

The Society for French Historical Studies has awarded Richard C. Keller the William Koren Prize for his article, "Place Matters: Mortality, Space, and Urban Form in the 2003 Paris Heat Wave Disaster," published in *French Historical Studies* 36, no. 2 (Spring 2013): 299-330.

The Koren prize is awarded annually for an outstanding journal article published on any era of French history by a North American scholar in an American, European, or Canadian journal. The prize committee issued the following citation regarding Keller's article:

"Starting with the names found on tombstones in a public cemetery, Richard Keller followed a trail that led him through the many neighborhood vital record offices of Paris to the doorsteps and garrets of the nearly 100 'forgotten' people who died in the city during the devastating heat wave of 2003. These 'forgotten' victims died utterly alone and without anybody to claim the bodies. After exploring the living quarters of the deceased men and women, interviewing their neighbors, and examining the data from their official death notices, Keller argues that we cannot understand these deaths via the social, economic and geographic patterns that typically show up in aggregate studies of risk alone. Rather, these victims—who lived in neighborhoods both wealthy and poor all across the city—highlight the historical legacy of the *chambres de bonnes*, or old servants' quarters as a factor increasing risk for death. Keller contends that these apartments represent a long history of poverty, marginalization, and disenfranchisement in the city. Conceptually innovative, methodologically rigorous, rich in detail, and humanitarian in spirit, this article successfully demonstrates Keller's assertion that 'historical sensibility is essential for thinking about contemporary disasters and their landscape of vulnerability at the local level.'"

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