

**PRESS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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***A HOUSE FOR THE STRUGGLE: THE BLACK PRESS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN CHICAGO* WINS AJHA'S 2023 BOOK AWARD**

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected *A House for the Struggle: The Black Press and the Built Environment in Chicago* by James West as the 2023 Book of the Year winner.

The three unranked runners-up are: *New Deal Radio: The Educational Radio Project*, by David Goodman and Joy Elizabeth Hayes; *Clash: Presidents and the Press in Times of Crisis*, by Jon Marshall; and *City of Newsmen: Public Lies and Professional Secrets in Cold War Washington*, by Kathryn J. McGarr.

"*A House for the Struggle* is a building history of Chicago's Black press," West said. "It's a history of the buildings constructed, occupied, and utilized by Black journalists and periodicals, and why these buildings matter. It's about how the actions of individual Black publishers and journalists, as well as the collective ambitions, influence, and orientation of Black periodicals such as *Ebony*, the *Defender*, and *Muhammad Speaks*, were shaped by and helped to shape the world around them. And it's about how these contested spaces - from backstreet storefronts to custom-built corporate edifices - helped to both consolidate and complicate the role of such publications as a 'voice for the race'."

This book "breaks new ground by telling the history of the Black press in Chicago through its geography and architecture. In highly segregated Chicago—a city known for its architectural might and height—the structural presence of Black newspapers tells a significant story about the Black press generally," said one of the judges.

"I'm surprised and delighted to receive this recognition, particularly from AJHA, given how influential the scholarship of many members has been in shaping my own," West said.

The judges recognized Goodman and Hayes' *New Deal Radio* for its contribution to an understudied area of journalism history.

The book is "a highly readable book that fills an important gap in radio history and an important gap in our understanding of the role of radio in promoting democracy," said one committee member.

Marshall's *Clash* earned praise for "its use of primary and secondary sources to develop key arguments, such as the longstanding efforts of presidents, from Adams to Trump, 'to attack, restrict, manipulate, and demonize the press in order to strengthen their own power'."

The judges commended McGarr's *City of Newsmen* for the insights it provides into the work of Washington journalists. As one wrote, the book "takes readers into the intimate white male-dominated salons of mid-century Washington political reportage to reveal what these journalists really knew, even if it wasn't always apparent in their reporting."

West is a lecturer in Arts and Sciences at University College London and co-director of the Black Press Research Collective at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of three books, most recently *Our Kind of Historian: The Work and Activism of Lerone Bennett Jr.*

Goodman is a professor of history at the University of Melbourne in Australia. He is the author of two previous books including *Radio's Civic Ambition*.

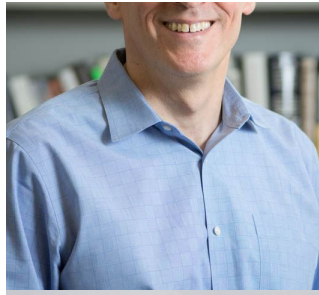
is the author of the previous books, including *America's First Amendment: American Broadcasting and Democracy in the 1930s*. Hayes, associate professor of communication studies at the University of Iowa, is the author of two other books. Previously she co-authored and edited *War of the Worlds to Social Media: Mediated Communication in Times of Crisis*.

Marshall is an associate professor in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. His first book was *Watergate's Legacy and the Press: The Investigative Impulse*.

McGarr is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She previously wrote *The Whole Damn Deal: Robert Strauss and the Art of Politics*.

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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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