



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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BRIAN DOLBER WINS BLANCHARD DISSERTATION PRIZE

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Brian Dolber as the winner of the 2012 Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize.

Dolber, an assistant professor of mass communication at the State University of New York College at Oneonta, won the award for his dissertation titled “Sweating for Democracy: Working Class Media and the Struggle for Hegemonic Jewishness, 1919-1941.”

Using the political economy of media framework, Dolber’s research examines the history of the Jewish working-class counterpublic in the United States during the interwar period and its relationships to the broader public sphere.

Dolber will receive \$500 and a plaque on Oct. 12, during the AJHA national convention in Raleigh, N.C.

Dolber said he is grateful to receive the award and thanks AJHA for the honor.

“Writing a dissertation, obviously, is a tremendous effort and often a solitary process,” Dolber said. “It’s difficult to know as you are going through if you are doing anything of value that someone else will find interesting.”

Dolber completed his dissertation at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His director, communication Professor Robert W. McChesney, said it was heartening for a young scholar who has worked diligently to receive this sort of recognition.

David Abrahamson, chair of the Blanchard Dissertation Prize Committee, described Dolber’s dissertation as interesting, thoughtful and well documented.

“The arguments were very, very nuanced and very, very elegantly made,” said Abrahamson, a professor at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

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AJHA grants the annual award to the best doctoral dissertation dealing with mass communication history completed during the prior calendar year. The prize has been awarded since 1997.

The following three scholars received honorable mention for their dissertations and will receive a \$200 award at the conference in Raleigh:

- Fred Carroll for “Race News: How Black Reporters and Readers Shaped the Fight for Racial Justice, 1877-1978,” completed at Brooklyn College (director Kimberley Phillips).
- Jason A. Peterson for “Full Court Press: How Mississippi Newspapers Helped Keep State College Basketball Segregated, 1955-1973,” completed at the University of Southern Mississippi (director David R. Davies).
- David Wallace for “The Way We See It: Massive Resistance, Southern Myth, and Media Suppression,” completed at the University of Colorado (director Polly E. Bugros McLean).

All four scholars will discuss their work during a special session at the AJHA national convention.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society.

For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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