

The members of the Trollope Prize committee at the University of Kansas are pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Trollope Prize.

The winner of the graduate competition is Gregory Brennen, a graduate student at Duke University, for “Love in a Time of Politics: The Political Romance of Modernity in Anthony Trollope’s *Phineas Redux*.” Brennen will receive a \$2000 honorarium. In addition, his essay will be published by *The Fortnightly Review*, which has also provided an additional monetary reward.

The judges commended Brennen’s essay for its reading of Trollope’s novel against the political landscape of the time: “Prefacing its reading of Anthony Trollope’s *Phineas Redux* with a discussion of John Stuart Mill’s *On the Subjection of Women*, ‘Love in a Time of Politics’ deftly reveals both texts to reflect the politics of the Second Reform era by showing Mill and Trollope to represent marriage and the constitution as parallel models of modern, egalitarian contractual relations. This dual focus produces a fascinating, new, and wholly persuasive reading of the political and romantic halves of Trollope’s novel. The essay goes beyond reading particular texts to invite critics, in a paraphrase of the author’s words, to view novels not as reproducers of ideology but as sites of political thought.”

The winning essay in the undergraduate competition is “‘Making Love in the Green Fields’: Darwin’s Influence in *The Small House at Allington*,” written by Molly Menickelly of the College of William & Mary. Menickelly will receive a \$1000 honorarium. Her essay will also be published by *The Fortnightly Review*, which has provided an additional monetary reward. Menickelly’s essay was sponsored by Deborah Denenholz Morse, who will receive a \$500 award for her mentorship of this undergraduate student.

The panel of judges praised the way that Menickelly’s essay “teases out Trollope’s awareness of Darwin’s theories of natural selection,” noting that Menickelly “shows how the mode of the pastoral is deliberately played with and altered to reflect new evolutionary theories as well as the cultural anxieties they caused in Victorian Britain. The focus on fertility is original, insightful, and neatly reflected in the enticingly pointy title, while the student’s fine reading of the novel shows great promise.”

The judges also recognized “Who will survive? The Fate of the Gentry and Professionals in Anthony Trollope’s *The Small House at Allington*,” an essay written by Samantha Payne of the College of William & Mary, with an honorable mention in the undergraduate competition. Payne’s essay was also sponsored by Deborah Denenholz Morse.

The judges for this year’s competition were Elsie B. Michie, Professor and Chair of the English Department at Louisiana State University, Ann Wierda Rowland, Associate Professor of English at the University of Kansas, and Tamara S. Wagner, Associate Professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. All entries in the competition were read and judged anonymously with respect to both the entrants’ names and their institutional affiliations.

The Trollope Prize is administered by the English department at the University of Kansas, with support from the Hall Center for the Humanities. It is awarded annually to the best undergraduate and graduate essays in English on the works of Anthony Trollope. The Prize was established to

focus attention on Trollope's work and career; though he is one of the most important writers in the Victorian period and in the history of the novel, his novels are often overlooked today. The Prize is designed to help promote the study of Trollope in college classrooms and to encourage student engagement with both Trollope's work and Victorian literary history through their own intensive research and writing. Please see our website (<http://trollopeprize.ku.edu>) for more information on the Prize.