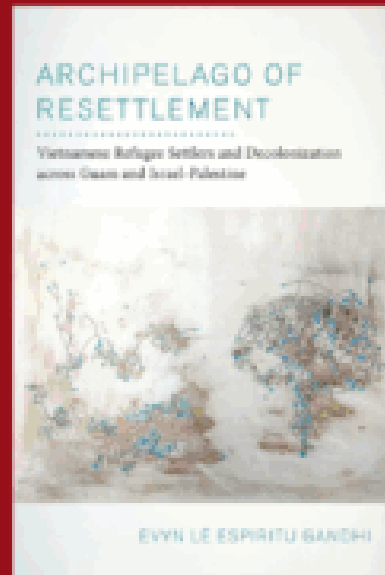
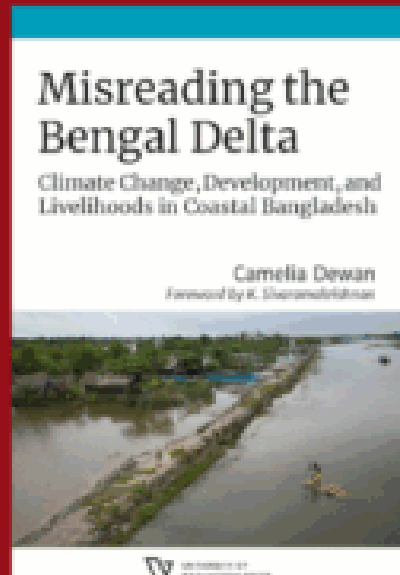


ACLS OPEN ACCESS
BOOK PRIZE

ARCADIA OPEN ACCESS
PUBLISHING AWARD

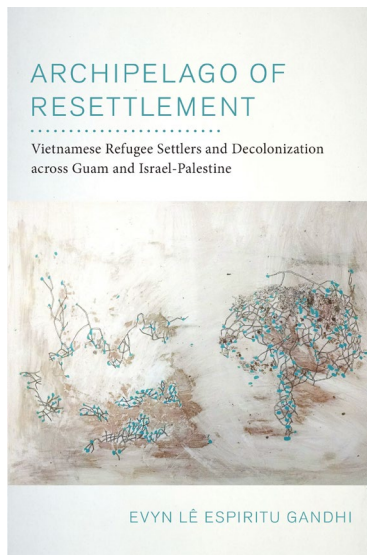
2025 Winners

celebrating **open access books**
in the humanities



History Category

Eligible submissions in history include historical examinations of all eras, geographical regions, peoples, and/or cultural developments through any theoretical lens.



2025 Winner

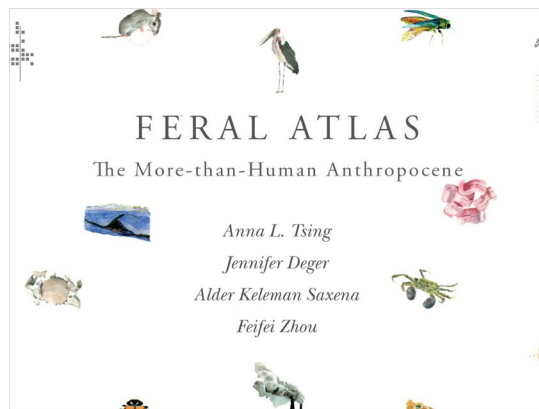
Archipelago of Resettlement: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers and Decolonization across Guam and Israel-Palestine

By Eryn Lê Espiritu Gandhi

University of California Press, 2022

Multimodal Category

Eligible works may come from any humanistic discipline. These books include digital content or affordances that are not possible in a print edition. Competitive works will demonstrate effective and innovative use of the online environment and must contain the entirety of the monograph's text (i.e., not a companion website to a separate print edition).



2025 Winner

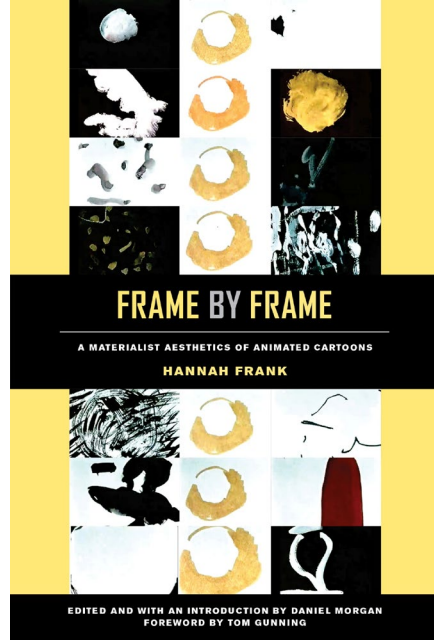
Feral Atlas: The More-Than-Human Anthropocene

By Anna L. Tsing, Jennifer Deger, Alder Keleman Saxena, and Feifei Zhou

Stanford University Press, 2020

Literary/Media Studies Category

Eligible works category include studies of language, literature, and media from all eras, cultures, and locales through any theoretical lens



2025 Winner

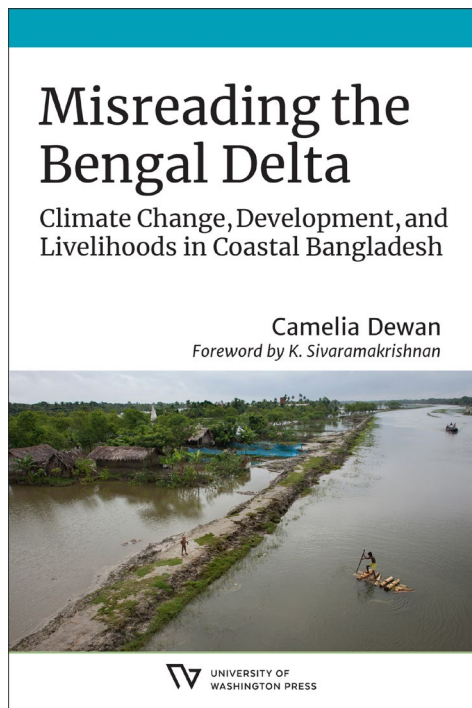
Frame by Frame: A Materialist Aesthetics of Animated Cartoons

By Hannah Frank, edited by Daniel Morgan

University of California Press, 2019

Environmental Humanities Category

Eligible works include humanistic, interdisciplinary examinations of environmental issues—such as climate change, biodiversity, conservation, and environmental justice.



2025 Winner

Misreading the Bengal Delta: Climate Change, Development, and Livelihoods in Coastal Bangladesh

By Camelia Dewan

University of Washington Press, 2022

Two New Categories

Anthropology. Eligible works include humanistic, qualitative studies across all disciplinary subfields, including archaeology and biological, cultural, linguistic, and medical anthropology.

Political Science. Eligible works include humanistic, qualitative studies across all disciplinary subfields, including but not limited to comparative politics, international relations, policy studies, political economy, political philosophy, political theory, politics & gender, politics & religion, public administration, and race, ethnicity & politics.



Winning Titles

The winning title in each category receives dual awards:

- **ACLS Open Access Book Prize** | \$20,000 cash award to the author(s)
- **Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award** | \$30,000 grant to the publisher to support new open access titles



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Prize Timeline

- February 27: Submissions close
- May 2026: Finalists in each category announced
- August 2026: Winners notified
- September 2026: Winners announced
- October 2026: Prize ceremony



Evaluation Criteria | All Categories

- Original and compelling intellectual contribution to the field or discipline
- Demonstrable impact to the wider scholarly conversation and/or to nonacademic audiences through positive reviews, conventional or social media attention, prizes or other commendations, and/or course adoptions
- Evidence of good faith efforts by the publisher to make the work widely accessible through inclusive design and technology choices, as well as robust distribution and marketing strategies



Evaluation Criteria | Multimodal Only

- Innovative and judicious use of digital affordances that serve to advance the work's core argument or narrative
- Intuitive navigation and seamless integration of text and media components
- Attention to preservation concerns



Application Process

No entry fee.

All entries must be submitted by the publisher.

The entry form contains a section to be completed by authors, but authors may not independently submit entries.

Each publisher (or distinct imprint) may submit up to three titles in each category—for a maximum total of twelve entries.

acls.org/competitions/open-access-book-prizes/



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Expanded Publisher FAQs

<https://www.acls.org/faqs/open-access-book-prizes/>



Fellowship and Grant Programs

ACLS Fellowship Program

ACLS Community College Faculty Research Fellowships

ACLS Digital Justice Grants

ACLS Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future

ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellowships and Grants

ACLS Leading Edge Fellowships

ACLS Open Access Book Prize + Arcadia Open Access Publishing Award

Competition

[FAQ](#)

2025 Prizes

For Publishers

Can publishers or authors based outside the United States enter the competition? +

What is considered a monograph in the multimodal category? +

What kind of metrics are required in the application? +

How does the competition review process work? +

Why is the entry form so long? +

How can we improve an application's chance for success? +

For Authors

Can I submit my book or unpublished manuscript to the competition? +

Is an e-book the same thing as an open access book? +

Thank you!

Email questions anytime:

OAbokprizes@acsl.org

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