

2008 Sakip Sabanci International Research Award Winners Announced

The Brookings Institution and Sabanci University are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Sakip Sabanci International Research Award. This annual award is named in honor of the late Sakip Sabanci, a prominent Turkish philanthropist and businessman. Mr. Sabanci was one of the foremost Turkish business leaders of his generation, a visionary supporter of Turkey's democratic and economic reforms, and a strong advocate of Turkey's efforts to join the European Union. The research competition is designed to promote fresh thinking, new ideas, and original research relevant to Turkish studies conducted in any field of the humanities and social sciences.

This year's research topic was "The Ottoman Legacy for Contemporary Turkish Culture, Institutions, and Values", and essays were received from professors and graduate students from across the United States, Turkey, Europe, and the Middle East. The 2008 first prize went to Amy Singer, professor of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University, for her essay, "The Persistence of Philanthropy".

Award-winners received their prizes at a ceremony hosted on June 9, 2008 in Istanbul by Guler Sabanci, Chairperson of Sabanci University's Board of Trustees, and Sabanci University President, Tosun Terzioglu.

In her remarks, Ms. Sabanci mentioned that the research competition, now in its third year, is proof that many distinguished scholars around the world are thinking about and writing on Turkey. "The strength and power we need to know ourselves, to understand the world, and to build a bridge across future comes from knowledge. I hope that the Sakip Sabanci International Research Awards keep embracing all researchers for analysing and critically assessing all kinds of knowledge, theories and opinions," stated Ms. Sabanci.

Essays submitted to the research award competition are assessed by an independent international jury of scholars that rotates each year. The competition is open to essays from all disciplines of the social sciences and humanities, with priority given to essays with strong potential to be printed in leading academic publications. First prize is an award of \$20,000 US dollars, second prize is \$10,000 US dollars, and third prize is \$5000 US dollars.

The 2008 award winners are:

1st Place: "The Persistence of Philanthropy" by Amy Singer, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

2nd Place: "Crossing Musical Worlds: Jews Making Ottoman and Turkish Classical Music" by Maureen Jackson, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

3rd Place: "Old Elites in a New Republic: The Reconversion of Ottoman Bureaucratic Families in Turkey (1909-1939)" by Olivier Bouquet, Nice Sophia-Antipolis University, Nice, France.

Honorable Mentions:

Zoe Griffith, American University in Cairo.

Denise R. Gill, University of California, Santa Barbara.