



# KAPPA TAU ALPHA

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Losing Pravda wins Mott/ KTA Book award***

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Natalia Roudakova's *Losing Pravda: Ethics and the Press in Post-Truth Russia* is the winner of this year's Frank Luther Mott/Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award. The award honors the best book on journalism and mass communication based on original research published in 2017.

Roudakova draws upon moral and political theory, as well as ethnographic fieldwork in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, to explain and evaluate journalism practices in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia.

"Roudakova presents a challenge to both the traditional Cold War, oversimplified view of the Soviet-era press and the transformation and the privatization she claims 'prostituted' journalists as they lost status and had financial dependency upon owners," said Jeff Fruit, president of Kappa Tau Alpha and a contest judge.

As Roudakova examines ethics in journalism in the context of truth-telling and truth-seeking, her book is relevant in considering challenges to the role of journalism in the United States as its economic model has been disrupted and its legitimacy challenged, Fruit said.

Roudakova is a cultural anthropologist working in political communication and comparative media studies. The book was published by Cambridge University Press.

The award is in honor of Mott, Pulitzer Prize-winner, educator and longtime leader of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national college honor society for journalism and mass communication. The competition has been held annually since 1944.

Other finalists were Michael Clay Carey for *The News Untold: Community Journalism and the Failure to Confront Poverty in Appalachia*; Julia Guarneri for *Newsprint Metropolis: City Papers and the Making of Modern Americans*; Aynne Kokas for *Hollywood Made in China*; and Michael McCluskey, *News Framing of School Shootings*.

About *Kappa Tau Alpha*: The journalism national honor society was founded at the University of Missouri's School of Journalism in 1920, and the national headquarters has been permanently located at the University of Missouri since 1944. Students must be in the top 10 percent of their journalism-mass communication class to be invited to join KTA.