

**REPORT OF THE FINAL PANEL**

**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND**  
**AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS**  
**AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS) SUBPROGRAM**  
**FY 2008-09**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Forty-one (41) proposals requesting a total of \$1,846,843 in first-year funds were submitted for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2008-09 to the Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Research & Development Program. Proposals were solicited for creative and scholarly activities undertaken by faculty in all arts, humanities, and social sciences disciplines.

**THE REVIEW PROCESS**

To conduct as thorough, objective, and expert a review as possible within the Board's monetary constraints and timeframe, a two-phase review process was adopted. Panels of out-of-state experts evaluated all proposals and provided funding recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Phase I: In-Depth Review by Subject-Area Panel

In Phase I of the review process the forty-one (41) proposals were distributed among three subject-area panels corresponding to the general disciplines eligible for funding consideration through ATLAS. Each panel was comprised of two to four out-of-state experts with broad expertise in the disciplines represented by the proposals, as well as familiarity with similar competitive grants programs for arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines. Using the criteria set forth in the FY 2008-09 ATLAS Request for Proposals (RFP), panel members worked individually and then collaboratively by telephone and e-mail to determine which proposals in each subject area met all eligibility requirements and were most likely to produce results of high quality and impact. In this phase of the review process, each subject-area panel member acted as "primary discussant" for an assigned portion of the proposals and completed an in-depth critique of each of his/her assigned proposals after discussing its relative merits and shortcomings with the other panel members. Through a telephone conference, the subject-area panel members jointly ranked the proposals in the order in which they believed that the proposals should be funded. The panels carefully scrutinized the budgets of those proposals ranked as fundable and recommended modifications where appropriate.

Phase II: Final Panel Review and Interdigitation of Recommended Proposals

A final panel (hereafter referred to as the "panel"), comprised of three senior out-of-state professionals whose expertise spans the eligible disciplines and who had served as chairs of the subject-area panels, was convened in Phase II of the process. This panel met on March 6, 2009, through a teleconference, to discuss and compare the various groups of top-ranked proposals and, ultimately, to interdigitate the rankings of the various proposals across the subject areas and devise final funding recommendations for the Board of Regents.

The four principal criteria used by the panel in making its funding recommendations are: (1) The intellectual and/or artistic significance of the project to the discipline in which it is submitted and to broader professional and lay audiences; (2) the quality of previous work and/or promise of quality of the applicant's current work; (3) the quality of the conception, definition, organization, and description of the project; and (4) the feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project. The panel also considered the appropriateness of the budget request in making final

funding recommendations. Thirty-two (32) proposals were included in the discussions held during this conference.

The panel was informed that \$450,000 would be available to fund ATLAS projects in fiscal year 2008-09. Utilizing the criteria described above, the panel recommended twenty (20) proposals which it strongly believed were worthy of support and placed them in the "Priority I" category, detailed in **Appendix A**. These proposals request a total of \$936,950. Ten (10) proposals are ranked #1 and listed in ascending order of proposal number and the remaining ten (10) proposals are ranked in descending order according to merit. Though funds are available to support only ten (10) of the highly recommended proposals, the panel strongly urges the Board of Regents to seek supplementary resources to provide funding for as many additional proposals as possible. Should additional resources become available, the panel recommends that proposals be funded in descending rank order.

The budgets for each of the top-ranked proposals were scrutinized closely and in most cases found by the panel to be reasonable. Small budgetary reductions were recommended in a few cases, as noted in the panel comments. Unless indicated in the panel's comments, project work plans and timelines should not be affected by the budgetary reductions.

**Appendix B** lists those proposals that were ranked Priority II by the subject-area panels but, due to a variety of considerations, not recommended for funding by the final panel. In general, proposals listed in Appendix B are considered of high quality and recommended for funding in the event that additional monies become available after all Priority I proposals are funded, but raised questions or concerns among the reviewers that precluded them from being ranked among the Priority I proposals. Applicants whose projects were ranked Priority II are encouraged to study the reviewers' comments and, if appropriate, revise and resubmit their projects when ATLAS proposals are next solicited.

**Appendix C** lists proposals that were ranked Priority III by the subject-area panels and not recommended for funding in this competition. Priority III projects are ranked as such because the review panel(s) had serious questions about their feasibility, potential for impact, and/or scholarly/artistic merit. Applicants whose projects were listed in Appendix C are encouraged to review the consultants' and reviewers' comments and, if appropriate, revise and resubmit their projects for funding consideration in future ATLAS competitions.

**Appendix D** gives comments and funding stipulations for each of the twenty (20) proposals highly recommended for funding.

**Appendix E** lists the out-of-state experts who served on the final and subject-area panels.

**Appendix F** summarizes all proposals submitted for funding consideration to the ATLAS competition and provides the following information for each proposal: proposal number, title, discipline, institution, principal investigator, and BoRSF funds requested.

## **PANEL COMMENTS REGARDING FY 2008-09 PROPOSALS**

The Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) subprogram of the Board of Regents Support Fund's Research and Development Program is designed to provide support for major scholarly and artistic productions with potential to have a broad impact on a regional and/or national level. The panel again applauds the Board of Regents and the State of Louisiana for their continuing support for this program, which provides funding to important disciplines with limited opportunities for grant funding.

The opportunities for Louisiana to bolster its reputation for supporting the arts, humanities, and social sciences extend well beyond the faculty members who receive these awards. The out-of-state

experts who serve on subject-area and final panels, as well as those who serve as expert reviewers for single proposals, have been extremely impressed with the State's efforts and have endeavored to voice their positive impression in professional circles. Moreover, the excellent quality of the proposals, now reviewed by experts across the country, speaks to the submitting institutions' and the State's emphasis on research and artistic production at the very highest levels. The panel commends the researchers, artists, administrators, and State governing bodies for their work and support of these traditionally under-funded disciplines.

## **PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES**

The success of the ATLAS program in attracting large numbers of excellent projects leads the panel to recommend changes to allow the program to capitalize on the strengths of Louisiana's arts, humanities and social sciences faculty, bolster faculty morale, contribute to the growth of the research base, and build the State's reputation for academic and artistic excellence.

- The panel notes that once again in this competition many more quality proposals were received than could be funded with available resources and, unfortunately, several proposals ranked as highly recommended will not receive support. This indicates the great need for this kind of program. The ATLAS subprogram is important not only for the funds it distributes, but also for the increases in morale it fosters among arts, social sciences, and humanities faculty and for its tacit recognition of the significance of these kinds of serious scholarly and artistic projects to the State and its citizens. **Given the importance and potential long-range impact of the ATLAS subprogram, therefore, the panel strongly recommends that the Board of Regents make every effort to allocate additional resources to support a greater number of quality projects.**
- Some proposals seemed less carefully thought through than in previous years, and more rushed in preparation. To address this, the panel recommends reintroducing the mandatory notice of intent, which was eliminated for the current competition. The format for the notice used in previous years requires only minimal information to be presented, but prompts potential submitters to think about their projects and plans more than six weeks before the formal proposal is due.
- The panel strongly recommends promoting the program through a number of mechanisms, including email blasts, web profiles and newsletters featuring ATLAS winners, as well as interactions with both administrators and potential faculty applicants. These actions will serve to make more eligible faculty aware of the program, celebrate the talented awardees, and bolster the reputation of the program and the funded work across the State and beyond.

**APPENDIX A**

**ATLAS PROPOSALS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING  
(PRIORITY I) (20)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal #</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
1	001ATL-09	Centenary	Kenneth Aizawa	\$45,171	\$45,171
1	008ATL-09	LSU-BR	Kathleen A. Bratton	\$47,971	\$47,971
1	009ATL-09	LSU-BR	Delbert Burkett	\$44,919	\$44,919
1	012ATL-09	LSU-BR	Gibril Cole	\$39,159	\$39,159
1	020ATL-09	LSU-BR	Petra Munro Hendry	\$50,000	\$48,628
1	026ATL-09	LSU-BR	Elsie B. Michie	\$49,948	\$49,948
1	029ATL-09	LSU-BR	Andrew Sluyter	\$49,976	\$49,976
1	034ATL-09	LSU-BR	Carolyn Ware	\$50,000	\$50,000
1	037ATL-09	UL Lafayette	Lisa Graley	\$29,228	\$29,228
1	040ATL-09	UNO	Irvin Mayfield	\$50,000	\$45,000
11	028ATL-09	LSU-BR	Wesley Shrum	\$50,000	\$50,000
12	023ATL-09	LSU-BR	Rodger Kamenetz	\$50,000	\$36,897
13	018ATL-09	LSU-BR	Rachel Hall	\$45,762	\$45,762
14	015ATL-09	LSU-BR	Johanna L. Dunaway	\$48,900	\$48,900
15	006ATL-09	LSU-BR	James G. Bennett	\$50,000	\$50,000
16	038ATL-09	UL Lafayette	John C. Greene	\$47,415	\$26,940
17	030ATL-09	LSU-BR	Victor Stater	\$50,000	\$50,000
18	035ATL-09	LSU-BR	Michelle Zerba	\$43,606	\$43,606
19	016ATL-09	LSU-BR	Andreas Giger	\$44,895	\$44,895
20	017ATL-09	LSU-BR	Angeletta KM Gourdine	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$936,950</b>	<b>\$897,000</b>

The first ten (10) proposals in Appendix A are ranked “1” (i.e., first). In the panel's opinion, these proposals are of nearly equal merit; as such, they are listed in ascending order of proposal number. Proposals ranked 11 through 20 are listed in descending order of merit and, thus, priority for funding.

The total amount of funding recommended for Priority I proposals is \$897,000, exceeding the amount allocated to ATLAS projects by \$447,000. The panel recommends, therefore, that with the available monies the Board fund the ten (10) projects ranked “1” in the amounts recommended by the panel. Should supplementary funds become available, the panel further recommends that additional Priority I projects be funded in the order of their ranking and at the levels specified.

**APPENDIX B**

**MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY II  
BY THE SUBJECT AREA PANELS AND CONSIDERED BY THE FINAL PANEL  
BUT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (12)**

002ATL-09	007ATL-09	011ATL-09	019ATL-09
021ATL-09	024ATL-09	027ATL-09	031ATL-09
032ATL-09	033ATL-09	039ATL-09	041ATL-09

**Note:** Priority II proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. Subject-area panel reviews for these proposals will be provided to the applicants in July 2009.

**APPENDIX C**

**PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY III BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS  
AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (9)**

003ATL-09	004ATL-09	005ATL-09	010ATL-09
013ATL-09	014ATL-09	022ATL-09	025ATL-09
036ATL-09			

**Note:** Priority III proposals are listed by proposal number, and not in order of merit. Subject-area panel reviews for these proposals will be provided to the applicants in July 2009.

## APPENDIX D

### COMMENTS AND FUNDING STIPULATIONS FOR PROPOSALS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (PRIORITY I)

#### General Comments and Stipulations

This section provides comments and stipulations set forth as conditions of funding for the twenty (20) proposals highly recommended by the panel. Comments are provided in rank order. Each proposal's rank is provided in the upper right corner of the comment page.

**Unless specified in the panel's review comment, no reductions in the scope of work of projects recommended for funding should be allowed in any case.** If the work plan submitted for a project does not correspond in scope to that of the original proposal and/or does not reflect reductions recommended by the panel, the award should be vacated and funds thereby made available should be used to fund other worthy projects. The panel recommends that any returned or unawarded ATLAS funds be allocated to projects recommended in Appendix A, at the level recommended by the panel and in descending order according to rank.

**PROPOSAL NO. 001ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** "A Materialist Solution to the Mind-Body Problem"

**INSTITUTION:** Centenary College of Louisiana

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kenneth Aizawa

The mind-body problem is a classic issue in philosophy and science, and Dr. Aizawa is developing with a collaborator a major contribution to the field, which will argue that mind should be defined as the result of the "realization" of properties of the brain. In one sense, that analysis vindicates a reductionist approach, yet the authors also support "a benign form of emergentism" at a metaphysical level. The audience for this work will be largely scholarly, though the applicant has done excellent work in making his writing sample and project description accessible to a general academic audience without reducing its intellectual rigor.

The collaborative project marks an ambitious step in the application of theories of realization. The authors wish to ground their theories empirically, to overcome the objection that such approaches isolate the science of the mind from the science of the brain. Instead, they challenge the way in which neuroscience is pursued with their analysis of realization in terms of the emergence of new forms, and intimate that scientific analysis needs to operate in terms of teleology to such an extent that they speak of their work as a kind of metaphysics.

The applicant is very well published and has a background which prepares him well for this project. His monographs have been published by top university presses, including CUP and Oxford. Although largely written at a technical level, the work sample submitted with the proposal is uniformly clear, carefully written, and nicely conceived with a conscientious consideration of possible objections and alternative ideas. The collaborators have worked productively together. Their ideas are well formulated, and the proposal gives every indication that they will complete the project in a timely fashion.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$45,171**

**PROPOSAL NO. 008ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Legislative Networks: Determinants and Consequences”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kathleen A. Bratton

The author proposes to merge the analysis of legislatures; race, gender, and ethnicity; and social network analysis. This is an extremely promising proposal for two reasons. First, the subfield of race, ethnicity, and gender within the political science discipline has a tendency to stay within itself, without much intellectual connection to mainstream subfields in political science, such as the analysis of legislatures; conversely, the mainstream analysis of legislatures for the most part cannot be bothered to address identity politics even though identity politics are everywhere in modern American politics. Merging the two subfields is an excellent idea and can only serve to strengthen both. Second, social network analysis, which comes out of the sociology discipline and is exploding in importance in the interdisciplinary field of complex adaptive social systems, is only beginning to enter political science, where it could revolutionize all sorts of subfields, including the analysis of legislatures. On this count, Dr. Bratton is methodologically on the cutting edge of political science.

The project is well conceived. Buried in it are numerous features that promise to generate new insights into the functioning of legislatures with regard to identity politics. For example, social network analysis comes with theoretical concepts such as homophily, social identity, centrality, reciprocity, and transitivity; these concepts are likely to yield fresh takes on a literature (legislative analysis) that has otherwise become rather stale. The panel also likes the author’s idea of looking at state legislatures rather than the United States Congress, both because state legislatures are understudied relative to Congress, and because state legislatures offer so much more variation with regard to institutional constraints; party control; racial, ethnic, and gender diversity; and legislative career patterns.

The applicant is extremely well published, with a significant amount of peer-reviewed work presented in the leading journals of the political science discipline. She has also received several NSF awards, which is very much a sign of quality. Even though she is not yet a full professor, she has chaired numerous dissertation committees, which suggests that doctoral students are picking up on the excitement of her research. She is active in the professional life of the political science discipline. On the latter count, she has advocated the establishment of an organized section on political networks, which indicates that she is involved in importing forward-looking methodology into the political science discipline. The applicant’s accomplishments are further reflected in the fact that she is one of LSU’s “Rainmakers”, that is, one of the top 100 researchers on campus. All of this adds up to a very powerful profile.

The work plan is feasible, and the project is likely to be completed on time. Dr. Bratton has invested significant effort in training herself in social network analysis, has already put together an extensive data set, and has published in this general area. She is well prepared to complete this work.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$47,971**

**PROPOSAL NO. 009ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Rethinking the Gospel Sources: III. M and Other Sources of Matthew”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Delbert Burkett

This proposal, to produce the third of a five-volume study of the sources of the Synoptic Gospels, is a model of clarity. The project’s central argument, which is likely to change the way we view Matthew and Mark, will be of great interest to New Testament scholars, religious historians, and an educated general audience. Source-criticism of the Gospels has reemerged as a vital approach, demonstrating sensitivity to the communities that produced sources, as well as a concern to discern their textual extent. This project fits well within that revived approach, arguing for a very early source of material within Matthew's Gospel (called M).

The decision to focus on M at this time is appropriate, given previous work by others as well as the applicant on Mark and “Q” (a collection of sayings common to Matthew and Luke). The sample chapter on “M in the Didache” struck the panel as learned and cogent. His argument for an early and influential M is somewhat reminiscent of the often overlooked work of Pierson Parker.

Dr. Burkett is a well established contributor to the continuing discussion of sources in the Gospels, who both represents and refines the most prevalent theory. He is extremely well qualified and prepared to complete this project, which is part of a larger series already well underway. Moreover, the applicant appears to be significantly advanced in his preparations for this volume. Thus, he is very likely to bring his project to term within the proposed timeframe.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$44,919**

**PROPOSAL NO. 012ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Islam, Culture and Colonialism in West Africa: the Muslim Krio of Sierra Leone 1808-1905”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Gibril Cole

This fine project proposes to explore the Islamic dimensions of the evolution of Krio society in Sierra Leone between 1808 and 1905. Dr. Cole’s approach to this material promises to shed new light on the process of and resistance to creolization in the West African sub-culture and elsewhere in the Atlantic sphere. This project is of considerable significance and may illuminate Islam as a factor of identity in mixed cultures today. As such, it is likely to draw a scholarly audience well beyond African specialists.

The topical outline of the chapters is clean and logical, and the overall conception of the work is excellent. The project is very well designed and mapped; it could lead to a second volume on the twentieth-century Krio. In addition, while the project is somewhat modest in its use of theory, it seems probable that Dr. Cole’s approach and analysis might themselves produce some valuable theoretical insights.

The applicant’s previous work, as indicated by the submission, is of a high standard. That much of the research for the current project is complete has been documented by the edited volume he has already published. The introductory letter is informally written, but far outshone by the work itself, which is both impressive and well advanced. Three of seven chapters are drafted and one is in progress. The timetable for completion is feasible.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$39,159**

**PROPOSAL NO. 020ATL-09 Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Last Lost Cause: Public Education in Louisiana”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Petra Munro Hendry

In undertaking a study of the development of public education in Louisiana, Dr. Hendry wishes to challenge the dominant understanding of how public education emerged, which is chiefly based upon the history of the industrialized North. In particular, her use of creolization, in its combination of French, African, and Native cultures, as an alternative model of education is promising, and could shift the terms of reference of contemporary debate. This is an exciting project with potentially wide appeal, and vital to Louisiana’s understanding of its own public education systems.

The analytic focus of the entire application is cogent, and the organization of the work highly evolved. One area which remains to be explored more thoroughly is the conception of “public” that the applicant applies to Louisiana as distinct from other applications.

Dr. Hendry has published widely and well, having authored or co-authored five books and numerous chapters and articles on related topics. Her previous work is of excellent quality, and the current project promises to maintain that standard. This project is well advanced and near to completion. Given the writing time provided by ATLAS, it is highly likely that Dr. Hendry will finish it in the proposed timeframe.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The panel recommends a slight reduction of \$1,372 in the requests for travel and publication costs, which are not as well justified. The reductions in these line items may be made at the PI’s discretion.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$48,628**

**PROPOSAL NO. 026ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

TITLE: "The Vulgar Question of Money"

INSTITUTION: Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Elsie B. Michie

As the panel has noted in past competitions, Dr. Michie's project addresses in an impressive way the important topics of economics and gender. It promises to be a timely work in the field, contributing to our understanding of the novel in general and of Victorian novels, authors, and culture in particular. Indeed, as an analysis of what one might call "economic citizenship" or "economic culture" – how the values of the marketplace intertwine with those promoted elsewhere in culture – this work is especially pertinent today.

The applicant's earlier published work is excellent. As the panel has watched this project progress through three ATLAS submissions, it has become clear that this project will contribute significantly to the critical literature. Indeed, the acceptance by *PMLA* of an article laying out the book's critical frame is a strong indication of the quality and importance of Dr. Michie's work.

In previous submissions, the panel questioned the proposal's attempts to claim too much about its topic and the critical approach – in particular, that there was a one-to-one correspondence between developments in economic history and literary history. This year, the project takes the more modest ambition of using some key works of economics to illuminate selected works of literature. The chapter descriptions are plausible and exciting, suggesting the power of the critical work as a whole. Moreover, the project is strengthened by the addition of a discussion of John Stuart Mill, as well as the coda linking the project to current economic events.

The applicant is an exceptionally accomplished writer and researcher. The panel has no doubt that she will complete this project in timely fashion.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$49,948**

**PROPOSAL NO. 029ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Cattle Herders of the Atlantic World: Interconnections of Peoples and Places, 1500-1900”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Andrew Sluyter

Dr. Sluyter’s research project opens a new dimension in our understanding of the dynamic interaction between humans and domesticated animals in the process of colonizing the New World. He examines how cattle herding came to play a central role in the expansion of European settler colonies in the Americas. His findings unfold in stages, but his principal conclusion highlights the cultural knowledge and expertise of African slaves, which made herding both possible and successful. This is an important perspective, first because Africans played a crucial role in this process and, second because their contribution has been overlooked for so long. Indeed, Dr. Sluyter’s research participates in a growing recognition among historians that African knowledge practices were highly influential in shaping the colonization of the Americas. Drawing on an impressive array of historical sources – from field artifacts to archival documents – the project tracks two key transfer points for herding culture. The first features the introduction of cattle from Spanish Cuba into Mexico in 1521, which involved more than the simple transport of these animals; an entire herding ecology had to be constructed in this colonial territory. The second movement featured cattle in the British Colonies, which were brought from the Caribbean Lesser Antilles to South Carolina beginning in the late 1600s, then passed throughout the rest of North America. Each of these movements required the hybridization of open-range cattle from Africa to the Americas, facilitated by the cultural knowledge and techniques of African slaves. But the historical process expands beyond practices of animal husbandry into wholesale ecological transformations, which Dr. Sluyter captures in his study of the Pampas of Argentina, a region that was central to the expansion of cattle herding in the New World. The introduction of African grasses into this terrain was fundamental to its transformation (environmentally and socially) into open range country in the 1800s.

Dr. Sluyter is an accomplished scholar. His previous book, *Colonialism and Landscape* (2002), demonstrating a similar commanding grasp of the interplay between human practices and environmental conditions, received a prestigious award from the Association of American Geographers. He keeps a steady pace of publishing in refereed journals, while maintaining a full teaching load. Perhaps the strongest evidence of the quality of his scholarship is reflected by his successful record of obtaining support for his research from organizations such as NASA, NSF, EPA, and the National Geographic Society, as well as the U.S. Army.

This research topic is masterfully crafted to reflect the breadth of Dr. Sluyter’s understanding of the environmental impact and context of colonialism in the Americas. What is most striking in his conception of this work is that it effectively encompasses British as well as Spanish colonial dynamics. These are too often treated as separate areas of historical analysis. In this regard, Dr. Sluyter effectively taps the developing field of Atlantic Studies, which features interdisciplinary approaches to the circulation of cultural practices, beliefs, and goods between the New and Old Worlds. He also avails himself of the emerging archival resources of African slaves, preserved in diaries, oral histories, archeological artifacts and landscape vestiges. Each of these aspects of project organization speaks to the high quality of its conception and scope.

There are two principal reasons why it is highly likely that Dr. Sluyter will complete his manuscript in the allotted time for this support. The first is that he only needs to acquire a limited amount of additional data and has identified the single archival source where this material resides. Much of the material he is drawing upon involves unused data collected during the course of researching his first book, so he is in an excellent position to proceed with writing an analysis of this material. The second favorable aspect of his situation is that he has had the opportunity to present his findings in the form of conference papers and abstracts over the past few years. This is a great advantage in proceeding with the task of rendering his thoughts and data into a full-length manuscript.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$49,976**

**PROPOSAL NO. 034ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Gender, Performance, and Play in Veterinary Medicine”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Carolyn Ware

The popular success of James Herriot’s *All Things Great and Small* (the book, TV series, and movie), the current movie *Marley and Me*, and the rise of such courses as “Pets in Society” at many universities suggest that Dr. Ware’s pioneering project might have a surprisingly large audience among both folklore scholars and the general public. The current title has three trendy nouns, but a very surprising final term: veterinary medicine. There is no established body of critical literature that would include all of these terms, so beyond question she is doing pioneering scholarship.

The seven chapters are very clearly summarized and critically framed, and the chapters cohere easily to make the argument that Dr. Ware proposes. Her approach, which applies folklore studies to gender, medicine, and expressive arts, is highly original, reflecting her unique background in both folklore scholarship and veterinary training and practice. Her current work in vernacular medical systems could well lead to other substantive projects in the future.

Since the applicant began her scholarly career in 2001, she has published one monograph, *Cajun Women and Mardi Gras: Reading the Rules Backward* (Illinois, 2007), a co-authored volume, and a dozen articles; she has another monograph in press. This kind of momentum makes her new proposal very promising indeed. In addition, she has appropriate credentials both as an ethnographer and a practitioner of veterinary medicine, so she can understand the languages and cultural practices of both communities.

Dr. Ware has completed five years of research and fieldwork; she now needs time to draft the material. Having completed the introduction and two chapters, with another chapter to be written by May 2009, she will have four more chapters and the conclusion to write over the next fifteen months. The University of Mississippi Press is interested in the project, and the panel is confident that this will become a third book very soon.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$50,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 037ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

TITLE: "The Old and the Very Young"

INSTITUTION: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Lisa Graley

This proposal, for a first book of short stories set in West Virginia, is strongly written and well argued. Writers who situate themselves in economically challenged communities also avail themselves of subject matter of classic significance: class, culture, community, etc. Fiction of place has appeal to both academic and popular audiences. In addition, though Dr. Graley situates herself in the Southern tradition of storytelling, her work jumps out of the Southern tradition into a larger context through her use of specific 21<sup>st</sup>-century cultural details to map large figurations of the human condition in contemporary society. There is very little nostalgia here. This work appears likely to attract a broad readership.

This is a beautifully written proposal that provides aesthetic, cultural, professional and personal contexts for Dr. Graley's work. She describes well the struggle to find time to complete creative work while teaching – a most common plight among American writers. Her description of the project, the interrelated character of the stories and the use of place as an organizational component that binds the book into a whole are all established strategies which appear to work well in the submitted writing sample. What is most persuasive about this project is the quality of the stories themselves.

This project would become the applicant's first book. A few of the stories to be included in the collection have appeared in literary magazines, including the well-respected *GlimmerTrain*, and two of her short stories have been finalists in national competitions. While Dr. Graley's publication record is slim, the work presented with the proposal is of very high quality and likely to attract a publisher. The publication of this manuscript will establish her credentials as an author.

The applicant submitted a generous sample from which the panel can see the book is close to completion. The panel believes that, given the time for focused writing provided by ATLAS, Dr. Graley is highly likely to finish the collection in a reasonable timeframe. The work is of high quality and eminently publishable. She will of course have to find an agent, a publishing house and, if that fails, submit the manuscript to the many first book contests and/or university presses that publish first story collections.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$29,228**

**PROPOSAL NO. 040ATL-09**

**Rank: 1**

TITLE: "ELYSIAN FIELDS"

INSTITUTION: University of New Orleans

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Irvin Mayfield

Irvin Mayfield, a world-class jazz musician, composer and bandleader, as well as cultural ambassador for New Orleans, presents a well conceived project with clear significance – a living monument that gives voice to the rebirth of a community. "Elysian Fields" plans to memorialize a man (Irvin Mayfield Sr.), a city (New Orleans), two streets (Elysian Fields Avenue and the Champs Elysées), a cross-Atlantic connection (France and the U.S.), history, and democracy with a nine-part jazz composition/reflection about devastation and rebirth. The project is broad in scope, international in focus and interest, and likely to attract audiences of professional musicians and musicologists, as well as jazz aficionados and general music listeners.

The project is well described and defined, and its conception is impressive in its scope and ambition, promising to maintain the complexity and quality of the musical tradition he represents. The size of Professor Mayfield's proposed undertaking is enormous when one considers the concurrent demands of composing, rehearsing and performing the music, as well as arranging two premieres on two continents. It is not clear why Professor Mayfield needs a trip to France for research of the Champs Elysées or, beyond the linguistic connection, why this street should be engaged as subject matter simultaneously with Elysian Fields Avenue. A stronger conceptualization of the connection and its essential meaning would strengthen the proposal. Yet the core idea of the piece is exciting and translating that idea into music seems fantastic, a wild act of the imagination.

This project is admirably ambitious in scope, though the panel has some concerns that Professor Mayfield may be overextending himself for the short timeframe of the ATLAS award. While the premiere in New Orleans certainly seems feasible, dual premieres in New Orleans and in Paris would likely be a significant administrative and budgetary burden, particularly when combined with the composition work, rehearsals, and other elements of the project. The letter from the Consul General of France supporting this project contains a promise of garnering contacts and assisting in the pursuit of grants and partnerships with French organizations, but no tangible administrative support or financial assistance, without which the international components of this project seem too large to accomplish within a limited time.

**The project is strongly recommended for partial funding. The panel does not recommend funding the \$5,000 travel request, but supports all other budget requests.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$45,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 028ATL-09**

**Rank: 11**

**TITLE:** “Some Kind of Levee: A Video Ethnography on the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Wesley Shrum

Dr. Shrum is in the midst of an interesting career. He is a survey researcher who has deployed both qualitative and quantitative approaches to studying collaborative processes in the physical sciences. But he also participated with a group of State forensic investigators (Team Louisiana) in examining levee failures in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. In the process of this investigation, he generated roughly 700 hours of video footage that centered on what he deems “two emblematic moments,” the first pertaining to the crucial question of whether faulty engineering played a role in the city’s devastation, and the second involving a tour by a Congressional delegation to survey the scene and speak to constituents. This footage is certainly valuable, offering an inside glimpse of scientists’ efforts to make sense of the storm’s aftermath. In addition, much of the original news coverage of these events has not been preserved. Dr. Shrum seems to have a sharp eye for telling moments and the drama of certain developments related to the investigation. All of this suggests he can accomplish his goal of making “a *great* movie and bring[ing] Katrina back to the national stage for a moment.”

By his own account, Dr. Shrum is an academic first and a filmmaker second. He seems to have learned quickly and well by taking advantage of excellent opportunities and expert advice. He appears to be quite knowledgeable about the central aspects of the process of making a film. In these terms he is prepared for this undertaking. As well, he appears to have developed a notable track record in filmmaking. Of serious concern, though, is that he states in the proposal that he considers himself “first and foremost an academic sociologist and [has] no aspirations to become anything else.” This does not suggest he is unqualified for this undertaking – the comments above argue otherwise – but it does make it difficult for the panel to evaluate the merits of this proposal in relation to Dr. Shrum’s previous work, particularly given that he indicates that he himself understands this to be wholly separate from his other professional productions.

The central aim of this project is well conceived: “to create an audiovisual medium for understanding what happened in the nine months after the largest disaster in American history.” Dr. Shrum has rightly concluded that key themes of this story are “shared responsibility and interdependence,” which stand out in his account from simpler versions that have attributed levee failure simply to “corruption” or faulty engineering.

Dr. Shrum has accomplished the core components of this project by amassing exceptional footage of these historical events. The primary tasks that remain center on editing and preparing the study for release. While this will certainly involve arduous labor, he is highly likely to complete this project within his proposed timeframe.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$50,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 023ATL-09**

**Rank: 12**

**TITLE:** "DIALOGUES"

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Rodger Kamenetz

Dr. Kamenetz's proposal is wonderfully written – deeply informed and persuasive – and addresses through creative engagement important questions of language, art and representation related to Jewish life and experience. The Midrashic assumption that texts have more than one meaning continues to be an important contribution not only to Jewish life but also to the ongoing inquiry into the nature of aesthetic meaning. Dr. Kamenetz has drawn upon this idea and used it to articulate critical and aesthetic poetic pursuits from the beginning of his career. Bringing the first five books of the Old Testament (Torah), which amounts to a writing of the ancient history of the Jewish people, the Talmud, a commentary on Torah and translation of the Torah into laws (laws upon which our own legal system still draws), and the Zohar, a medieval mystical text written during a time of great persecution, into a dialogue with poetry and art is a very contemporary act. In this project, poetry is not a singular rarified pursuit but an inquiry of the imagination that draws upon the history of Jewish texts and arguments, both of which permeate western culture in numerous ways. *Dialogues*, the proposed project, an exploration of Jewish visual art and what some interpret as a prohibition against image and metaphor, certainly has relevance in the world of art and academia. It is likely that the project will attract diverse audiences in Jewish Studies and contemporary poetry, and perhaps contemporary art.

The intellectual depth of the project description is inspiring, and the proposal is a model of conception and articulation. The need for research is carefully explicated and factors informing both the broad subject matter and the specific examples are clearly and extensively presented. The project is curious as Jews create art everywhere—in Israel, the U.S., Poland, Germany, the U.K., etc. Israel has one of the highest percentages of theatre goers of any country. The Jewish Museum in New York City presently has an exhibition on Chagall. This then seems to make *Dialogues* a highly theoretical undertaking engaging a prohibition of a portion of the Orthodox Jewish population. Yet the subject of forbidding representation and for what reasons is fascinating and informs Christians and Muslims as well. The only critique of the project is that some of the poems submitted are somewhat less engaging than the project's conceptualization. The long poem on Rothko has a prosaic quality that is somewhat disappointing. In contrast, "Seder of the Wicked Son", the second poem in the sample, is among Dr. Kamenetz's best works and actualizes beautifully several of the project's goals.

The research and writing for the proposed project is already well underway, and in fact much of the work is complete. Since Dr. Kamenetz appears to have only one poem left to write, it is difficult to see why a full year's release is necessary. A single semester's release should be sufficient to complete and edit the draft collection. Even with limited release time, there is every indication that the project will be completed and published in a reasonable timeframe. In addition, the need for travel to France is not persuasively argued in the proposal and does not appear necessary for the completion of the poems.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The work is substantially underway, and the panel believes that Dr. Kamenetz requires only one semester of release to complete it. In addition, the travel request is poorly justified. The panel, therefore, recommends funding for one semester of release, with ATLAS paying 50% of the salary and the remaining 50% provided as match by the University.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$36,897**

**PROPOSAL NO. 018ATL-09**

**Rank: 13**

**TITLE:** “Performing Transparency in the Age of Insecurity”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Rachel Hall

Dr. Hall’s work is situated in a new field of cultural studies, but it draws on scholarship from fields as diverse as classical rhetoric and media studies. She calls her field “visual studies,” and she has demonstrated its methodology by a close reading of how the media represents dangerous people (e.g., outlaws, Saddam Hussein, etc.) and kinds of threats (rape, terrorism, etc.). New images, technologies, and modes of communication signify and reinforce major changes in cultural norms. While what is visual may not necessarily be real or even important, we have grown increasingly dependent on images as a way of knowing. Dr. Hall’s new project builds on her previous research, and she seeks to teach readers how to read visual culture more critically.

The applicant presents a very clear, detailed, non-jargon-laden proposal for a relatively short (four-chapter) monograph that is well grounded in theory and wonderfully broad in scope. She should be encouraged in framing the argument either to look at other historical periods of insecurity (there have been many in American history) or even at the post-9/11 world from both a U.S. and another country’s perspective. The sources are easily available, and the comparison would enrich and strengthen her general argument. In fifty years, 9/11 will be just another historical episode: thus she should seek to make the strongest *kind* of argument that she can with the materials she is using.

Dr. Hall’s research record is very solid. Virginia is a first-rate press, and the visual studies angle should attract scholars from a variety of fields. Her essay on the war on terror is a promising introduction to a way of dealing with many kinds of media in a coherent, provocative way. What is most compelling about Dr. Hall’s work is that she is not dealing with cultural bric-a-brac and then trying to tease out an argument from ephemera. She is proposing a serious argument about how contemporary culture does its work. She uses the communication strategies and resources of Homeland Security as a case study. It is clear that she can apply a similar argument to other historical instances and episodes, and in fact has done so already. With two chapters drafted, she is well underway and likely to complete the project in a timely manner.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$45,762**

**PROPOSAL NO. 015ATL-09**

**Rank: 14**

**TITLE:** “What Makes the News? How the Structures and Markets of News Organizations Influence Political News Coverage”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Johanna L. Dunaway

Dr. Dunaway’s timely project proposes to analyze the institutional and market determinants of political news coverage. Institutional determinants include media ownership (corporate versus private), size of newsroom budgets, size of political reporting staff, and nature of newsbeat assignments; market determinants include audience preferences, audience demographics, and market competition. Political news coverage comes with two angles: the amount of political substance (relative to “fluff”) and the amount of bias or slant (the proposal does not make clear relative to what benchmark bias is defined).

A major strength of this proposal lies in the fact that it is urgently topical, given the current “death of the American newspaper” situation. Newspapers are dying because their business model is not working – print issues are losing subscribers at a breathtaking rate. While online issues are gaining many more readers than newspapers ever had in history, and while news bloggers are circulating the news produced by newspapers more than ever, newspapers cannot charge as much for online ads. Moreover, the model of charging online readers has not worked well, and the bloggers are free-riding on the newspapers’ labor-intensive and expensive operations. Newspapers are producing a public good because their news investigations improve the quality of democratic politics; the question is who will pay the bill. Critically, it is the newspapers, and not television or bloggers, which are able to undertake serious news investigations. The death of the newspaper would be a disaster for American democracy. The primary weakness of this proposal is that it does not frontally address one critical aspect of the newspaper problem, the business model, in more than a limited way, through an inquiry into the effect of ownership structure. A more systemic approach is needed.

Though the methodology and analysis as evidenced in the proposal seem rather conventional, the substantive interest and importance of the topic makes this a worthy project. The panel encourages Dr. Dunaway to relate her project powerfully to the fundamental “death of the newspaper” issue and provide a full topical analysis.

Dr. Dunaway is very well published; her work has appeared in peer-reviewed political science journals, including one leading serial, *The Journal of Politics*. In terms of her background and accomplishments, she is well equipped to write the book she proposes, and is likely to complete it during the timeframe envisaged.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$48,900**

**PROPOSAL NO. 006ATL-09**

**Rank: 15**

**TITLE:** “A Garden Above the World”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** James G. Bennett

The project, a novel on the subject of polar exploration, is significant on several levels. It is a historical recreation of a voyage of discovery that remains controversial and ripe with imaginative possibilities. It is also a fresh, resonant and ingenious path by which to address the grand theme of race in American life and history. Historical fiction presents the possibilities of simultaneously engaging with the real and the imagined. As Professor Bennett aptly states, the “terra firma” of facts (history) and fiction (imagination) can be diametrically opposed. How he plans to resolve this opposition is not stated beyond implying that he will write a novel about an inner life formed by the contradictions of accomplishments and abiding racial oppression. The panel would have liked more analysis in the proposal of how Professor Bennett conceives the relationship between historical understanding and “imaginative liberty”. Though this issue does not affect the intrinsic quality or appeal of the novel, it would provide some essential context to his approach. Given the richness of the subject and the popularity of historical fiction, the project has the opportunity to appeal to both academic and popular audiences.

The project is well described, and the writing sample suggests the potential strength of the finished work. There is no doubt that the historical narrative is one of considerable interest and promise. A book like this succeeds or fails based on the ability of the author not only to recreate time and place, but to build strong characterizations. While the sample submitted provides a compelling point of entry into the work in progress, it does not give the reader insight into the core of the work: the relationship between Robert Edwin Peary and Matthew Alexander Henson during the hardships of exploration. Professor Bennett understands his subject, Henson, to be a psychological enigma because he both resisted racism and gave over to it in his relationship with Peary. Professor Bennett has done much research using both primary and secondary sources, and the success of the work depends greatly on the delineation and exploration of this relationship. There is not enough in the work sample to give the panel a sense of how the novel will engage this crucial element. The opening chapter in particular is strong, but could be part of any novel, rather than one that takes on the ambitious reconstruction of history this one promises. Should funding not be available in this cycle, the panel strongly urges Professor Bennett to resubmit the proposal with a writing sample that showcases in more depth the relationship between Peary and Henson.

Professor Bennett has an excellent record of publication. His stories appear in some of the most discriminating literary magazines in the U.S. and he has authored two previous novels with trade presses. In addition, he has been deeply involved in teaching and very active in the professional meetings of his field. There has been a gap since his last book-length publication, but certainly not long enough to signal concern. In fact his productivity on the current work has been excellent. Three-quarters of the novel is already complete. The request is for completion and revision of the entire draft of the novel over the period of one academic year. Given Professor Bennett’s prior track record and professionalism, it is highly likely he will complete the project in a timely fashion and easily find a publisher.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$50,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 038ATL-09**

**Rank: 16**

TITLE: "Theatre in Dublin 1745-1820"

INSTITUTION: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: John C. Greene

This project, already half-completed, promises to be the Dublin equivalent of *The London Stage* – an extraordinarily rich and comprehensive treasury of facts about the Dublin theatre, invaluable to historians and critics, not to mention playwrights, novelists, and others who mine history for stories. These are very important, foundational materials that will inform scholarship for years to come.

This project is essentially a compendium of facts and information. The main organizational aim is to render this information retrievable and usable, which the applicant appears to have done. The first chapter, provided as the work sample, is also amazingly readable. On the whole, a truly impressive work of scholarship is underway here. The panel is concerned, however, that the bulk of this project is not scholarship or writing, but preparation of the print-ready manuscript for Lehigh University Press.

The applicant's earlier work is excellent and indicates that he is fully (indeed uniquely) prepared to undertake the enormous amount of labor, both scholarly and technical, that this project requires. The publication of the work will cap Dr. Greene's research efforts, ongoing since 1981, and he principally needs release time to generate the indexes and complete the camera-ready copy for the volumes. The publisher is in place and the basic research work largely complete. Given the applicant's record, the panel finds the timeline plausible, though questions whether his time is best spent mastering the technical aspects of preparing camera-ready copy. Perhaps it would be possible to find some funding for a student worker or professional technician to assist, thus reducing the burden on Dr. Greene.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The panel recommends that one semester of release be provided to enable Dr. Greene to make substantial progress in preparing the indexes and camera-ready copy, and encourages the University or the publisher to provide assistance as possible to reduce the technical demands on the PI.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$26,940**

**PROPOSAL NO. 030ATL-09**

**Rank: 17**

**TITLE:** “The Popish Plot: Religion, Politics, and Treason in Restoration England”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A & M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Victor Stater

Tudor-Stuart England has been the subject of some of the greatest history ever written. While religion and religious conflict have always played a central role in this history, recent scholarship has placed new emphasis on the role of anti-Catholicism in the formation of British national identity. Dr. Stater’s work on the Popish Plot will be an important contribution to this lively and demanding field. The project is already under contract, and clearly the publisher sees the potential for a large scholarly and general readership.

This is an important subject that touches many of the major themes of 17<sup>th</sup>-century British history. Dr. Stater clearly situates his topic in its historical and historiographical context. He will, moreover, explore the Popish Plot’s broader historical significance for the evolution of British cultural and national identity. This will be a widely read and discussed book and potentially a major contribution to the study of this particular event and the larger issues of religious conflict in Restoration Britain.

Dr. Stater has published two important books: a scholarly monograph based on his dissertation and a very successful crossover book that made original scholarship accessible to a general audience. As both a scholar and a writer, he is extremely well qualified to undertake the current project. There is no question about either the feasibility of the project or the applicant’s ability to complete it. That said, however, the work appears to be in the early stages, and Dr. Stater has much left to do. The panel was not convinced that the project could be completed by the end of the next year. If funding is not available this year, Dr. Stater should continue work on the manuscript and reapply in the next funding cycle.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$50,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 035ATL-09**

**Rank: 18**

**TITLE:** “The Dexterity of Doubt: Skepticism and Forms of Uncertainty in Antiquity and the Renaissance”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Michelle Zerba

Certainty and doubt are philosophical and cultural issues that originated in antiquity and are reframed in every age. The issues are reestablished and the key terms redefined, but the underlying tensions between the two positions are never resolved for long. The viewpoints of great cultural movements like the Renaissance or the Enlightenment become foundations for later centuries to critique. With expertise in classics, comparative literature, and cultural history, Dr. Zerba is exceptionally well positioned to engage with and contribute to this dialogue through her study of doubt and skepticism in antiquity and the Renaissance. Her ability to apply literary, rhetorical, and philosophical approaches to Greek, Latin, French, and Italian texts makes her uniquely qualified for this undertaking.

The heart of the applicant’s project is a philosophical interrogation of two ideas that shape and are shaped by the most important thinkers in antiquity and the Renaissance. The framework for the work is well defined and very clearly presented. Dr. Zerba is keenly aware of both the critical context and the potential contribution of her work, which should change the way we view Homer and the humanist tradition, to a variety of fields. The only weaknesses of her proposal are that the bibliography for the writing sample is a bit stale, citing few articles published after 2000 (and the edition of Homer’s complete works dates from 1920), and that, while she refers in the body of the text to other critics, she does not challenge, qualify her relationship to, or otherwise engage with them in some form of note apparatus.

Dr. Zerba has written a substantial body of significant research, including a 1988 Princeton University Press book that explored the relation between the ethics of Aristotle and Hegel and their theories of tragedy. (She is certainly not afraid of long and messy intellectual genealogies and trajectories.) She has also published two essays, with three additional articles appearing in top-tier journals this year. This momentum should be very helpful to her as she pursues this new project.

With only one of three parts remaining to be drafted, this work can, in the panel’s opinion, be completed in the proposed timeframe. The applicant has been working in this field for more than twenty years and will be able to consolidate, refine, and extend her thinking in this book.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$43,606**

**PROPOSAL NO. 016ATL-09**

**Rank: 19**

**TITLE:** “Verdi and Operatic Censorship in Rome, 1847-70”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Andreas Giger

Verdi’s operas are among the greatest achievements of 19<sup>th</sup>-century culture and have a central role in the history of modern music. Censorship, the other strand in Dr. Giger’s project, has recently attracted a good deal of scholarly attention and is ripe for further investigation. By studying the cultural politics of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Italy through Verdi and operatic censorship, this work aims to engage a broad scholarly audience, including music historians, Verdi critics, humanities scholars, and opera lovers.

In the ten years since he received his doctorate, Dr. Giger has established himself as one of the world’s leading experts on Verdi and has an excellent record of publication. His book-length study, recently published by Cambridge, makes an important contribution to our understanding of Verdi by exploring his connections to France. The applicant is therefore eminently qualified to undertake this new examination of Verdi’s work and cultural context, which builds on and also extends his previous work. This project requires extensive archival research, of which Dr. Giger is extremely capable and much of which has already been completed. He has carefully defined the project’s central issues, though larger questions of the project’s significance could be further explored. While it will be very useful to know more about the way censorship functioned in Papal Rome, the panel believes that Dr. Giger might explain in more detail the significance of his research for understanding the operas themselves.

As an experienced and productive scholar, Dr. Giger seems highly likely to bring this project to a successful and timely completion.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$44,895**

**PROPOSAL NO. 017ATL-09**

**Rank: 20**

**TITLE:** “DestiNation Paradise: Bodies and Place in Contemporary Caribbean Women’s Writing”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana State University and A&M College – Baton Rouge

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Angeletta KM Gourdine

Dr. Gourdine’s first book, *The Difference Place Makes* (2003), was a highly original study of three modern authors whose novels comment on and interrogate the African-Caribbean experience. A sensitive, highly observant analyst of the Diaspora experience, especially in its Caribbean voices, Dr. Gourdine now proposes to use physical travel as a window on tourism. Travel and tourism have spatial and temporal dimensions – but the most important element is culture. Literature can shape travelers’ expectation of what they will see. In an era of increasing globalization, travel literature can shape what travelers actually experience and thereby “substitute” for seeing the new culture. Gender and nationality are key elements of this experience. Travel literature thus becomes a canvas for capturing insights and a mirror for reflecting on the Other.

*DestiNation Paradise* is a highly provocative venture. The applicant argues that Caribbean female authors have unique insights into the culture of the African Diaspora. While the late Edward Said has explored parts of this argument, Dr. Gourdine’s most original point is to view the individual female body as a symbol of the collective nation. She has completed drafts of four chapters of a six-chapter monograph that will explore the fiction of Edna Brodber (chapter 2), Julia Alvarez (chapter 3), Opal Palmer Adisa (chapter 4), and Edwidge Danticat (chapter 5). Since these writers are not yet canonical authors, Dr. Gourdine will be challenged to justify their selection as well as the exclusion of others who may be counter-examples. It will also be important for the applicant to situate her argument about the African Diaspora within the much broader world of Diasporan culture(s) and literature(s). What is unique about the Caribbean perspective as opposed to other Diasporan cultures? Though there are certain to be good answers to this question, Dr. Gourdine needs to address it and clarify whether she is making a general case about Diasporan literature(s) or a much more narrow case.

Dr. Gourdine has launched her scholarly career in an auspicious way. With one monograph and six articles in print, as well as three book chapters drafted, she shows solid promise of a national reputation. The second monograph would confirm her promise, and her plans for completion of the manuscript are well described and feasible. With funding, she could finish this project within or immediately after the ATLAS year and submit it for publication. At least three presses have already expressed interest in the manuscript.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$50,000**

## **APPENDIX E**

### **OUT-OF-STATE EXPERTS WHO SERVED AS FINAL AND SUBJECT-AREA PANELISTS**

#### **I. Final Panel**

Nicholas Bromell  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of English  
University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Susanne Lohmann  
Professor  
Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Program on Human Complex  
Systems  
University of California – Los Angeles

Carol Martin  
Professor  
Department of Drama  
Tisch School for the Arts  
New York University

#### **II. Arts Subject-Area Panel**

Carol Martin, Chair  
Professor  
Department of Drama  
Tisch School for the Arts  
New York University

Stuart Dybek  
Distinguished Writer in Residence  
Northwestern University

Cora Cohen  
Artist Teacher  
The Educational Alliance

### **III. Humanities Subject-Area Panel**

Nicholas Bromell, Chair  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of English  
University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Bruce Chilton  
Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Philosophy and Religion  
Department of Religion  
Bard College

Kathryn Grossman  
Professor  
Department of French and Francophone Studies  
Penn State University

James Sheehan  
Dickason Professor in the Humanities  
Stanford Humanities Center  
Stanford University

### **IV. Social Sciences Subject-Area Panel**

Susanne Lohmann, Chair  
Professor  
Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Program on Human Complex  
Systems  
University of California – Los Angeles

John Hartigan  
Professor  
Department of Anthropology and Americo Paredes Center for Cultural Studies  
University of Texas at Austin

**APPENDIX F**

**AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS) SUBPROGRAM  
FY 2008-09  
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

**41 TOTAL PROPOSALS**

25	HUM	Humanities
7	ARTS	Arts
9	SOC SCI	Social Sciences

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,846,843**

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$450,000**

**BoRSF Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Program  
FY 2008-09 Competition  
Proposals Submitted**

<b>Proposal # &amp; Discipline</b>	<b>PI Name(s)</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Proposal Title</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>
001ATL-09 Hum/Philosophy	Kenneth Aizawa	Centenary College of Louisiana	A Materialist Solution to the Mind-Body Problem	Academic Year	\$45,171
002ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Mona Lisa Saloy	Dillard University	Bob Kaufman: Biography of a Black Beat Poet	Academic Year	\$52,099*
003ATL-09 Arts/Filmmaking	Lucian Zidaru; Mark Raymond	Dillard University	LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN – THE COMPLETE PIANO SONATAS 8 RECITALS/LECTURES RECORDED AT DILLARD UNIVERSITY/XAVIER UNIVERSITY AND AVAILABLE ON DILLARD UNIVERSITY’S WEB-PAGE	2 years**	\$50,000
004ATL-09 SS/Political Science	M. Rodwan Abouharb	LSU-Baton Rouge	Economic Liberalization and Its Impact on Civil Conflict Post World War II	Academic Year	\$46,622
005ATL-09 Hum/History	Frank A. Anselmo	LSU-Baton Rouge	World War II and Memory: Local Commemoration of America War Dead in France	Academic Year	\$46,650
006ATL-09 Arts/Fiction	James G. Bennett	LSU-Baton Rouge	A Garden Above the World	Academic Year	\$50,000
007ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Jacob R. Berman	LSU-Baton Rouge	American Arabesque: Literature and National Identity in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Academic Year	\$41,025

\* ATLAS applicants may not seek more than \$50,000

\*\* ATLAS projects may not be longer than one year in duration

008ATL-09 SS/Political Science	Kathleen A. Bratton	LSU-Baton Rouge	Legislative Networks: Determinants and Consequences	Academic Year	\$47,971
009ATL-09 Hum/Religion	Delbert Burkett	LSU-Baton Rouge	“Rethinking the Gospel Sources: III. M and Other Sources of Matthew”	Academic Year	\$44,919
010ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Myriam J. A. Chancy	LSU-Baton Rouge	From Sugar to Revolution: Women’s Visions of Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic	Academic Year	\$50,000
011ATL-09 Hum/Other	Leigh Clemons	LSU-Baton Rouge	Breath of Life in a Troubled Time: A History of Serbia’s Dah Teatar	Academic Year	\$45,760
012ATL-09 Hum/History	Gibril Cole	LSU-Baton Rouge	Islam, Culture and Colonialism in West Africa: the Muslim Krio of Sierra Leone 1808-1905	Academic Year	\$39,159
013ATL-09 Hum/History	Richard E. Condrey	LSU-Baton Rouge	Virgins of the Heartland: Father Charlevoix’s 1722 botanical descriptions of Louisiana and Canada	1 year	\$23,950
014ATL-09 SS/Other	Rita A. Culross	LSU-Baton Rouge	Perceptions of an International Baccalaureate Program: A Longitudinal Study	Partial Academic Year	\$50,000
015ATL-09 SS/Political Science	Johanna L. Dunaway	LSU-Baton Rouge	“What Makes the News? How the Structures and Markets of News Organizations Influence Political News Coverage”	Academic Year	\$48,900

016ATL-09 Hum/ Music History, Theory & Criticism	Andreas Giger	LSU-Baton Rouge	Verdi and Operatic Censorship in Rome, 1847-70	Academic Year	\$44,895
017ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Angeletta KM Gourdine	LSU-Baton Rouge	DestiNation Paradise: Bodies and Place in Contemporary Caribbean Women's Writing	Academic Year	\$50,000
018ATL-09 Hum/Other	Rachel Hall	LSU-Baton Rouge	Performing Transparency in the Age of Insecurity	Academic Year	\$45,762
019ATL-09 Hum/Linguistics	Michael Hegarty	LSU-Baton Rouge	Modalized Dynamic Semantics	Academic Year	\$48,688
020ATL-09 Hum/History	Petra Munro Hendry	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Last Lost Cause: Public Education in Louisiana	Academic Year	\$50,000
021ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Katherine R. Henninger	LSU-Baton Rouge	Southern Sexualities and the National Imagination	Academic Year	\$50,000
022ATL-09 SS/Political Science	Dustin Howes	LSU-Baton Rouge	Freedom and Violence in the Democratic Tradition	Academic Year	\$41,900
023ATL-09 Arts/Poetry	Rodger Kamenetz	LSU-Baton Rouge	DIALOGUES	Academic Year	\$50,000

024ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Joseph Kronick	LSU-Baton Rouge	Modernism and the Defense of Poetry	Academic Year	\$50,000
025ATL-09 SS/Geography	Michael Leitner	LSU-Baton Rouge	Geographische Informationssysteme und Räumliche Analyse der Kriminalität (Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Crime Analysis)	Academic Year	\$50,000
026ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Elsie B. Michie	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Vulgar Question of Money	Academic Year	\$49,948
027ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Daniel Novak	LSU-Baton Rouge	“Victoria’s Accursed Race”: The Cagots, the Body, and Race in Nineteenth-Century England	Academic Year	\$47,029
028ATL-09 SS/Sociology	Wesley Shrum	LSU-Baton Rouge	Some Kind of Levee: A Video Ethnography on the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina	Academic Year	\$50,000
029ATL-09 SS/Geography	Andrew Sluyter	LSU-Baton Rouge	“Cattle Herders of the Atlantic World: Interconnections of Peoples and Places, 1500-1900”	Academic Year	\$49,976
030ATL-09 Hum/History	Victor Stater	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Popish Plot: Religion, Politics, and Treason in Restoration England	Academic Year	\$50,000
031ATL-09 Hum/Other	Patricia Suchy	LSU-Baton Rouge	Bakhtin and Performance	Academic Year	\$44,719
032ATL-09 SS/Anthropology	Robert G. Tague	LSU-Baton Rouge	Human Obstetrical Pelvis: Functional, Developmental, and Evolutionary Biology	Academic Year	\$50,000

033ATL-09 Hum/English Lang. & Lit.	Emily Toth	LSU-Baton Rouge	Louisiana Women in Black and White	Academic Year	\$50,000
034ATL-09 Hum/Other	Carolyn Ware	LSU-Baton Rouge	“Gender, Performance, and Play in Veterinary Medicine”	Academic Year	\$50,000
035ATL-09 Hum/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Michelle Zerba	LSU-Baton Rouge	The Dexterity of Doubt: Skepticism and Forms of Uncertainty in Antiquity and the Renaissance	Academic Year	\$43,606
036ATL-09 Arts/Drama	Artemis Preeshl	Loyola University New Orleans	“Violence in Contemporary Society: Directing and Choreographing a New Play”	1 semester	\$22,620
037ATL-09 Arts/Fiction	Lisa Graley	University of LA at Lafayette	The Old and the Very Young	Academic Year	\$29,228
038ATL-09 Hum/Other	John C. Greene	University of LA at Lafayette	Theatre in Dublin 1745-1820	Academic Year	\$47,415
039ATL-09 Hum/Other	Fabrice Leroy	University of LA at Lafayette	<i>Tout Bec Doux et ses amis: The Complete Anthology</i>	1 semester	\$32,715
040ATL-09 Arts/Music Composition	Irvin Mayfield	University of New Orleans	“ELYSIAN FIELDS”	Academic Year	\$50,000
041ATL-09 Arts/Digital Art	Dan Rule	University of New Orleans	Finding Us Through Multiples of Me. Visual Exploration of Merging Multiple Photographs Described with the Term ‘Me’.	1 year	\$16,116