

SHAFR Fellowships and Awards

SHAFR is happy to recognize the achievements of the following members who received fellowships and awards at the beginning of this new year. We will also congratulate them in person at the June conference's Saturday luncheon ahead of the Stuart L. Bernath Lecture.

This year's Bernath Lecture committee (Adriane Lentz-Smith, Paul Chamberlin, and Thomas Field) has



selected Professor **Elisabeth Leake** of the Fletcher School, Tufts University, to receive the **2024 Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize**. An award-winning teacher and multidisciplinary bridge-builder, Professor Leake (Ph.D. University of Cambridge, 2013) is also a sophisticated scholar whose peers identify her as one of the most prominent voices writing the Cold War history of the postcolonial world. Deftly interweaving histories of empire, scholarship on borderlands studies, and South Asian studies, her recent book *Afghan Crucible: The Soviet Invasion and the Making of Modern Afghanistan* explores multiple perspectives to illuminate the Afghan war as both an intensely local and world-historical event.

The book, which won SHAFR's Robert Ferrell book prize, builds on her earlier monograph on the Afghan-Pakistan borderlands and stands as an essential and exemplary work of international history. As her peers note, Professor Leake's scholarship has and will continue to provide a crucial framework for understanding how the transcendent process of decolonization interacted with the rise and persistence of the American Century.

The **William Appleman Williams Emerging Scholar Grant** Committee—chaired by Jay Sarkar and including Amanda Demmer and Dustin Walcher—has made two grants this year:

The committee especially appreciated the multilingual and multinational research undergirding the soon-to-be-published monograph of **Dr. Amanda Waterhouse**. Her research focuses on architecture and physical spaces to demonstrate the ways that U.S. power during the Cold War shaped the “minute aspects of everyday life.” The committee was also impressed by her project's innovative approach to studying U.S. foreign aid in Colombia, which generatively combines cultural, political, and spatial lenses to center architecture as a means of American power and preponderance abroad.





Dr. Mattie Webb is also a recipient of a 2024 Williams Emerging Scholar Grant. Her important and innovative project centers labor in international and transnational histories of U.S.-South African relations against the backdrop of the anti-apartheid movement. Based on archives in the United States, United Kingdom, and South Africa as well as oral histories, the committee was impressed by how her project sheds light on global racial solidarities amongst labor at a crucial juncture in the twentieth century.

The **Michael J. Hogan Foreign Language Fellowship** committee (Lorenz Lüthi, Victor McFarland, and Heather Dichter) is pleased to announce that this year's winner is **Eleanor Eriko Tsuchiya Lenoe**, a Ph.D. student in the History Department of Rutgers University. She will spend a summer in Yokohama to perfect her Japanese language skills, particularly in terms of reading handwritten sources, to be followed up with research in the Tokyo Diplomatic Archives. Her dissertation addresses the close relations between American G.I.s and Japanese children, often orphans, near and on American occupation bases in postwar Japan. The committee was impressed by the breadth and ambition of the dissertation project, which will break new ground in our understanding of personal relations during post-WW II occupations.



This year's Graduate Student Grants and Fellowships Committee—chaired by Hiroshi Kitamura and including Catherine Forslund, Elisabeth Leake, Christopher Dietrich, and Margaret Gnoinska—announces a number of awards:



This year's **Stuart L. Bernath Dissertation Fellowship** recipient is **Carlotta Wright de la Cal**, a PhD candidate at the University of California-Berkeley, where she is working on a dissertation titled, "Transnational Indigeneity and Cross-Border Citizenship: The World of Railway Workers across the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1880-1945." In her work, de la Cal offers an innovative study of railways as a history of cross-border investment, corporate influences on foreign relations, and indigenous agency, particularly examining the ways that Yaquis, an indigenous Mexican community, became involved in both contributing to and undermining railway construction. She excitingly brings together scholarship on borderlands, labor, and indigeneity into conversation with histories of U.S.-Mexican relations.



Jeffrey Lamson, a Ph.D. student at Northeastern University, is the recipient of this year's **Lawrence Gelfand-Armin Rappaport-Walter LaFaber Dissertation Fellowship**. It was established to honor several of SHAFR's important early leaders. Lamson is working under the direction of Gretchen Heefner. His dissertation is entitled "Engines of Authority: Patrol Cars as Modern Policing in the Urban United States and the World, 1930-1990." Looking at the development and transfer of the U.S. radio police car overseas, it creatively explores the formation of a "modern" public safety regime that encompassed North America, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Western Europe.

Oliver Lazarus is the recipient of this year's **W. Stull Holt Dissertation Fellowship**. His dissertation offers an exciting study of the globalization of U.S. animal agriculture, "Domesticating Empire: American Empire and the Industrialization of Life." Working with Victor Seow at Harvard University, Lazarus traces the work of the Department of Agriculture in the twentieth century as it created a global infrastructure that supported government and corporate livestock interests, often at the cost of ignoring environmental concerns like greenhouse gases.



The Graduate Student Grants and Fellowships Committee also announced ten **Bemis Dissertation Research Grants** recipients:



Shaffer Bonewell is a Ph.D. student at Southern Methodist University working under the direction of Jeffrey A. Engel. "From the Yukon to Yucatan': George H. W. Bush, NAFTA, and America at the End of the Cold War" argues that despite the recent proliferation of work on the Bush presidency--and the ongoing importance of NAFTA and its successors, no scholar has thus far fully linked NAFTA with Bush's strategy at the end of the Cold War. By disregarding NAFTA, existing scholarship fails to assess the complete contours of President Bush's grand strategy and the liberal internationalist bent of America's rise to global primacy.

Robert Ferguson is finishing his doctorate at the University of Georgia under the direction of Scott Reynolds Nelson. The project titled, "Demeter's Horizon: Cotton Farmers and American Foreign Relations in the Early Cold War, 1945-1954," analyzes how the U.S. government's desire to maintain popular New Deal cotton programs forced it to aggressively pursue cotton export markets in Korea and Japan between 1945 and 1954. Historians have long understood how geopolitics affects farmers but have scarcely studied how modern farmers affect geopolitics.





Benjamin Gladstone is a Ph.D. student in history at University of Oxford in the UK and a student of Patricia Clavin. His dissertation, "The Mandates System and the End of Imperialism: An Analysis of the Implications of the Mandates System," puts forth the central argument that the United States helped to create and uphold the mandates system in ways that served to mold international norms surrounding colonialism to better suit U.S. interests and to adhere more closely to American ideas about how colonial areas ought to be run.

Janna Haider is a PhD candidate at the University of California-Santa Barbara, where she is working on a thesis titled, "Legal Temporalities of the Ghadar Party: Aspirations towards American Whiteness and Indian Independence." She brings together the study of South Asian anticolonialism, as it developed on the West Coast of the United States, with histories of U.S. and British foreign and domestic relations, paying particular attention to the paradoxes of revolutionary Ghadarites in demanding independence from empire while also laying claim to whiteness in the U.S. legal system.



Minseok Jang, a student of Kendra Smith-Howard at the University at Albany, offers a strikingly original intellectual contribution in his study of the antimonopoly politics against Standard Oil through the international political economy of kerosene. His dissertation, "Kerosene Antimonopoly: An Environmental and Global History of the Antitrust Movement against Standard Oil," analyzes discontent among a diverse "professional class" of smaller merchants, chemists, inspectors, and independent producers in the United States and the British Empire.

Dante LaRicca, a student of David Engerman at Yale University, has proposed a fresh perspective with "Carbon Colonization: U.S. Empire in an Age of Oil." With a focus on colonial governance, political economy, labor, and the changing environments of U.S. possessions from the Pacific to the Caribbean, his dissertation offers new insights into the creation of different types of petroleum societies in the American Empire as well as the intertwined histories of imperialism and petro-globalization.





Sean Raming is a PhD candidate at the University of Notre Dame. His dissertation is entitled, “Organized Labor in the Military Industrial Complex.” He shows the unexpected, yet deep, connections between unionized labor and the military, which was a key source of contracts for union jobs. In this way, his dissertation highlights the material interests that often led organized labor to support U.S. Cold War interventions abroad.

Sarah Sears is a Ph.D. student in History at the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation, entitled “Negotiating Nature: Diplomacy, Community, and Environment in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands,” uses the Chihuahua-Sonora borderlands as a window to understand the impact of U.S. colonization projects in northern Mexico and along the U.S.-Mexican border. In so doing, this interdisciplinary study will bring environmental history, border studies, and U.S. transnational history into dialogue.



Ann Ngoc Tran is a Ph.D. student in the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Working under the direction of Adrian De Leon, her dissertation, entitled “Elliptical Passages: Vietnamese Histories from the Boat and Narratives of Non-Arrival,” examines the diverse and often difficult experiences of the Vietnamese “boat people.” By focusing on narratives of “non-arrival,” this bilingual study (relying on English- and Vietnamese-language sources) will cast important light on the consequences of U.S. military interventions in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Casey VanSise is a Ph.D. candidate in History at Temple University, working under the direction of Alan McPherson. VanSise’s dissertation, entitled “Rosa-golpistas: US Relations with Latin American Military Governments in the Global Cold War,” investigates Latin American military regimes that adopted progressive and even socialist-adjacent agendas. Through a study of rosa-golpistas (“pink coupists”) in Bolivia, Panama, and Peru, this bilingual study will reveal the tense political dynamics within the Western Hemisphere and their influence in shaping Reagan’s foreign policy.

