

# Laudation

## For the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award

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The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize jointly to **Myra Marx Ferree** and **Richard Katz**.

The jury reported the following about Myra Marx Ferree:

The 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Professor Myra Marx Ferree in recognition of her pioneering achievements in establishing the subfield of Gender and Politics and Women, Gender and Sexuality studies in European political science and her pathbreaking role in bringing discussions on intersectionality into political science. Moved by strong moral and intellectual imperatives, she is widely recognised for her exceptional intellectual generativity and long-term organisational vision concerning conceptual and empirical blind-spots and the theoretical innovations that were urgently needed.

Ferree grew up in a working-class family and was the first in her family to attend college, graduating from Harvard in 1976. She is the Alice H. Cook Professor of Sociology (Emerita) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she directed the DAAD Center for German and European Studies, the European Union Center, and co-directed the European Studies Program for several years each between 2004–2019. She retired in 2020 and now serves as Seminar Co-chair at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University.

Ferree's reputation as both a theoretical innovator and empirically meticulous investigator rests on an unusually broad base of contributions in the gender, social movements, and political discourse. Ferree's other major area of internationally recognised pathbreaking work is the sociology of social movements, particularly feminist social movements, and the politics of discourse. Here as well she has been theoretically innovative and hugely influential, with effects evident across the sub-areas of theory, empirical studies of political discourse and culture, and research on feminism and women's movements, especially but not exclusively in the US and Germany. Finally, Ferree has also built an impressive reputation as a Europeanist, notably her work on the political consequences of German unification and European integration for German women and gender politics more broadly, and her research on feminism and the women's movement in Germany, both East and West.

Ferree has educated generations of students throughout academia. Internationally renowned in gender and politics, she has received several of the highest honours that the American Political Science Association confers, notably the Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics.

**On behalf of the Lifetime Achievement Award  
Jury**

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The Jury has this year chosen to award the prize jointly to **Myra Marx Ferree** and **Richard Katz**.

The jury reported the following about Richard Katz:

The ECPR Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024 is presented to Professor Richard Katz in recognition of his pioneering scholarship in comparative politics, his major contributions to fostering international collaboration, and his significant leadership roles in the profession.

In 2022, Katz retired from Johns Hopkins University, where he had worked for almost five decades (apart from a short stint at State University of New York at Buffalo in 1995-96), serving as Department Chair between 2009-15. He still holds a position as Professor Emeritus.

Katz's contribution to the literature on parties, elections and democracy has been profound, including 17 books and over 130 articles, book chapters and reports. Of this large corpus, the three most significant books have been: *A Theory of Parties and Electoral Systems* (Johns Hopkins University Press 1980; republished 2007), which won the APSA George W. Hallett Award in 1998; *Democracy and Elections* (Oxford University Press 1997); and *Democracy and the Cartelization of Political Parties* (published with the late Peter Mair in 2018 by Oxford University Press).

Katz has regularly communicated academic insights to regulators and policy-makers and thereby sought to increase the real-world impact of our scholarship. For instance, he served as an affiant for the Attorney General of Canada (2001-2003) and the Attorney General of Ontario (2007) in constitutional law cases relating to electoral systems. Since 2009, he is a Senior Expert/Consultant for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Inside the academy Professor Katz has been an advocate for international collaboration and intellectual exchange. Particularly noteworthy is the pioneering party organisation project (which he organized together with Peter Mair), which contributed to a profound paradigm shift in the study of political parties, influencing research in this area to this day.

Another noteworthy contribution, of course, is Professor Katz's tireless support for ECPR throughout his career, most notably a co-editor of the *European Journal of Political Research* (2007-2012) and his service on the Executive Committee (2012-2018, including as Vice-Chair from 2015-18).

**On behalf of the Lifetime Achievement Award Jury**

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