The Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University, Charles Maier is a renowned expert on the history of 20th century Europe and the U.S. His works on interwar Europe, the Marshall Plan, and the revolutions of 1989 have influenced students and scholars all over the world. Most recently he has published a comparative history of empire.

The Helmut Schmidt Prize is generously sponsored by the Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius ZEIT Foundation.