PRESS RELEASE
June 27, 2022
For Immediate Release
Contact: Julien
Gorbach
Phone: (781) 799-8576
gorbach@hawaii.edu

Meghan McCune Wins 2022 Blanchard Prize for Work that Builds Upon Great War Scholarship

The American Journalism Historians Association has announced Meghan Menard McCune as the winner of the 2022 Margaret A. Blanchard Dissertation Prize.

McCune, who completed her dissertation at Louisiana State University's Manship School of Communication under the direction of John Maxwell Hamilton, was recognized for "'At the Service of the Government': American Journalists in the Great War and the Agent Model of Government-Press Relations."

"I am honored to receive the 2022 Margaret Blanchard prize from such a premier association," she said.

McCune explained that her effort began when she had studied with Hamilton while he was researching *Manipulating the Masses*, his history of the Committee on Public Information, a propaganda machine created by the Woodrow Wilson administration in the early days of the Great War.

This had inspired her to look more closely at the cooperative relationships between journalists and government officials during this crucial period for American journalism. She is currently working with Hamilton on a book-length treatment of her own focus.

"My hope is that this research demonstrates the usefulness of the Agent Model as an effective analytical tool for studies of government-press relations," she said.

Honorable Mention for this year's award went to Bailey Dick for "Historicizing #MeToo: The Systemic Devaluation of First-Person Accounts of Gender-Based Violence by the News Industry," at Ohio University's EW Scripps School of Journalism under the direction of Aimee Edmondson.

"My hope is that this work will, in some small way, affirm the roughly one in twelve newsroom employees who are survivors of sexual assault, who work in a profession that is not built for or equipped to support survivors," Dick said, adding that she also hopes her work lays the foundation for others to continue research in this area.

"When I became a survivor of gender-based violence as a teenager, there was no broader conversation culturally or in the media about what I experienced," Dick said. "But as a reporter—and later as an academic—I was better able to write about, understand, and research media coverage of gender-based violence because of my experience."

Dick said she was grateful on a personal and professional level for the award, "but even more grateful that survivors of gender-based violence and their stories were deemed worthy and honorable in this way. At a time when survivors' right to speak and write about their experiences is increasingly in jeopardy, this award is a bit of light in the darkness."

McCune added that her success would not have been possible without the support of the Manship School, and of her friend and colleague Elisabeth Fondren, "who acted as an important sounding board and exceptional editor for this project and many others." Fondren, who is now an assistant professor at St. John's University in New York, earned Honorable Mention for the Blanchard for 2018 dissertation, "Fighting an Armed Doctrine: The Struggle to Modernize German Propaganda During World War I (1914-1918)."

Meghan Menard McCune

Bailey Dick

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.