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Baruch College historian wins Mott award for Crying the News

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Vincent DiGirolamo’s *Crying the News: A History of America’s Newsboys* is the winner of the Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award for the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published in 2019.

DiGirolamo’s book offers an extensive and unprecedented history of newsboys in America, revealing the central role they played in the country’s economic, cultural and social development over more than 100 years.

“He brings together extensive research, a rich theoretical knowledge gracefully deployed in the story line, and amazing language skills to produce a book that is a tremendous contribution to the history of journalism,” said Holly Hall, national president of Kappa Tau Alpha and a contest judge.

That history feels especially relevant today as low-income workers grapple with economic distress and fewer guarantees in a “gig economy,” said Hall, a professor at Arkansas State University.

DiGirolamo is an assistant professor of history at Baruch College in New York City. He specializes in 19th and 20th century United States history. The book is published by Oxford University Press. The award is to be presented at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in San Francisco this August.

Named in honor of Frank Luther Mott, Pulitzer Prize winner, educator and longtime leader of Kappa Tau Alpha, the award honors the best research-based book about journalism or mass communication published during the year.

Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society founded in 1910 for scholarship in journalism and mass communication, has recognized research contributions to the field since the inauguration of the award in 1944. The winning author receives a $1,000 prize.

“That’s serendipitous that a history book won as Kappa Tau Alpha is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year and the prize is named for a historian,” said Beverly Horvit, executive director of Kappa Tau Alpha.

Other finalists were Aimee Edmondson for *In Sullivan’s Shadow: The Use and Abuse of Libel Law during the Long Civil Rights Struggle* (University of Massachusetts Press); Anne Nelson for
Shadow Network: Media, Money, and the Secret Hub of the Radical Right (Bloomsbury Publishing); Reece Peck for Fox Populism: Branding Conservatism as Working Class (Cambridge University Press); and Heidi J.S. Tworek for News from Germany: The Competition to Control World Communications, 1900-1945 (Harvard University Press).