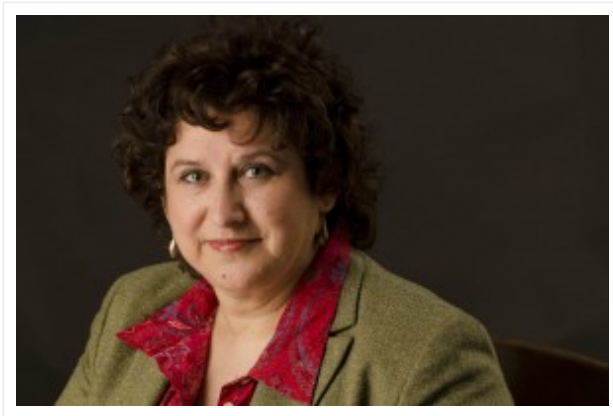


'Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an' Author Wins \$10,000 Hamilton Book Award

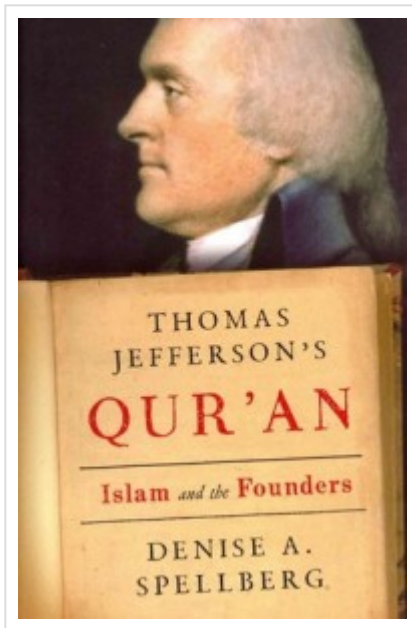
Posted on **October 17, 2014** by **Jessica Sinn**



— Denise Spellberg, grand prize winner of the Hamilton Book Awards.

Denise Spellberg, professor in the Departments of History, Middle Eastern Studies and Religious Studies, won the \$10,000 grand prize at the Hamilton Book Awards for her work "Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an: Islam and the Founders." (Knopf, 2013) on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin.

The awards are the highest honor of literary achievement given to published authors at The University of Texas at Austin. They are sponsored by the University Co-operative Society.



In “[Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an: Islam and the Founders](#),” Spellberg recounts how a handful of the country’s founders, Jefferson foremost among them, drew upon Enlightenment ideas about the tolerance of Muslims to fashion a practical foundation for governance in America. For more about the book listen to her podcast on the History Department’s [Not Even Past](#) website.

Four other UT Austin professors received \$3,000 runner-up prizes:

– Desmond F. Lawler — Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering, for his work “[Water Quality Engineering: Physical/Chemical Treatment Processes](#),” co-authored with Mark Benjamin, University of Washington; Published by John Wiley & Sons

– Huaiyin Li — Department of History, for his work “[Reinventing Modern China: Imagination and Authenticity in Chinese Historical Writing](#)”; Published by University of Hawaii Press

– Allison E. Lowery — Department of Theatre and Dance, for her work “[Historical Wig Styling: Volumes 1 and 2](#)”; Published by Focal Press/Taylor and Francis Group

– Mark Metzler — Department of Asian Studies, for his work “[Capital as Will and Imagination: Schumpeter's Guide to the Postwar Japanese Miracle](#)”; Published by Cornell University Press

The Hamilton Awards are named in honor of Professor Robert W. Hamilton, the Minerva House Drysdale Regent Chair-Emeritus in Law. Professor Hamilton was chair of the Co-op Board for 12 years, from 1989 to 2001, and was in large measure responsible for the Co-op’s uncommon growth and profitability during that period. [Visit this website](#) for more about the award winners.

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