

For Immediate Release

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Julia Adams Awarded Gaddis Smith International Book Prize by The MacMillan Center

May 9, 2006. New Haven, CT - Julia Adams, Professor of Sociology, has been awarded the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize by The MacMillan Center for her book, *The Familial State: Ruling Families and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe*.

Established in spring 2005, The MacMillan Center awards the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize each year for the best first book by a member of the Yale ladder faculty. Gaddis Smith, Larned Professor Emeritus of History, is a former Director of The MacMillan Center. Award recipients receive a research appointment at The MacMillan Center, and a \$10,000 research award over two years.

In *The Familial State*, Professor Adams explores the role that Holland's great families played in the Dutch Golden Age of the seventeenth century. She charts how family patriarchs—who were at the time both state-builders and merchant capitalists—shaped the first great wave of European colonialism, which in turn influenced European political development in innovative ways.

On the basis of massive archival work, Adams arrives at a profoundly gendered reading of the family/power structure of the Dutch elite and their companies, in particular the VOC or Dutch East India Company. In the United Provinces, she finds the first example of the power structure that would dominate the transitional states of early modern Europe—the 'familial state.' This organizational structure is typified, in her view, by 'paternal political rule and multiple arrangements among the family heads.'

"We are very pleased to honor Julia Adams with the Gaddis Smith Prize," said Ian Shapiro, Henry R. Luce Director of The MacMillan Center. "The MacMillan Center established the book prize to stimulate scholarship in international fields by honoring outstanding accomplishments. Professor Adams provides a forceful and innovative account of state formation in early modern Europe and bases her claims on a mass of archival research. Her book is both compelling and a delight to read."

In fall 2005, The MacMillan Center awarded the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize to Mridu Rai for *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects: Islam, Rights, and the History of Kashmir*.

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