

SHAFR Recognizes Outstanding Scholarship and Service at the 2024 Annual Meeting

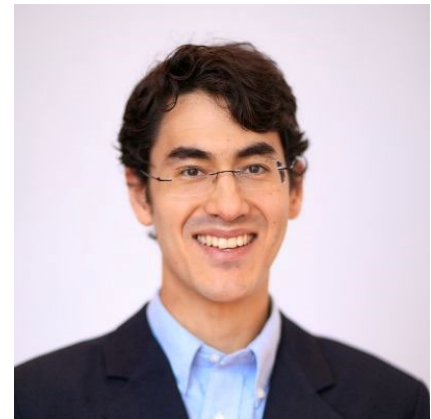


The **Oxford University Press USA Dissertation Prize in International History** Committee—Karine Walther (chair), Nicole Anslover, and Samantha Payne—has awarded the 2024 prize to **Taylor Zajicek** for his dissertation "Black Sea, Cold War: An Environmental History of the Black Sea Region, 1930-2005." It was completed at Princeton University under the direction of Stephen Kotkin.

Zajicek's dissertation analyzes the role played by the natural environment in connecting Black Sea states through the lens of scientific research, conservation and resource management. To tell this story, Zajicek relied on sources in multiple languages from

foreign archives located in Russia, Armenia, Turkey, Italy, the United States, the Netherlands, and Ukraine, delivering a truly international history of the region.

Congratulations also go to **Carl Kubler** for receiving Honorable Mention for his dissertation, "Barbarians on the Shore: Global Trade and Everyday Life on the South China Coast, 1780-1860." Completed at the University of Chicago under the direction of Kenneth Pomeranz, this study offers a fascinating lens into the stories of multiple actors from the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. As he notes, his dissertation offers a "bottom-up reexamination of the daily lives and incentives of Chinese, Europeans, and Americans on the South China Coast in the years before and after the first Opium War—including merchants, sailors, interpreters, coolies, cooks, laundrywomen, prostitutes, and pirates, among others." In order to tell this story, Kubler relied on a wide variety of multilingual sources



from archives in Portugal, Taiwan, Brazil, France, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, the Netherlands, Singapore, Germany, and St. Helena.



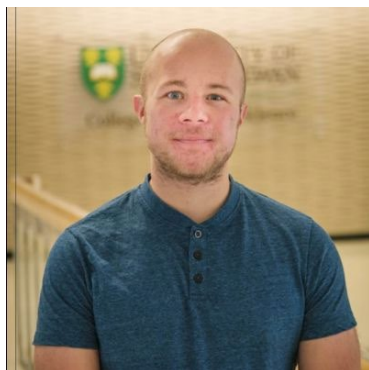
The winner of the 2024 **Marilyn Blatt Young Dissertation Completion Fellowship** is **Jethro Calacday**, a Doctoral Candidate in History at Trinity College, Cambridge. His dissertation—"A Catholic Empire: American Imperialism and the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines"—is being directed by Andrew Preston. The prize committee—Monica Kim (chair), Kate Burlingham, and Aaron Coy Moulton—lauded his work's original and compelling challenge to the long-standing historiographical characterization of the United States as an

Anglo-American Protestant empire that is patently anti-Catholic. Drawing upon an impressive range of transnational archival materials in English, Tagalog, Spanish, Latin--and also Bikol, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Italian, and French--Calacday demonstrates how the United States and the Holy See forged a close working relationship in the Philippines that was integral, in fact, to the rise of U.S. imperial power in 1898. With an innovative methodology that brings together liturgical and ecclesiastical studies, Vatican diplomacy, financial ledgers, and U.S. military history, Calacday's dissertation promises to be groundbreaking scholarship that will force us to re-examine not only 1898 differently, but also the bounds and definitions of U.S. foreign relations history.

Ana G. Calderón of Yale University received Honorable Mention for the Young Dissertation Completion Fellowship. She is working on her dissertation--"La Gran Sociedad: The Colonial War on Poverty, Empire and the Remaking of Development in Puerto Rico after WWII"—with David Engerman. It provides a crucial and compelling history of how local politicians, volunteer corps, and shantytown residents forged alternatives to U.S. modernization projects at the crossroads of deferred decolonization and the American Civil Rights Movement. Utilizing state archives, community collections, and oral histories, Calderón has created a multi-dimensional portrait of the emergence of a colonial welfare state in Puerto Rico under Cold War liberalism, and situates Puerto Rico rightfully at the convergence of U.S., Latin American, and global histories. Calderón's dissertation innovatively places the on-the-ground, transnational struggles over modernization in Puerto Rico in the crucible of the Civil Rights Movement, Cold War liberalism, and colonialism.



This year, SHAFR has partnered with Gale to offer a set of summer fellowships in digital history. The Committee on Digital Resources and Archival Sharing—James Stocker (chair), Philip Nash, Lydia Walker, Zoe LeBlanc, and Ian Seavey--selected the first class of three summer fellows: **Harris Ford** of the University of Saskatchewan (left), **Theresa Keeley** of the University of Louisville (center, receiving award from James Stocker), and **Ann Ngoc Tran** of the University of Southern California (right).



Harris Ford is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Saskatchewan. He plans to undertake a survey of English-language newspapers and the U.S. Declassified Documents Database to better understand the media discussions regarding the Third World and Global South. **Theresa Keeley** is an

associate professor of history at the University of Louisville. She will conduct research for her second book project, entitled *Confrontational Humanitarians: Doctors, Children's Health, & U.S. Harm in Vietnam*. She plans to use Gale resources to help tell the story of wounded Vietnamese children, particularly those wounded in napalm attacks, as well as the international reaction to their plight. **Ann Ngoc Tran** is a PhD candidate in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. She will use the Gale fellowship to pursue her dissertation research on Vietnamese “boat people” and other instances of oceanic migration during the Cold War, using media reports, U.S. Information Agency files, and global document repositories.

The **Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize** Committee—Theresa Keeley (chair), Mattias Fibiger, and Oli Charbonneau—is pleased to announce that **Sarah Sears** (University of California, Berkeley) is this year's recipient of the Bernath Article Prize. Her article, entitled “Beyond the River's Violence: Reconsidering the Chamizal Border Dispute,” appeared in the June 2023 issue of *Diplomatic History*. In it, Sears explores how flooding in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries impacted Americans' and Mexicans' land claims and influenced diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United States. Sears employs a variety of sources in English and Spanish to illustrate how the Mexican-American War did not result



in a static, permanent boundary; instead, environmental changes allowed for the contestation of political borders. While Sears's article is geographically limited to a small, contested zone, it is temporally ambitious and provides a vivid portrait of how the ebbs and flows of nonhuman nature were mobilized by individuals, businesses, and nations to remap landscapes. In making her case, she innovatively combines the fields of environmental, borderlands, legal, and foreign relations history. She highlights how the U.S. government used environmental changes, not just military force, to facilitate the displacement of Mexicans from their lands after the Mexican-American War. In the process, Sears makes a compelling case for highlighting the role of the environment as an actor in foreign relations history.



The committee also recognized **Kazushi Minami's** “Perpetual Foreigners: Chinese Americans and the U.S. Opening to China” with Honorable Mention for the Bernath Article Prize. This recent *Diplomatic History* article argues that Sino-American rapprochement inaugurated a “diaspora moment.” For the first time in a generation, Chinese Americans could travel to the People's Republic in large numbers. They were afforded opportunities to ponder the trajectory of the Chinese Revolution—and to reconsider their own identities as overseas Chinese and as Americans in a period of social and diplomatic ferment. Drawing on a remarkable corpus of archival sources from

the United States and China, “Perpetual Foreigners” reveals in crisp prose the variegated, sometimes ambivalent experiences of ethnic Chinese Americans as they returned to China. Some came away transfixed by the achievements of the Mao period and swelled with ethnic pride, while others left with a sense of alienation from their ancestral home and the efforts at socialist indoctrination to which they

were subjected. Minami’s article represents a remarkable integration of social and diplomatic history and a thoughtful analysis of what it means to go “home” for a minoritized diasporic population.



Sheyda Jahanbani of the University of Kansas is this year’s recipient of the **Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize** for the best first book in the field, awarded by David Milne (chair), Colleen Woods, and Tessa Winkelmann. Her book--*The Poverty of the World: Rediscovering the Poor at Home and Abroad, 1941-1968*--combines intellectual history, political history, and the history of U.S. foreign relations to insightful and propulsive effect. In charting the efforts of Cold War liberals to combat global poverty, Jahanbani reveals hubris and misdiagnoses but also an ambition that jars with the parochialism of today's politics. Deeply researched, compelling in argument, and elegantly written, *The Poverty of the World* makes a major contribution to our understanding of the Global Cold War

and the idiosyncratic shape of U.S. Empire.

The committee also recognized **Chris Suh** with Honorable Mention for his book, *The Allure of Empire: American Encounters with Asians in the Age of Transpacific Expansion and Exclusion*. It weaves together a masterful account of the Pacific empires—the U.S. and Japan—to highlight how, in the early twentieth century, they both often chose to pursue national policies of imperialism--rather than racial solidarity--as pathways to global power. Through rigorous multilingual and multi-sited research, Suh highlights how the “allure of empire” forged bonds of alliance, as both powers imagined themselves as champions of progressive empire and pursued Pacific colonies in the Philippines and Korea. Scholars of transnational U.S. and Asian American history will find particularly important Suh’s close attention to how American and Japanese discussions of Korea played an important role in the sustaining and eventual breakdown of the Pacific alliance and how colonized populations seized on these discussions to advocate for their own freedom.



The **Myrna F. Bernath Book Prize** recognizes excellence by women, non-binary, and/or trans scholars in U.S. foreign relations history. This year’s committee—Kimber Quinney (chair), Carol Chin, and Megan



Black—selected **Alvita Akiboh** as the winner (on right in photo, receiving prize from Carol Chin). The committee found her book--*Imperial Material: National Symbols in the US Colonial Empire*--to make a singular contribution to diplomatic history through its insistence that material culture was a key and critical site of contest over the fate of empire. Not only does the book provide stories about people’s lives and the things they make and hold, but it also makes us think differently about colonialism, national identity, and who has the privilege of defining “Americanness.” We were unanimous in our recommendation of the award.

The committee also awarded Honorable Mention to **Rebecca Herman's** *Cooperating with the Colossus: A Social and Political History of US Military Bases in World War II Latin America*. The book makes an innovative contribution to diplomatic history by providing a fascinating comparative history that moves between hemispheric, regional, national, and local contexts with ease. *Cooperating with the Colossus* illuminates the shifting nature of sovereignty in Latin America before and after the war and reminds us how informal, unwritten arrangements can be surprisingly durable in the history of transnational relations and international cooperation.



Brooke Blower also won Honorable Mention for her most recent book, *Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am's Yankee Clipper*. The book makes a major contribution to diplomatic history by offering a monumental wartime story scaled to the intimate lives of strangers and insisting on the importance of worldly civilians to transnational U.S. power. The role of noncombatants in World War II offers an important corrective to the narrative of “why we fought” and to the historical explanations offered for why and how the United States mobilized for war. (In the photo, Brooke is on the right, receiving the award from Carol Chin.)

The **Michael H. Hunt Prize for International History** goes to the best first book that on international or global history since the mid-nineteenth century that makes substantial use of historical records in more than one language. This year's winner is **Mattias Fibiger** for *Suharto's Cold War: Indonesia, Southeast Asia, and the World* (in photo, Mattias—on right—receives award from Amy Sayward). The prize committee of Katharina Rietzler, Jeremy Rich, and Nathan Citino found Dr. Fibiger's book to be a deeply researched and lucidly written analysis of political agency, strategy, and counterrevolution in the global Cold War. The committee was impressed with Dr. Fibiger's excellent use of multiple archives to highlight the independent development of Indonesia's anti-Communist diplomacy under Suharto. Dr. Fibiger shows that rather than merely responding to the exigencies and pressures of a binary Cold War, Suharto was an agent of change who marshalled international investment and aid for the purpose of domestic stabilization and the promotion of a counter-revolutionary internationale in Southeast Asia. While Dr. Fibiger acknowledges the impact of anti-Communist politicide, his focus on the importance of political economy provides an invaluable complement to existing studies, as does his attention to Suharto's active shaping of policy in a constantly shifting context, from decolonization to the 1970s when the rise of human rights, political Islam, and the oil bonanza presented new challenges and opportunities. The result is not only a new history of the global Cold War that centers Indonesia but a compelling and effective examination of the origins of contemporary Asian geopolitics. The book provides a model for



future research on counter-revolutionary, postcolonial nation-building in a variety of geographical contexts and opens avenues for further work on the role of ideology. The committee congratulates Dr. Fibiger on his achievement.

The **Robert H. Ferrell Prize** rewards distinguished scholarship in the history of American foreign relations, broadly defined, for a book beyond the author's first monograph. This year's prize committee—Mario Del Pero (chair), Marc Gallicchio, and Amanda McVety—is pleased to announce that this year's winner is **Erik R. Scott** for *Defectors: How the Illicit Flight of Soviet Citizens Built the Borders of the Cold War World* (Oxford University Press). It is an original and persuasive study that examines how the flight of a small number of Soviet citizens led to a system of border policing and migration control that has persisted beyond the Cold War. This comprehensive analysis sheds light on the interactions between defectors, government agencies, and non-governmental groups—as well as the connections between decolonization, migration, and the evolution of international law. One of Scott's key achievements is demonstrating how individual actions shaped the current international regime governing the movement of migrants and refugees. Drawing on a wide range of archival sources, Scott skillfully explains the origin of the political category “defector” in the early Cold War. He illustrates how the dubious link between ideological motivation and the act of defecting gave rise to the concept of asylum that exists today. Scott vividly depicts the Cold War competition between the U.S. and USSR over these highly prized individuals, while also highlighting the level of superpower cooperation in controlling and regulating the migration of less “desirable” refugees across state borders. The movement of defectors across land, sea, and air sparked international discussions about various types of borders, usually resulting in new laws that prioritized state sovereignty over migrant rights. As the world became more interconnected, borders solidified in ways that ultimately benefited both Moscow and Washington.



The **Peter L. Hahn SHAFR Distinguished Service Award** recognizes a senior historian who, over a career, has shown a deep commitment to the growth and development of our organization. The award committee—Frank Costigliola (chair), Kristin Hoganson, and Andrew Preston--selected **Naoko Shibusawa** of Brown University as the 2024 recipient. (In photo below, left-right, Preston, Shibusawa, Costigliola, and Hoganson.) Professor Shibusawa has made significant contributions to SHAFR's ideals of scholarship, service, and mentorship. Her scholarship, including her prize-winning book--*America's Geisha Ally: Reimagining the Japanese Enemy*--is noted for its rigorous analysis of gender, race, and sexuality. Two forthcoming monographs--*Ideologies of U.S. Empire* and *Queer Betrayals: The Treason Trial of John David Provo*--both explore the intersections of ideology, queerness, loyalty, and national security in U.S. history. Naoko Shibusawa has played a vital role in fostering the growth of a new generation of scholars in SHAFR by nurturing emerging scholars and by elevating previously marginalized voices. She has served as a member of the Committee on Minority Historians and has co-chaired the Program Committee for SHAFR's Annual Meeting. She has also served on the committees choosing the winners of the Bernath Lecture Prize, the Myrna Bernath Book Prize, and the Michael J. Hogan Foreign Language Fellowship.

An example of Naoko Shibusawa's sustained dedication to mentorship within and beyond SHAFR is a group she founded at Brown University in 2011, known as the "K Team." K-Team has functioned as a platform for advanced undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and contingent faculty within the Brown community who share a common interest in exploring the complex relationship



between race, empire, and power. Shibusawa has cultivated this as a space for cross-disciplinary exchange. This inclusive approach has meant that members of K-Team have incorporated "U.S. in the World" scholarship, sources, and methodologies into a wide range of academic disciplines, including American Studies, Asian American Studies, Food Studies, Immigration History, and Military History.

Simultaneously, it has broadened the horizons of diplomatic history in ways that have enriched SHAFR's intellectual landscape. The far-reaching impact of Professor Shibusawa's mentorship is evident in the subsequent career paths of K-Team members, many of whom have accepted positions at universities and colleges in the United States and around the world.

The 2024 **Norman and Laura Graebner Award for Lifetime Achievement**, was awarded to **Richard Immerman**, Professor Emeritus at Temple University. The prize committee—Andrew Rotter (chair), Judy Wu, and Barbara Keys—noted that Richard's scholarly record is extraordinary, from his Bernath Prize-winning first book on the CIA in Guatemala four decades ago and his pathbreaking work in the 1990s on John Foster Dulles to his more recent histories of the CIA (*The Hidden Hand*) and U.S. expansionism (*Empire for Liberty*). Along the way, he has published articles in top-tier journals, including the *Journal of American History*, *Diplomatic History*, and the *Political Science Quarterly*. Well before it was fashionable in the field, Richard collaborated with other scholars--among them George Herring and Fred Greenstein--producing scholarship of great scope and insight.

A brilliant teacher, Richard taught a generation of undergraduates at Temple University about how foreign policy works--and doesn't--enthraling them with his insightful and humorous lectures and dismaying them with his close attention to their writing. To his graduate students, he was a guide and a mentor—cajoling, encouraging, allowing them to be themselves, and doing everything humanly possible to place them in academic jobs, with enormous success. At Temple, Richard also established the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy. For three decades now, CENFAD has been at the forefront of interdisciplinary work on international affairs, bringing scholars from every corner of the world together to trade ideas and share their research.

And Richard is a SHAFR institution. As one of his recommenders wrote, “It is not hyperbole to state that Richard Immerman ranks as one of the most dedicated members of SHAFR in the entire six decades of the organization’s history.” As vice-president and then as president of SHAFR in 2006-07, Richard served on the negotiating team that won a substantial increase in the payment made by Oxford University Press for *Diplomatic History*—with some of the funds going to prizes and awards to promote the scholarship of graduate students and junior faculty. Richard also helped to create the Committee on Women, which did vitally important work to address the glaring gender imbalance in the Society. (In photo, Andrew Rotter on left makes award to Richard Immerman, right.)



There is perhaps nothing more awe-inspiring, or frustrating, than to try to have a conversation with Richard in the lobby of a SHAFR hotel during the conference. One is constantly interrupted by members--young and old--coming up to him, checking in about Society business, exchanging gossip, thanking him for good advice or comments made on a manuscript or a letter of recommendation, or just clapping him on the shoulder or giving him a hug. It is a measure of the respect and affection that everyone feels for him. And it is reassuring to know that, with Richard taking on the duties of executive director, the organization will remain in the best of hands.