The American Geographical Society Awards 2022 Council Fellowships

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) announces the recipients of the 2022 AGS Council Fellowship.

[New York, NY] – [March 31, 2022] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2022 AGS Council Fellowships to support master's and doctoral research. Established in 2013, the awards are funded by a gift from the estate of Dr. Marshall E. Bowen and each recipient receives $1,500.00. The recipients are Mr. Dinko Dinko, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Denver, Mr. Elamin Elamin, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park, Ms. Elise Sperandio, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona, and Mx. Reagan Yessler, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Graduate students from universities around the world are eligible for the Fellowships. AGS will recognize the Fellowship recipients during its annual Fall Symposium being held the week of November 14-18, 2022.

Mr. Dinko's award will fund part of his research, A Participatory Drone Mapping of Water Security for Irrigation and Smallholder Agriculture in Northern Ghana. Upon receiving the scholarship, Mr. Dinko noted, "This grant will support my research on how irrigation water is negotiated, contested, and renegotiated in a context characterized by legal pluralism water resource governance structure in northern Ghana. Using participatory drone mapping and pixel-level analysis, I examine who gets access to irrigation water, where, in what ways, and when water is accessed, and how historical and current power alignments are implicated therein. My research contributes to ongoing discussions on how location matters in explaining the uneven geographies of access and control of water in semi-arid spaces."

Mr. Elamin’s fellowship will help cover fieldwork costs in Madagascar for his project, Applying a Food/Energy/Water/People Framework to Assess Impacts of the World’s First Climate Change Famine in Madagascar. When asked about his research, Mr. Elamin explained, "My research goal is to study how the dynamics of environmental change serve as a challenge to global security and to produce new understandings about the human dimensions of global climate change."

Ms. Sperandio will use the fellowship funds to assist with her project, Contested Geographies of ‘Welcome’: A Comparative Analysis of Refugee Integration. “The project examines how Bologna and Torino differ in their implementation of the Italian model of accoglienza diffusa (diffused reception), which is aimed at providing housing and integration services to refugees, and designed to be adaptable to local resources and needs,” said Ms. Sperandio, “My research looks to how program practitioners, refugees, and city residents contribute to shaping local approaches to diffused reception and to complicating institutional visions of integration.”

Mx. Yessler’s research, Cosplay as Personal Expression in Restrictive Environments: A Case Study on the Yamacon Anime Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, "...expands traditional concepts of gendered performance and cultural diffusion to explore the understudied communities of queer cosplayers in the Appalachian region," they explained. “My work focuses on the intersections of queer identity, gendered performance, and race, as well as the confounding dynamics a politically conservative environment places upon these overlapping identities...This fellowship will allow me recording devices and convention access to contact and interview fellow queer cosplayers, especially queer cosplayers of color, about how the convention spaces allow them to differently embody their identity than in surrounding spaces."

"Members of the American Geographical Society Council believe that supporting researchers who address contemporary issues is fundamental. To ensure the health of the discipline, we must support young scholars," said Dr. Marie Price, Chair of the Selection Committee and President of AGS. “We are delighted to fund four promising young scholars in their field investigations through the AGS Council Fellowships and we look forward to reading about their discoveries," added Dr. Price.

Dr. Marshall E. Bowen, an emeritus professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Mary Washington where he taught thousands of students over 36 years before retiring in 2001, was a long-time...
member of AGS. A gift from his estate is funding the awards for this year’s fellows and will continue to fund the initiative for the next two years. “Marshall thought highly of AGS and I am pleased that his bequest will support their efforts to assist the next generation of geographers,” said Dr. Dawn Bowen, wife of Dr. Marshall Bowen and also a Professor of Geography at the University of Mary Washington.

The American Geographical Society is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for 170 years. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning and exploration; and advance geographic science and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

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