



For Immediate Release

emeriti@errc.ucla.edu

Dear Provosts, Deans, and Emeriti Association Presidents:

**UC Berkeley and UC Los Angeles Professors Honored with
2018-2019 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award**

The 2018-2019 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award honoring Emeriti Professors in the University of California system has been awarded to Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Comparative Literature Robert Alter (UC Berkeley) and Professor Emerita of History Lynn Hunt (UC Los Angeles).

UC Emeriti Professors Alter and Hunt are the forty-second and forty-third recipients of the Constantine Panunzio Award. Both awardees have especially long and notable records of research, teaching, and service to the University of California, their disciplines, and their communities. The late Dr. Panunzio, a Professor of Sociology at UCLA for many years, has been described as the architect of the UC Retirement System and was particularly active in improving pensions and stipends for his fellow Emeriti. The award bearing his name was established in 1983 and includes a \$5,000 prize.

Robert Alter, UC Berkeley, Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, retired in 2011. His scholarly contributions since retirement are nothing short of monumental. Emeritus Professor Alter's primary field of research has been in modern European and Hebrew literature, and he is considered a preeminent translator as well as a literary and historical critic of Bible literature who revolutionized the fields of Biblical narrative and Biblical poetry. Most notable is his recent and highly acclaimed book publication, *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (2018), a three-volume work and first single-author translation of the entire Hebrew Bible. His extraordinary achievement also incorporates his other books since retirement, *Ancient Israel: The Former Prophets* (2013) and *Strong as Death is Love: The Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, Daniel* (2015). During the time since his retirement, Emeritus Professor Alter has been the recipient of the Charles Homer Haskins Prize from the American Council of Learned Societies (2013), and has received honorary doctorates from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Haifa University, and Northwestern University. Since 2013, he has served as the Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at UC Berkeley. In addition, he is a highly-regarded colleague who remains active in each of his departments, continues to teach graduate courses each year and mentors Ph.D. students.

Lynn Hunt, UC Los Angeles, Emerita and Distinguished Research Professor of History, retired in 2013. Before coming to UCLA, she taught at UC Berkeley and the University of Pennsylvania. She is an internationally renowned historian and leading scholar in her field. Her work on the French Revolution is classic and she has made influential contributions helping to shape a range of intellectual inquiry from historical methodology, new historical research approaches, debates between historical truth and narrative, human rights, and assumptions about time. Since retirement, Professor Emerita Hunt has published three books, the substantially revised *Writing History in the Global Era* (2014), which has been translated into Japanese, Chinese, and Turkish, *The French Revolution and Napoleon: Crucible of the Modern World* (with Jack R. Censer, 2017), and *History: Why It Matters* (2018). Additionally, she was elected as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy (2014), was the Humanitas Visiting Professor at Trinity College, Oxford University (2014), and has been named by the American Council of Learned Societies as the 2019 Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecturer. Professor Hunt displays a luminous scholarly acumen and is a greatly admired and respected colleague. In addition, her dedication to teaching is widely recognized and she is considered a generous undergraduate teacher and graduate mentor.

Please join all of us on the Committee in congratulating Emeriti Professors Robert Alter and Lynn Hunt on receiving the 2018 - 2019 Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael S. Levine

Chair, Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award Selection Committee
Vice Chancellor, Academic Personnel