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LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS

TOMÁS RIVERA BOOK PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED BY LARB BOOKS

LOS ANGELES, CA – LARB Books, the publishing arm of Los Angeles Review of Books, has announced the winner of the inaugural Tomás Rivera Book Prize: J. L. Torres. Torres’s winning manuscript is titled *Migrations*.

The Tomás Rivera Book Prize is a unique partnership between the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and the University of California, Riverside, committed to the discovery and fostering of extraordinary writing by an author whose work examines the long and varied contributions of Chicanx/Latinx in the United States.



Known for his seminal collection of stories, *...y no se lo tragó la tierra/ ...and the Earth Did Not Devour Him*, Rivera was the first Latino chancellor of the UC system and a champion of higher education and social justice. The Tomás Rivera Book Prize honors his legacy and his belief in the power of education, activism, and stories to change lives.

The award attracted applications from writers from California, Texas, the East Coast, and the Midwest. The final judge was Luis Alberto Urrea, Mexican-American novelist, poet, and essayist.

Winner J. L. Torres is the author of *The Family Terrorist and Other Stories*; a novel, *The Accidental Native*; and the collection of poetry, *Boricua Passport*. He has published stories and poems in numerous journals and magazines, including the *North American Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, *Eckleburg Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Las Americas Review*, and the anthology *Growing Up Latino*. Born in Puerto Rico, raised in the South Bronx, he lives in Plattsburgh, New York, where he teaches American literature, US ethnic literatures, and creative writing at the SUNY campus there. Besides the PhD, he holds an MFA in creative writing from Columbia University.

“I’m extremely honored to be the inaugural recipient of an award named after such a significant writer and educator as Tomás Rivera. More so, when the judge was Luis Alberto Urrea, a writer whom I admire and often teach,” Torres said upon finding out that he was the recipient of the award. “*Migrations* is a collection deeply embedded in the history of Puerto Rico. These stories demonstrate that, despite our sad history, Puerto Ricans form part of the American mosaic, and that we have stories to tell. Thanks to Alex Espinoza, Tom Lutz, LARB, Luis Alberto Urrea, and everyone else who made this award possible, and for giving these stories a home.”

Torres will receive a \$1,000 prize; publication of his manuscript by LARB Libros, a series by LARB Books dedicated to highlighting emerging Latinx talent; and 10 copies of the book. Additionally, Torres will have a book signing at UC Riverside during Writers Week in 2021.

To request an interview or feature, please contact Nanda Dyssou, nanda@corioliscompany.com.

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ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS The Los Angeles Review of Books (<http://lareviewofbooks.org>) is a nonprofit, multimedia magazine of literature and culture that combines the great American tradition of the serious book review with the evolving technologies of the web. We are a community of writers, critics, journalists, artists, filmmakers, and scholars dedicated to promoting and disseminating the best that is thought and written, with an enduring commitment to the intellectual rigor, the incisiveness, and the power of the written word.