

In the category of *Greek, Latin and Ancient Philosophy*, the jury has decided to award the prize to

Frank van den Boom (U Leiden), *Reading Water in Ancient Poetics: From Metaphor to Hydropoetics*

This thesis combines original methodological thinking and sound, innovative literary analysis. Its central argument is that the way in which scholars have discussed the presence of water in ancient poetics so far—water as a metaphor for text and literary production—tells only half of the story. Rethinking some of the premises of the literary theory called ‘hydropoetics’, the author draws attention to those characteristics of water related to it not by analogy but by contiguity and, therefore, producing meaning largely outside authorial control through pre-existent relationships. What happens, the author asks, if we also pay attention to those ‘material’ aspects of water in ancient poetics? He mobilizes this question to produce insightful readings of the presences of water in three major ancient authors across different eras and different genres and across Greek and Latin—Callimachus, (Pseudo-)Longinus and Catullus. The jury was also impressed by the clear and lucid English in which the thesis is written, its insightful conceptual thinking, its subtlety and elegance. Finally, the thesis is an urgent reminder that discourses about water (or about any natural resource, for that matter) are never neutral, an insight with acute, political relevance today.