

PRESS RELEASE: Progressive Librarians Guild Announces Yoonhee Lee is the 2019 Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize Winner

May 29, 2019

The Progressive Librarians Guild's (PLG) Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize Committee is pleased to announce that **Yoonhee Lee** from the University of Toronto is the 2019 winner of the Miriam Braverman Memorial Prize for her essay "Towards universal access to knowledge: the invisible labor of digitizing." Lee is a graduate student in the Faculty of Information and a library assistant at the Ask Us Desk at the University of Toronto, and will graduate with her Masters in Information in June 2019.

Lee's essay examines "who does digitization labor and the context in which this labor takes place, [situates] the labor of digitizing books and archival material within larger discussions of the growth of invisible work and knowledge work and its exploitation under neoliberal capitalism. [It argues] that within an economy of precarity, libraries and archives, as neoliberal institutions, are increasingly devaluing the labor of digitization through the use of the unpaid and underpaid labor and outsourced labor."

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. As winner of the prize, Lee receives a \$500 stipend toward expenses at ALA Annual, and her essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Progressive Librarian*, the PLG Journal. Additionally, she will be given the opportunity to apply her perspective in writing about the conference for the PLG bulletin.

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 <<http://libr.org/srirt/>>, 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, most recently to that Alessandra Seiter in 2018 for her essay "Libraries, Power, and Justice: Toward a Sociohistorically Informed Intellectual Freedom." 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/> <<http://progressivelibrariansguild.org/>>. If you are at ALA Annual in Washington D.C., please plan to join members of PLG at their meeting on Sunday June 23rd from 4:30 – 5:30 at the Renaissance, Rooms 12, 13, and 14 where the Braverman Prize winner will present her work.

For information about the Braverman Prize, please contact 2019 Braverman Prize Committee Chairs Julene Jones at julene.jones@uky.edu or Amy Laub-Carroll at amy.laub-carroll@uky.edu