

PRESS RELEASE: Progressive Librarians Guild awards Braverman Prize to Eli Holliday and Ashley Huot

May 17, 2021

The Progressive Librarians Guild's (PLG) Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize Committee is pleased to announce that **Eli Holliday** from the University of Toronto and **Ashley Huot** from the University of Alberta are the 2021 winners of the Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize! Eli's essay was titled "Death to the Professional: Re-envisioning Labour in the Public Library" and their anticipated graduation date is June 2021. Ashley's essay was titled "Prison Zines: Relations, Communication, and Records" and her anticipated graduation date is also June 2021.

In Holliday's essay, they write that "librarians are rushing to fill the complex needs of increasing numbers of socially excluded individuals; and, in so doing, are faced with a number of overwhelming questions as to the nature of public library work. ... In the context of so much change, little has been written on the intersection of library deprofessionalization and the rise of community and social librarianship." Huot's essay examines the impact of information poverty on those who are incarcerated, and argues that "through the production of zines, inmates can build accessible modes of self-expression, connection, and create a record of their community's experience."

The Braverman Memorial Prize is awarded annually to a student in Library Science or Archival Studies for an essay submitted on the theme of progressive or activist librarianship. Two awards are being awarded this year due to the cancellation of the prize in 2020. Each winner receives a \$500 stipend toward expenses at the American Library Association Annual Conference.

The award honors Miriam Ruth Gutman Braverman (1920-2002), who was a socialist, writer, activist librarian, and longstanding member of the Progressive Librarians Guild, a founder of the ALA's [Social Responsibilities Round Table](#), and a proponent of the social responsibilities perspective. The award is intended to celebrate Miriam's spirit of activism and faith in the power of people's collective social justice efforts and inspire future generations of librarians. The award has been given annually since 2003. Past prize-winning essays can be found on PLG's website at <http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/content/award.shtml>.

The Progressive Librarians Guild is committed to providing a forum for the open exchange of radical views on library issues, as well as taking stands on issues confronting library workers and the world around them. Its members reject the sterile notion of the neutrality of librarianship, and strongly oppose the commodification of information which turns the 'information commons' into privatized, commercialized zones. For more information or to join PLG, visit the group's website at <http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/>.

For information about the Braverman Prize, please contact 2021 Braverman Prize Committee Chairs Julene Jones at julene.jones@uky.edu or Amy Laub-Carroll at amy.laub-carroll@uky.edu.