

Winner

Emily Sibley (PhD NYU, now at Whitman College)

Title

"The Ties That Don't Bind: Decolonization, Theater, and the Egyptian Avant-Garde."

Citation

The committee writes: "The Ties that Don't Bind," by Emily Sibley, is the best paper of the ones we read. It compares the indigenous Arabic notion of *sariqat* with the European terms translation, adaptation, and plagiarism, shedding light on the similarities and differences between them. It also demonstrates how modern Egyptian theater recuperates the indigenous notion of *sariqat* in the context of 1960s Egyptian efforts at decolonization. The essay is beautifully written, the author demonstrating a clear command of Arabic and European notions of plagiarism. This essay contributes masterfully to the understanding of literary concepts in an East-West framework."