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drupa Prize 2023 awarded to Acelya Bakir

For her outstanding doctoral thesis historian Acelya Bakir receives the drupa Prize 2023. With this award drupa honours and promotes outstanding young academics in the Philosophical Faculty at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf every year.

The drupa Prize comes with prize money of EUR 6,000 and was presented by Wolfram N. Diener, President & CEO of Messe Düsseldorf, Erhard Wienkamp, Managing Director of Messe Düsseldorf, Dr Martin Goch, Chancellor of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and Dr Frank Meier, Dean of Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, at a ceremony on 28 August 2023 at the Messe Dusseldorf. Dr. Andreas Pleßke, Spokesman of the Board at Koenig & Bauer and Chairman of the drupa committee, congratulated the prize winner on her performance in a personal video message.

Innovative access to the topic

The doctoral thesis rated *summa cum laude* bears the title “*Sehen, Hören, Mitmachen: Die mediale Inszenierung der Moskauer Schauprozesse und die Mobilisierungskampagne in der Sowjetunion, 1936-1938*” (*See, Hear and Join in: The Media Staging of the Moscow Show Trials and the Mobilisation Campaign in the Soviet Union, 1936-1938*) and was supervised by Prof. Dr. Beate Fieseler. Acelya Bakir pursued a particularly innovative approach in her studies: she placed the Moscow show trials centre stage as a mobilisation campaign for the first time and, hence, not only their staging in the court room but also the accompanying media mediation for the local population.

Bakir's thesis provides not only important and innovative insights into the political communication and mobilisation during the Stalin era but also many an important impulse for better understanding the present, notes the Philosophical Faculty at Heinrich Heine University for her drupa Prize nomination.



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About the drupa Prize winner 2023

Acelya Bakir was born in Krefeld in 1985. From 2005 to 2008 she successfully completed her Bachelor studies in History and German studies at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf obtaining her Master's Degree in History in 2012. The same year she started her PhD studies in Eastern European History at the Philosophical Faculty and completed her doctoral thesis "*Sehen, Hören, Mitmachen: Die mediale Inszenierung der Moskauer Schauprozesse und die Mobilisierungskampagne in der Sowjetunion, 1936-1938*" in February 2022 after a successful viva examination earning her an overall grade of *summa cum laude*. Acelya Bakir lives and works in Berlin. She is a scientific assistant at the Foundation "Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik" and is press liaison and coordinates public relations for a member of the German Parliament part time.

About the drupa Prize

Every year since 1978, Messe Düsseldorf has presented the drupa Prize with prize money worth EUR 6,000 to an outstanding doctoral thesis produced in the Philosophical Faculty of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. The prize money serves to promote the publication and dissemination of an excellent thesis in the humanities. The drupa Prize is awarded each year by an expert panel composed of the President and Vice-President of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (HHU), the Chairman of the drupa committee and the President & CEO of Messe Düsseldorf.

The next drupa will be held at Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre from 28 May to 7 June 2024. For more information on drupa please go to www.drupa.de.

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