WINNER: Hannah Scott Deuchar, (New York University)

TITLE: *"Loan-Words: Economy, Equivalence and Debt in the Arabic Translation Debates"*

CITATION:
Translation is a topic of perennial interest to comparatists, our lifeblood in some sense. Deuchar's elegantly-written essay delves deeply into the Arabic translation debates of the last decades of the 1800s and early decades of the 1900s, reaching a crescendo in 1908. Through in-depth readings of primary sources, nuanced engagements with secondary criticism, and a thorough grounding in trans-imperial politics, the essays shows that Arabic theories of language and translation in the colonial period "express the material and economic changes and anxieties," primarily of a British-ruled Egypt, as erstwhile European colonies became gradually incorporated into a global capitalist economy. In this sense, the "loan words" of translation excavates the metaphors and the politics of indebtedness. The essay thus brings the field of translation studies into conversation with those of Arabic letters and decolonial thought.