

2021 IASPM Book Prize Report

Background

The first announcement for the 2021 IASPM Book Prize was launched on August 26th 2020 which invited IASPM members to nominate single-authored first books published between November 1st 2018 and October 31st 2020.

Categories and the jury

IASPM Book Prize consists of two categories: one category for books in English, and another for books in other languages. This year there have been 23 nominations of books in English and 9 in “Other languages”, as follows: 1 in Spanish, 5 in German, 1 in Thai, 1 in Italian and 1 in Hungarian. Comparing with the last two editions, it is possible to note an increase in nominations in both categories (15 books in English in 2017 and 14 in 2019; 4 books in other languages in 2017 and 5 in 2019). However, the growth is not widespread across different languages, with a concentration in English and German.

Due to the number of books nominated, it was viewed as necessary to join a large group of reviewers, so that we could guarantee that each book had at least two reviews. More than 60 researchers have been contacted and, in the end, the Jury was composed by 51 scholars. The complete list of the jury is available in the end of this report.

Nominees

The books nominated for the English category include:

Author	Title
Catherine M. Appert	<i>In Hip Hop Time: Music, Memory, and Social Change in Urban Senegal</i>
Anne Barjolin-Smith	<i>Ethno-Aesthetics of Surf in Florida: Surfing, Musicking, and Identity Marking</i>
Kyle Barnett	<i>Record Cultures: The Transformation of the U.S. Recording Industry</i>
Giacomo Bottà	<i>Deindustrialisation and Popular Music: Punk and 'Post-punk' in Manchester, Düsseldorf, Torino and Tampere</i>
Mark Burford	<i>Mahalia Jackson and the Black Gospel Field</i>
Kyle Devine	<i>Decomposed: the Political Ecology of Music</i>
Rebecca Dirksen	<i>After the Dance, the Drums Are Heavy: Carnival, Politics, and Musical Engagement in Haiti</i>
Julia Ehmann	<i>Radiohead and the Journey Beyond Genre</i>
Laura Glitsos	<i>Somatechnics and Popular Music in Digital Contexts</i>
K. E. Goldschmitt	<i>Bossa Mundo: Brazilian Music in Transnational Media Industries</i>
Mimi Haddon	<i>What is Post-Punk? Genre and Identity in Avant-Garde Popular Music, 1977-1982</i>

Paul Harkins	<i>Digital Sampling: The Design and Use of Music Technologies</i>
Klisala Harrison	<i>Music Downtown Eastside: Human Rights and Capability Development through Music in Urban Poverty</i>
Andra Ivănescu	<i>Popular Music in the Nostalgia Video Game: The Way It Never Sounded.</i>
Kerstin Klenke	<i>The Sound State of Uzbekistan: Popular Music and Politics in the Karimov Era</i>
Joanna Love	<i>Soda Goes Pop: Pepsi-Cola Advertising and Popular Music</i>
Carla Jana Maier	<i>Transcultural Sound Practices. British Asian Dance Music as Cultural Transformation</i>
Áine Mangaoang	<i>Dangerous Mediations: Pop Music in a Philippine Prison Video</i>
Drew Nobile	<i>Form as Harmony in Rock Music</i>
Adam de Paor-Evans	<i>Provincial Headz: British Hip hop and Critical Regionalism</i>
Sarah Raine	<i>Authenticity and Belonging in the Northern Soul Scene: The role of history and identity in a multigenerational music culture</i>
Bárbara Varassi Pega	<i>The Art of Tango</i>
Paula Wolfe	<i>Women in The Studio: Creativity, Control and Gender in Popular Music Sound Production</i>

The books nominated for the Other languages category include:

Author	Title	Language
Georg Fischer	<i>Sampling in der Musikproduktion Das Spannungsfeld zwischen Urheberrecht und Kreativität</i>	German
Melanie Fritsch	<i>Performing Bytes. Musikperformances der Computerspielkultur</i>	German
Robin Kuchar	<i>Musikclubs zwischen Scene, Stadt und Music Industries. Autonomie, Vereinnahmung, Abhängigkeit</i>	German
Bodo Mrozek	<i>Jugend - Pop - Kultur. Eine transnationale Geschichte</i>	German
Melanie Ptatscheck	<i>Sucht und Selbst-Konzepte. Biographische Studien zur Heroinabhängigkeit von Musikern in Los Angeles</i>	German
Ádám Ignác	<i>Milliók zenéje. Populáris zene és zenetudomány az államszocialista Magyarországon</i>	Hungarian
Jacopo Tomatis	<i>Storia culturale della canzone italiana</i>	Italian
Juliana Guerrero	<i>Música y humor en la obra de Les Luthiers</i>	Spanish

Viriya Sawangchot	<i>Rock Suksa. Suntimeeya, Kanmuang, Peuntee</i>	Thai
-------------------	--	------

Two rounds

The prize ran through two rounds:

- In the first round, reviewers provided a general grade for each book, together with a justification paragraph. According to the evaluation sent, following finalists have been identified: 6 books in English (Bottà, Burford, Devine, Glitsos, Harrison, Paor-Evans) and 4 in other languages (see below). These books continued on to the second round.
- In the second round, the reviewers who had read the qualified books were asked to provide a more detailed grade, specifically assigning scores for originality, writing, methodology and theoretical approach. With all the grades in hand we were able to summarize the final results.

In **the English category**, there was a strong consensus regarding the quality of one of the books, whilst very consistent arguments in favour of two others. **Hence, the prize for this category this year goes to the book:**

***Decomposed: the Political Ecology of Music* by Kyle Devine**

Following two books receive a Special Mention by the Jury:

Music Downtown Eastside: Human Rights and Capability Development through Music in Urban Poverty by Klisala Harrison

Mahalia Jackson and the Black Gospel Field by Mark Burford

In the Other languages category, however, the arguments in favour of the four books were quite similar, as well as their grades. Mostly, all the books have been pointed out as highly important ones that are likely to become references in each language's literature. Therefore, the 2021 IASPM Book **Prize for the Other Languages category will be shared between the four finalists, one for each language: German, Hungarian, Italian and Thai.**

***Jugend - Pop - Kultur. Eine transnationale Geschichte* by Bodo Mrozek**

***Milliók zenéje. Populáris zene és zenetudomány az államszocialista Magyarországon* by Ádám Ignác**

***Storia culturale della canzone italiana* by Jacopo Tomatis**

***Rock Suksa. Suntimeya, Kanmuang, Peuntee* by Viriya Sawangchot**

The Chairs of the 2021 IASPM Book Prize want to thank this year's jury immensely for all its work, its members being those names listed here:

Adriana Helbig
Alexandra D'Urso
Alf Arvidsson
Anne Danielsen
Alisha Jones
Anna Szemere
Beate Flath
Beatriz Polivanov
Christina Richter-Ibañez
Claudrena N. Harold
Dietman Elflein
Dominik Nösner
Florian Heesch
Emilia Greco
Jacob Kimvall
Jacopo Conti
Jeder Janotti Jr
Joe Schloss
Johannes Brusila
John Street
Jonathan Sterne
Jozsef Havasreti
Julio Mendivil
Katia Chornik
Manuel Troike
Marika Nordström
Marita Fornaro
Mark Pedelty
Mark Percival
Matt Brennan
Michael Ahlers
Monika Schoop
Nick Prior
Nils Kirschlager

Pablo Alabarces
Paul Carr
Paula Guerra
Pornprapit 'Ros' Phoasavadi
Rachel Haworth
Roman Duffner
Samuel Araújo
Sebastian Diaz-Gasca
Simon Zargorsky-Thomas
Supeena Insee Adler
Susan Lindholm
Susana Sardo
Theo Cateforis
Thiago Soares
Tim Taylor
Vincenzo Perna
Will Straw

Finally, the Chairs of the 2021 Book Prize would like to suggest a major change in the prize for the next time. Our suggestion is to eliminate the language categories altogether and award a prize for a single author's first book regardless of the language. We suggest that the IASPM Executive Committee along with the future chairs of the IASPM Book Prize decide further details. Moreover, we encourage the IASPM Executive Committee to stimulate the branches to launch local prizes according to their viability and possibilities.

Felipe Trotta and Andrea Dankić
Chairs of the 2021 IASPM Book Prize
June 2021