

**REPORT OF THE FINAL PANEL**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND**  
**AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS)**  
**SUBPROGRAM**  
**FY 2010-11**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Forty (40) proposals requesting a total of \$1,739,055 in first-year funds were submitted for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2010-11 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 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 (40) 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 2010-11 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 10, 2011, 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 criteria used by the panel in making its funding recommendations are: (1) the significance of the project to its current field of study or art practice and its interest for broader academic and/or lay audiences; (2) the strength of the proposal's argument for the conceptualization, definition, and organization of the project; (3) the quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current 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 likely be available to fund ATLAS projects in fiscal year 2010-11, though some revenue estimates suggest that this level might not be achieved. 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 \$840,334 and are ranked in descending order according to merit. Though funds are available to support only a limited number 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 order of rank.

The budgets for the top-ranked proposals were scrutinized closely and in most cases found by the panel to be reasonable. 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 panels 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' 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 2010-11 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 regional and/or national levels. Particularly during these times of uncertain resources, the panel applauds the Board of Regents and the State of Louisiana for their continuing support of 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 have been extremely impressed with the State's efforts and have endeavored to voice this 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 commitment to 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.

- Applicants are often encouraged to revise and resubmit proposals based on reviewer comments and questions. Even when reviewer comments are generally positive, it is expected that some progress will be made during the year or more between the initial and subsequent ATLAS proposal submissions. The RFP should require that applicants resubmitting proposals make explicit how the project has progressed and changed since the previous submission, and how reviewer comments were addressed. Applicants should also provide explanations if little or no progress is made between submissions.
- Given the limited resources available and the number of high-quality applications in ATLAS, the panel recommends that the Board of Regents implement restrictions barring principal investigators who have received ATLAS support from submitting a new proposal within five years following the fiscal year in which funds are awarded.
- Institutional sponsored programs or grants office staffs should take a greater role in assisting applicants in preparing proposals for submission. ATLAS proposal writers, many of whom are in fields with fewer opportunities for external competitive funding, would greatly benefit from the experience and insights of these staff, who are more familiar with competitive grantwriting processes.
- The panel notes that, as has happened each year 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 high 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. Now more than ever, as higher education budgets are reduced and discretionary funds disappear at the institutional level, programs like this are essential. **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.**

**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	012ATL-11	LSU-BR	Dorota Heneghan	\$34,580	\$34,580
1	031ATL-11	LSU-BR	Robert Tague	\$50,000	\$50,000
1	036ATL-11	Tulane	Peter John Cooley	\$50,000	\$50,000
4	027ATL-11	LSU-BR	Susan Elizabeth Ryan	\$50,000	\$50,000
5	017ATL-11	LSU-BR	Michael Leitner	\$50,000	\$50,000
6	004ATL-11	LSU-BR	Jesse Allison	\$30,162	\$30,162
7	035ATL-11	Tulane	Emily Clark	\$41,512	\$41,512
8	023ATL-11	LSU-BR	Rafael Orozco	\$46,325	\$46,325
9	014ATL-11	LSU-BR	Dustin Howes	\$43,070	\$43,070
10	025ATL-11	LSU-BR	Irvin Peckham	\$49,778	\$49,778
11	015ATL-11	LSU-BR	Benjamin A. Kahan	\$37,240	\$25,000
12	032ATL-11	LSU-BR	Mark S. Wagner	\$38,570	\$25,000
13	038ATL-11	Tulane	Matt Sakakeeny	\$33,000	\$33,000
14	006ATL-11	LSU-BR	James G. Bennett	\$50,000	\$50,000
15	039ATL-11	UL Lafayette	John Laudun	\$38,663	\$38,663
16	022ATL-11	LSU-BR	Paul Mooney	\$50,000	\$50,000
17	011ATL-11	LSU-BR	Lara Glenum	\$37,240	\$37,240
18	034ATL-11	LA Tech	Laurie Stoff	\$22,072	\$22,072
19	021ATL-11	LSU-BR	Wilfred E. Major	\$38,122	\$38,122
20	033ATL-11	LSU-BR	Sharon Aronofsky Weltman	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$840,334</b>	<b>\$814,524</b>

The first three (3) 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 4 through 20 are listed in descending order of merit and, thus, priority for funding.

The panel recommends that as many Priority I projects as possible be funded in the order of their ranking and at the levels specified. At a minimum, the panel recommends funding the top ten (10) proposals for a total amount of \$445,427.

**APPENDIX B**

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

003ATL-11	008ATL-11	009ATL-11	010ATL-11
013ATL-11	016ATL-11	018ATL-11	020ATL-11
026ATL-11	029ATL-11	037ATL-11	040ATL-11

**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 2011.

**APPENDIX C**

**PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY III BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS  
AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (8)**

001ATL-11	002ATL-11	005ATL-11	007ATL-11
019ATL-11	024ATL-11	028ATL-11	030ATL-11

**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 2011.

## 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. Any returned or unawarded ATLAS funds should be allocated to projects recommended in Appendix A, at the level suggested by the panel and in descending order according to rank.

**PROPOSAL NO. 012ATL-11**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Fashion, Gender, and Modernity in Galdós, Pardo Bazán, and Picón”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dorota Heneghan

This project investigates the important, complex interactions between ideas and presentations of fashion (especially clothing and accessories) and the construction of gender, specifically in modern Spanish literature. Rejecting the staid and facile stereotypes of female consumption with decadence, moral corruption, and the decline of Spain, Dr. Heneghan finds a much more complicated tapestry of signs and symbolic speech. From this tapestry emerge new possibilities for femininity—literally, the New Woman. She uses nineteenth-century Spanish fiction to show how male and female characters conceive of fashion, and how fashion shapes the self that society sees. Modernity, sexuality, and self-expression are all important, nuanced concepts in her work. This is cross-disciplinary research that will interest scholars in literature, cultural history, economics, and gender studies, as well as across numerous other disciplines.

This project is a significantly revised version of the applicant’s 2008 Yale dissertation. During her time as a graduate student, she received numerous highly competitive grants, which speak to the consistent quality of her work. Since completing her degree, Dr. Heneghan, who has published two articles and has two others in submission, has made very steady progress transforming an excellent dissertation into a major book. The prospectus clearly articulates the structure and content of the critical argument and describes a very coherent, powerful critical framework. This is a major reconceptualization of what her dissertation had accomplished and, hence, of the proposal she submitted last year.

An ATLAS grant would enable the applicant to complete the manuscript and submit it to a Spanish press, which has expressed interest in it. She has worked steadily on the project in the past year and now three of five chapters have been completed, as well as most of another. She has the work well in hand and her timeline for completion is feasible.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$34,580**

**PROPOSAL NO. 031ATL-11**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “Human Obstetrical Pelvis: Functional, Developmental, and Evolutionary Biology”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Robert Tague

Dr. Tague is an accomplished biological anthropologist who is drawing on some twenty years of research to present an innovative perspective on the range of determinants (evolutionary, anatomical, development, and genetic) that shape the human pelvis. This perspective is important because, first, it is deeply informed by his breadth of scholarship and, second, his findings are significant to our understanding of the human birth process. This significance bears on both current circumstances and our understanding of humanity’s evolutionary development. Dr. Tague’s key finding, in a contemporary sense, is that—contrary to a widespread belief that smaller women have small pelvises (which leads obstetricians to recommend cesarean operations when they may be unnecessary)—hormonal changes create pelvic joint mobility in all women. This mobility can convert even a small pelvis “into one that is obstetrically sufficient at delivery.” Equally significant, but oriented primarily toward an understanding of human evolution, Dr. Tague concludes that the importance of newborn size in explaining pelvic sizes is overestimated and perhaps minimal. The greater factor, he argues, is sexual dimorphism in humans. Here his findings reflect a notable comparative, cross-species attention; Dr. Tague’s research encompasses work on twelve types of primates. The heart of the matter, and of this comparative perspective, is the “obstetrical dilemma”: a small pelvis is optimal for walking upright, but a larger one is preferable for giving birth; every anatomical feature of the pelvis is a reflection of a variety of selective pressures or trade-offs. A striking aspect of human sexual dimorphism is that, while men are larger on the whole, women have relatively larger pelvises. Dr. Tague counters a long-standing assumption in the field that this characteristic is a function of the increasing size of human newborns. Rather, he finds first that differences in the number of testosterone receptors in these species play a complex role in stimulating the growth of most bones while restricting growth of pelvic bones. But second, and most notably, he attributes the crucial role in this feature of human anatomy to polygynous mating systems. That is, social organization of sexual selection among humans plays a fundamental role in shaping our biological morphology, as evident in pelvic sexual dimorphism. This conclusion is one that has the potential to be taken up in, and to influence, a range of larger debates about the relative import and impact of social and biological dynamics in constituting human identity.

Dr. Tague has clearly spent a great deal of time thinking about how to generate data of relevance to key debates in anthropology, and he has settled on an effective form of analyzing that data and presenting it to a larger audience. He envisions this book “as a reference book for researchers and clinicians,” which seems accurate. The final product should, indeed, be of use to theoretically engaged scholars as well as those doing applied work in a variety of fields. This is because he is organizing this book to provide “a compilation of comparative data” (his own and that of other researchers) along with innovative interpretations of this data.

Dr. Tague is impressively well prepared to undertake this project, and his record of publications (22 peer-reviewed articles) suggests that the final product will be of high quality. He has

collected data on the pelvises of more than 1,300 humans, in conjunction with similar measurements of 1,000 other primates (apes and monkeys principally), and combined with human fossils and recorded variation in sacral anatomy of over 1,700 humans. As well, he has data from the early hominid, "Lucy," and a Neanderthal form from 60,000 years ago. Additionally he will be presenting two new data sets in this work, and will offer a synthetic account of all this material in a book that will exceed his previously published findings. The point that bears underscoring in relation to the wealth of this data is Dr. Tague's recognition of a weakness in the current literature on pelvic morphology: the vast majority of findings derive from research based on "single-sample" sets. In contrast, his collection of data affords him a much greater comparative breadth of vision regarding human anatomy. Importantly, his "multiple-sample" approach allows him to explain "interpopulational commonalities and difference in pelvic size and shape"; this is the basis by which Dr. Tague's conclusions will be able to challenge consensus opinions in physical anthropology.

Since the work of data generation and analysis has been completed, Dr. Tague's main task in this project is to write the planned book chapters. He offers a solid, reasonable plan by which he will accomplish this end. It seems quite likely that he will complete the manuscript during the time period of this fellowship.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 036ATL-11**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** "AFTERMATHS: An Original Book of Poetry Concerning Katrina and the Oil Spill"

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Peter John Cooley

Professor Cooley has enjoyed a long and successful career as a poet and this proposal for a new book of poems that addresses Hurricane Katrina and the 2011 Gulf of Mexico oil spill certainly takes on significant subjects. A book of poems based on interviews with persons who experienced Katrina in some form or another in order to focus on environmental concerns in Louisiana and in the U.S. will have interest for local and national readers. Situating Hurricane Katrina in the context of local and national relations to place—to landscape and seascape—and connecting those relations to social functions and dysfunctions are issues that are very much part of the current discourse about Katrina, a discourse that goes beyond individual and community suffering by linking that pain and loss to the broader domains of the meaning of nature for Americans and what its ruin foments. This project would be of interest to broader academic and/or lay audiences, particularly in the U.S. and the South.

Professor Cooley states that the context for this project lies "...in the intersection of the private and the public." He intends to interview people who experienced Katrina, and write poems based on those interviews. This approach, while interesting, raises several questions: Why poems based on interviews? Beyond stoking the writer's imagination, how will the interviews and their subjects live in the poems? Will these be lyrical poems with documentary subject matter? A further, crucial issue is whether this work can avoid the fatigue factor that comes with the extent to which this particular subject has already been explored. The promise of the current work is very good, though the poems submitted in the work sample are somewhat uneven. The best are excellent and suggest the extremely high quality of the project as a whole; but some poems submitted were not as compelling.

The quality of Professor Cooley's previous work, however, is one of the strongest aspects of this proposal. He has maintained a high standard over a career that spans 40 years, and his work has consistently been published by prestigious presses and literary magazines. The proposed book will be his tenth full-length book of poetry and his current publisher, Carnegie Mellon, already has first reading rights. The collection of poems, already well underway, is beautifully designed and the work plan feasible. It is certain that the applicant will complete the project with ATLAS support.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 027ATL-11**

**Rank: 4**

**TITLE:** “Critical Dressing: Wearable Media as Discourse in the Digital Age”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Susan Elizabeth Ryan

As the panel noted last year, Dr. Ryan has crafted a fascinating proposal to complete “the first historical analysis of wearable and fashionable technologies,” and is negotiating possible publication of the work with MIT Press. She is particularly concerned to clarify the distinction between design and art in the field, and to investigate gender associations. Her original and compelling study of the interrelation between technology, the art world, and the design industry will likely appeal to a wide audience from different constituencies.

Although, as Dr. Ryan explains, the proposal represents both a new departure within her interests and a recovery from the damage of Hurricane Katrina, the panel believes she is well prepared for this project. She has a fine reputation in her field and an excellent record of publication. Further, Dr. Ryan has already demonstrated the high quality of the work in progress. In the past several years she has published a number of commentaries and essays and mounted an exhibit on the subject of her book (with a published catalogue) in 2008.

In conception and outline, the proposal is vigorous and lucid. Dr. Ryan has continued to rework and expand the project in interesting ways. The timeline for completion is highly ambitious, but she has shown herself well able to finish this innovative project. She has made good progress since her previous ATLAS submission and even has a new publication in 2010. The recovery of her research from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina continues to impress the panel.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 017ATL-11**

**Rank: 5**

**TITLE:** “A Spatial and Temporal Analysis of the Impact of Hurricanes on Crime”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Michael Leitner

Dr. Leitner proposes to write a book that represents a potentially important contribution to the existing body of research on the spatial pattern of crime and promises to inform the practice of crime fighting. Dr. Leitner’s book analyzes the spatial and temporal impact of large-scale and small-scale hurricane events on crime. It applies a variety of theories (e.g., Crime Pattern Theory—eight theories listed), and relies on a variety of methods (e.g., Spatial Hot Spot Method—nine methods listed). It looks at one large-scale event (Hurricane Katrina’s impact on New Orleans, Louisiana) and multiple small-scale events (hurricanes in Houston, Texas). The audiences for this book include academics from various pure and applied social science disciplines (sociology, geography, urban planning, public policy) and practitioners (law enforcement personnel, urban planners, disaster managers).

The overall logic of the book—it considers different theories, applies different methods, and looks at the impact on crime of both large-scale and small-scale events—is most compelling. The hurricane focus unifies the book, and it is of obvious relevance to Louisiana. While it is somewhat narrow (after all, most places that suffer under crime do not experience hurricanes), it speaks to the larger question of what happens to crime when a region or city experiences a large-scale disaster or numerous small-scale disasters.

The panel has two suggestions. First, Dr. Leitner’s book would be stronger and of more general interest if he provided an approach that combines comparisons across different kinds of disasters with comparisons across different kinds of countries. Last year’s ATLAS report questioned Dr. Leitner’s case selection, which seemed to be driven by the random nature of his personal biography, rather than by criteria internal to the logic of his project. He responded to this criticism by dropping Schengen and Berlin and focusing on hurricanes, with a compare-and-contrast exercise involving a large-scale disaster in New Orleans and small-scale disasters in Houston. This was a reasonable response on his part. Even so, it would be useful for him to add some discussion as to how results might vary across different kinds of disasters (hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc.) and across different kinds of countries. On the latter point, for example, it seems plausible that developed and developing countries would respond quite differently to disasters (a major earthquake in California versus a major earthquake in Haiti); even among developed countries we observe differences (September 11 in New York City versus the London Underground bombing).

Second, there is currently much discussion about climate change leading to extreme weather patterns and higher temperatures overall. Even without expertise in climate change or weather patterns, we can say with great confidence that if climate change turns out to be disastrous for the human race, it will be not so much because of climate change or extreme weather *per se*, but because of the social responses to climate change and extreme weather, including civil strife, war, and—last but not least—crime. For this reason, Dr. Leitner’s book might be pitched, in the

introduction or the conclusion, as a contribution to our understanding of how cities and regions will respond to the consequences of weather- and climate-related shocks. Dr. Leitner obviously needs to be careful to ground his conclusions in data analysis: he should not add wild conjectures to his book, but simply emphasize the work's larger importance over and beyond the hurricane focus, which is important enough on its own.

Dr. Leitner is a highly accomplished scientist. He holds multiple degrees in geography, including a PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and is an associate professor of geography at LSU. While his career is centered in the United States, he has studied and is professionally visible in Europe. He serves as a journal editor (*Cartography and Geographic Information Science*). He has co-authored and co-edited several books and published about two dozen peer reviewed articles and another three dozen book chapters and conference proceedings. He has mentored a large number of doctoral dissertations, which is an indicator that his research is cutting edge. His publications and professional activities relate, both substantively and methodologically, to the proposed book.

The book is projected to consist of four chapters. The amount of detail offered for the various chapters suggests that Dr. Leitner has developed the plan of the book to an extent that he is likely to complete it during the award period. Moreover, preliminary versions of chapters three and four have already been published, so it should not be difficult to develop these chapters in full.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 004ATL-11**

**Rank: 6**

**TITLE:** “Perception – a Sonic Art & Media Concert Utilizing Distributed Performance Systems”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Jesse Allison

New media is both rapidly developing and rapidly shedding its forms and functions. Adapting these forms and functions to various kinds of art—performance, music, visual art, museum installation and exhibition design—is very much a part of contemporary art projects. This project—a sonic art & media concert utilizing distributed performance systems—is in conversation with new uses of social media. Some art departments have begun to integrate media specialists and digital media departments have begun to integrate artists. Increasingly, one person plays both these roles with mastery in the arts and in digital media design and usage. Dr. Allison reflects this, situated as he is in music and digital media. The idea of real-time performance of interactive sound participates in a larger cultural discourse about the real that ranges across “reality” television, documentary film, documentary theatre and theatre of the real. Participation in, elaboration of, and confusion about the real is our cultural moment. Interactive, collaborative sound pieces that are accessible technologically are usually of keen interest to broad academic and lay audiences. Lay audiences in particular love playing a collaborative role.

This proposal is well conceived, defined, and organized. Configuring user interfaces in order to be able to create new forms of artistic expression seems to be the core of the project. The work the applicant seeks to create is experimental in nature. Its outcome and the use of its techniques remain open as the work is intended to produce a new form of web-based collaboration out of browser-based distributed performance tools. Every field has its specialized language that must be translated for lay readers and receivers, and some of the language and references here are difficult for those not intimately conversant with the terminology of this field. In addition, the project’s conceptualization is somewhat heavy handed (e.g., references to Einstein’s clock and Plato’s Cave in the same paragraph). The panel commends Dr. Allison for undertaking a project with an open source code that disseminates its tools. The applicant’s previous work and preparation for this project are excellent. He is involved in the use of social media for collective artistic expression and appears to have worked seriously within this genre from 2002 to the present. His current project is in many ways a culmination of his previous work, and expands the scope of that earlier work. The samples he has submitted are professional and there is every reason to believe that this project’s intensity will exceed that of his earlier contributions.

The proposed plan of work is feasible, and Dr. Allison has the background to complete the project. The three phases of the work plan are clearly articulated, as is the budget rationale. He is already well into the development phase of the project and it appears that he has allowed for the possibility of technological glitches that often occur with this sort of work.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$30,162**

**PROPOSAL NO. 035ATL-11**

**Rank: 7**

**TITLE:** "The Strange History of the American Quadroon"

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Emily Clark

Dr. Clark's study of the American Quadroon, under contract at University of North Carolina Press, offers a new approach to a theme that has been extensively explored in literary history and criticism. She will provide a social history of the "tragic mulatta" which has so appealed to the literary imagination. Her focus will be on New Orleans and her work archivally based, but she will engage with major themes across American history: race, gender, sexuality, and religion. This represents a new perspective on an established subject which will attract interdisciplinary attention.

The project proposal is a model of clarity and coherence. Dr. Clark clearly states the central themes of her study, explains its larger significance, and defines its empirical foundation. The panel was impressed by the sheer volume of archival research already complete, which provides an excellent footing for the work.

Dr. Clark has published a monograph on the New Orleans Ursulines in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, which won three prizes. She has also published a prize-winning article in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the leading journal in Early American history, as well as several other substantial papers. Although still near the beginning of her career, she has an international reputation, with invitations to attend conferences and publish papers in both Britain and France.

Though the panel had difficulty determining how much of the book is already drafted, it is confident that Dr. Clark will be able to finish a complete draft during a year's leave. The research is largely complete, the structure and content well organized; moreover, her scholarly record suggests that she is an efficient and effective writer.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$41,512**

**PROPOSAL NO. 023ATL-11**

**Rank: 8**

**TITLE:** “A sociolinguistic analysis of Spanish at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Three linguistic variables in two communities”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Rafael Orozco

It is a truism that languages change in response to social circumstances—for example, geographical isolation and collision with other language communities—but to explain precisely how and why change occurs is dauntingly complex. All dialects of a given language have regional inflections, but what explains the changes in linguistic forms? Dr. Orozco proposes to develop an understanding of linguistic change by undertaking a micro-study of two communities of Spanish speakers, one in Colombia and the other in New York City. While the New York community originated in Colombia, it exists within a richly woven mosaic of other versions of Spanish—from Puerto Rico, Mexico, and many other countries and regions. Within the universe of Spanish speakers in New York City, however, one always can detect the country of origin in whoever is speaking. How are the New York City “Colombian” speakers changed by their language environment? The applicant traces the evolution of linguistic variants in Spanish, such as nominal possession, by observing the language practices of real speakers in contact with other dialects; this positions him well to see the varieties emerge.

Dr. Orozco provides a very clear, complete description of the book project with detailed discussions of each chapter, and the panel notes that the work has progressed well since last year’s application. Although this is a fairly narrow study, it is certainly worth doing and will contribute to a growing research literature in sociolinguistics.

The applicant has established an impressive scholarly record, with nine essays published or forthcoming since 2007, another two submitted, and two co-edited volumes in progress. In addition, having developed a corpus of the Spanish of Colombians in New York, he has all the components in place to finish the work. Moreover, because he plans to build his chapters around recent publications, Dr. Orozco is very likely to complete the project on time.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$46,325**

**PROPOSAL NO. 014ATL-11**

**Rank: 9**

**TITLE:** “Freedom and Violence”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dustin Howes

Pacifism has been defended traditionally on moral grounds. In a previous work, *Toward a Credible Pacifism* (SUNY Press, 2009), Dr. Howes has made the case on the grounds of relative efficiency and responsibility in comparison with violence. Now he turns his attention, in a monograph to be entitled *Freedom and Violence*, to “the extent to which free societies can function without the use of violence and confront violence without resorting to it.” As the panel noted last year, this argument is likely to attract a significant academic audience across several fields of study.

The applicant has a published record of competence in the history of political philosophy, and he proposes to undertake his project historically. He shows a command of the literature, and fluency in discussing its underlying issues. A particular strength of the proposal is that it deals with distinct aspects of freedom, including liberation, active participation in politics, and personal liberty. In response to arguments that violence is necessary to achieve freedom in these senses, Dr. Howes draws from the work of Arendt and Gandhi to argue for “the action of creative and spontaneous beings in concert *with others*.” Since last year’s application, he has strengthened the project, adding Kant and undertaking some revision of previous work.

Dr. Howes is a productive scholar and the project is entirely feasible and well advanced. In particular, the nature of the pacifist argument is innovative, yet well grounded within the philosophical literature. The panel is confident that he can complete the work in the proposed schedule.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$43,070**

**PROPOSAL NO. 025ATL-11**

**Rank: 10**

**TITLE:** “Pragmatic Assessments for Measuring Writing Achievement and Improving Teacher Performance”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Irvin Peckham

Dr. Peckham plans to complete a book, *Pragmatic Assessments for Measuring Writing Achievement and Improving Teacher Performance*, which will improve both teacher and institutional performance. This work is not aimed to improve theory, but rather to improve practice. Its intellectual significance (aside from the fact that nobody has done it) is relatively slender, but its practical importance is very high. Its value is increased by the size of the audience who would benefit from the book and the impact of the subject in an era of No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top. The national pressure on higher education to demonstrate learning gains (usually called “accountability”) has not been met with successful programs that show how to measure learning. Dr. Peckham’s book will change that and be an important contribution to K-16 education in the U.S.

This is a very well-conceived, organized project. The introduction of an uncertainty principle into the evaluation of writing is innovative. The panel suggests, however, that sustaining the argument presented in the proposal will require a conceptual as well as a statistical case. Though the potential impact of this study is significant, its scope is sufficiently narrow that the manuscript should be straightforward in organization and presentation.

The applicant brings to this project an impressive track record in assessment and accreditation, and both his publication record and his administrative expertise suggest very strong likelihood of success. The author of nine related essays (twenty-five in all) and an electronic textbook, with a co-authored book and another article in press and a single-authored monograph under contract, Dr. Peckham knows how to complete his research agenda. In addition, some parts of the monograph are already completed, and the work plan presented in the proposal is feasible for this experienced writer.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$49,778**

**PROPOSAL NO. 015ATL-11**

**Rank: 11**

**TITLE:** “Celibacies, 1886-1969”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Benjamin A. Kahan

This very smart project, currently being encouraged by a major university press, will certainly be considered a significant intervention in the fields of queer theory and gender and sexuality studies. Its central ideas also have expansive implications beyond these somewhat narrow fields, so the work is likely to attract a broad academic audience.

Dr. Kahan is in the early stages of his career, but he has already won two post-docs and made very good progress on this project (which began as a dissertation). His clear, concise, and compelling presentation of the project indicates that he is in command of his material. Although the panel has some concerns that the project may be too ambitious (1886-1969 is a long time), the applicant’s choice of specific authors and texts is persuasively explained in the proposal. This does not claim or hope to be a comprehensive history of the subject; rather, it (a) investigates through a series of case studies the ways that celibacy has been understood and practiced in this period and (b) uses those studies to explore, in more theoretical terms, the ways celibacy might challenge and alter received notions of sexual identities.

Given the coherence of the project, its appeal to a publisher, and Dr. Kahan’s manifest ability to execute the task, the project will certainly be finished. Indeed, the project is very near to completion and has already been considered by a university press. The panel questioned whether a full semester of release would be required to finish rewriting/revisions to the work and submit for publication.

**The panel strongly recommends partial funding. Given the advanced stage of the work, Dr. Kahan is likely to complete the project is less than the semester of support requested, so the panel recommends reduced funding of \$25,000. These funds should be used to secure as much release time as possible. Institutional match may be reduced in proportion to the reduction in ATLAS funds.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$25,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 032ATL-11**

**Rank: 12**

**TITLE:** “Jewish Lawyers in the Shari‘ah Courts of Yemen”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Mark S. Wagner

This is an ambitious, demanding, and potentially very significant project. Dr. Wagner wants to shed new light on the relationship of Muslims and Jews in twentieth-century Yemen by looking at legal institutions. He has uncovered a little-known set of documents, which will allow him to reconstruct the uses of the law by these communities. In addition to the formidable linguistic skills this demands, he has developed the necessary legal concepts to make sense of his material. This will be a very important book, with broad implications for Islamic and Jewish studies as well as legal history.

Although just seven years beyond his doctoral degree, Dr. Wagner has made a reputation as a student of Arabic poetry. This project, while it uses some of the skills necessary for his first work, also represents for him a new area of research and an expansion of his scholarly presence. The panel was impressed by the project description, which captured both the breadth and significance of the work. Dr. Wagner does a good job describing his sources, the larger scholarly context, and his own distinctive contribution.

While the panel was favorably impressed by both the applicant and his project, it was less clear how necessary an ATLAS grant would be for its completion. Dr. Wagner is requesting ATLAS support for one semester to complete the final stages of work prior to publication: page proofing, indexing and development of appendices. The panel was not convinced that a full semester of release would be necessary to complete this work, or that ATLAS funds are best used to support proofing and final manuscript preparation.

**The panel strongly recommends partial funding. Given the advanced stage of the work, Dr. Wagner is likely to complete the project is less than the semester of support requested, so the panel recommends reduced funding of \$25,000. These funds should be used to secure as much release time as possible. Institutional match may be reduced in proportion to the reduction in ATLAS funds.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$25,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 038ATL-11**

**Rank: 13**

**TITLE:** “It’s Real: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans”

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Matt Sakakeeny

Dr. Sakakeeny proposes to write an ethnography of musicians in New Orleans, a “case study of the everyday experiences” of brass bands that should “provide insight into how contemporary politics shape the lives of Americans.” This is a promising undertaking, but it is not clear that the strikingly distinctive setting of these musicians’ lives offers a sufficient basis for generating broad insights about the nation at large. Dr. Sakakeeny’s focus on music is well founded, given its centrality in the city’s “trinity” of “unique food, architecture, and music.” This affords him an excellent perspective on the dynamics “of economic uncertainty and racial marginalization” he wishes to understand, at least locally. As Dr. Sakakeeny aptly notes, “music mobilizes experiences through highly specific practices—tempo, repertoires, and arrangements—while the music itself is mobilized by musicians’ experiences as tradition-bearers, service workers, and young black men in the inner city.” Such an attention certainly gives him an excellent perspective on processes of racialization within New Orleans, but it is not clear how he plans to direct his writing and observations in a way that will match his aim to speak to the larger, non-local forces involving race and politics that he recognizes are relevant to dynamics on the streets of New Orleans.

The strength of this project is Dr. Sakakeeny’s tight thematic focus, concretely on the movements of several bands (with a case-study approach to each) and metaphorically on the trope of “mobility.” As is common with ethnography, this fusion of figural and literal aspects of everyday life generates intriguing insights, as when Dr. Sakakeeny interprets brass band music “as a communal ‘voice’ articulating a response to the policies that have restructured the built environment in New Orleans.” The focus on mobility allows him to follow the movements of these bands simultaneously through the streets, through a variety of musical genres and repertoires, and through the rising or falling positions of individual musicians. Whether his concluding thematic focus on “orientation” provides a sufficient basis to theorize about how people “use music to orient themselves to one another and to the institutions that govern their lives” is an open question, and perhaps limited by the distinctiveness of this ethnographic setting.

Dr. Sakakeeny is a recent PhD graduate in ethnomusicology from Columbia and an assistant professor in the Department of Music at Tulane. He has published articles in the journals *Ethnomusicology*, *Space and Culture*, and in *Current Musicology*, along with a forthcoming piece in *Black Music Research Journal*. His training in ethnomusicology certainly prepares him well for this undertaking, but an even greater resource for Dr. Sakakeeny is his long, active participation in the New Orleans music scene. He has been able to “cultivate relationships with musicians and formulate an intimate understanding of their daily lives through recurring interactions, formal interviews, and collaboration in public programming.” This approach is both insightful and admirable, as it makes for a very publically engaged form of scholarship.

Dr. Sakakeeny's proposal offers detailed sketches of each of five envisioned chapters, but he offers no schedule for how or when these will be completed. Since it is unclear whether these chapters are mostly finished or remain to be written, it is difficult to assess the likelihood that he will complete this project during the time period of the ATLAS grant. He notes that "the monograph will represent a near complete revision of the dissertation," a process that will involve synthesizing a great deal of "new qualitative material" and revising and reframing his previous writing. This may well entail a great deal of time; more, perhaps, than Dr. Sakakeeny imagines.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:      \$33,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 006ATL-11**

**Rank: 14**

**TITLE:** *“The Home Front, a collection of short fiction”*

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** James G. Bennett

The proposal, to complete a collection of linked stories on the subject of life in the military, is both timely and universal. Ten short stories devoted to a military family over the course of several decades that form a narrative whole in the tradition of family drama, a form that reaches back to Greek tragedy, is an intriguing idea. The separation of the military and the problems, pain and pleasure of its domestic culture related to daily American life make the subject especially important. Both the technique of overlapping plots and the subject matter will be significant to writers and general readers. Professor Bennett’s writing samples and, by extension, his project are eminently readable and would be of interest to broad academic and lay audiences.

The proposal argues strongly for the conceptualization, definition, and organization of the project. Professor Bennett’s rationale for the need for these stories and his concept of interlocking short stories on the same theme are the strengths of the proposal. Recurring characters and overlapping plots will unify the collection across its discrete stories. He notes that military families tend to lead insular lives in separate worlds and situates his subject in the American context of the family as a social unit that signifies aspects of society. The work sample is well wrought but does not include a strong “hook” that will take readers into this world.

The applicant is an established author and his life and work have provided him with ample preparation for the project. Professor Bennett's previous stories have appeared in prestigious literary magazines (although his most published period was a decade ago), his novels have been published by trade presses, and his past work has received awards. The panel expects his proposed project will be of similar quality. Indeed, the stories submitted are very readable.

Professor Bennett is already well advanced in developing the project. Half of the stories in the proposal are in some stage of composition or revision. With ATLAS release, he will write five new stories as well as revise the work already drafted and then edit the entire manuscript. This work plan is feasible and completion of the project is very likely.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.**

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 039ATL-11**

**Rank: 15**

**TITLE:** "Genius Loci"

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** John Laudun

The project seeks to focus on the development of the crawfish boat "as an example of creativity produced by individuals deeply embedded in their culture and place." The applicant has progressed by means of reading into cognate investigations and presenting his preliminary work to the American Folklore Society. Dr. Laudun takes a highly original approach to the interrelationship of natural history, culture, and creativity to investigate the nature of creativity, with particular emphasis on the transpersonal adaptation of ideas, in its interface with a particular environment. The history of the landscape in Louisiana represents the point of departure in a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary investigation.

The proposal's initial focus on the issue of landscape or environment takes it into a well-defined and emerging field of discourse, which perhaps needs more survey than is indicated in the proposal. The address of the concept of creativity is similarly not well grounded in recent discussion, and key terms of reference, such as place and creativity, remain evoked rather than defined.

Though the scholarly production of the applicant has been modest to date, considerable interest has been expressed by several university presses in the project and part of one chapter is forthcoming in 2011. This attests to the project's inherent interest and the quality of Dr. Laudun's approach. He refers compellingly to his own anecdotal relationship to the material, the topic, and the challenges of investigation. His previous work and the proposal itself, however, raise the question of whether he has in fact developed a conceptual framework of creativity and place that will see him through completion of the project.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available this year, the panel recommends that the applicant revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$38,663**

**PROPOSAL NO. 022ATL-11**

**Rank: 16**

**TITLE:** “Finishing and Fine tuning an Academic GPS for Secondary School and Teachers”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Paul Mooney

Dr. Mooney proposes to demonstrate the acceptability of a “vocabulary matching” test to assess science and social science knowledge among sixth-grade students. Demonstrating acceptability involves examining whether the test actually measures student knowledge at a point in time, whether lower versus higher scores reflect lower or higher student knowledge, and whether teachers can effectively use the test to modify their teaching methods or content and improve student knowledge. More specifically, the ATLAS funding would allow Dr. Mooney to move from a paper-and-pencil technology to online technology, which would presumably support the creation of databases and aid in data analysis.

Parts of the proposal are difficult to follow for someone who is not immersed in Dr. Mooney’s scientific subfield and its jargon. The panel’s attempts to summarize the proposal’s content, therefore, seem to result in some slippage of meaning. For example, the reviewers say “student knowledge,” but it appears that Dr. Mooney is not so much interested in student knowledge *per se* (presumably because we cannot look into students’ heads to see how much they know), but in student performance on standardized tests. In other words, the point of Dr. Mooney’s research seems to be to assess the validity of one measure of student knowledge (a vocabulary test) by examining its correlation with another measure of student knowledge (a standardized test). For someone who is not immersed in the specific scientific subfield, this immediately raises the question, what is the point of the exercise? The point seems to be that a vocabulary test is easy to administer in class, and if student performance on this test turns out to correlate well with student performance on a standardized test whose results count significantly for students, teachers, and school administrators, then the vocabulary test will serve as a good tool to control student performance when it counts.

Dr. Mooney’s project is a good fit with the assessment and intervention literature: he is in effect proposing to insert one brick into a larger brick wall that is being built by the educational research community. His research is relevant to a practitioner audience, consisting of school administrators, school psychologists, and the like. This latter audience in particular is responding to a larger political environment (No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top, etc.), which is creating significant incentives for teachers and administrators to raise student performance on standardized tests.

The panel has some lingering concerns about the value of this exercise. There is a circular logic to the idea of creating a “GPS” for teachers to navigate the student performance landscape, as in developing a thin measure of student knowledge to predict how students will do on another thin measure of student knowledge, with the ultimate goal of enabling teachers to help students do better on the second thin measure. Whether student knowledge actually increases is neither here nor there. The proposal in fact seems to reflect some goal displacement in its discussion of performance on standardized tests and its correlation to student learning.

That said, however, the panel believes that it is important for reviewers who are not deeply immersed in a given scientific subfield to respect its internal logic as defined by the scientific peers in the subfield, as well as its external logic as defined by the larger political environment. Taking as given these two logics, Dr. Mooney's proposal is well conceived, well defined, and well organized.

Dr. Mooney represents an attractive combination of practitioner and scholar. He started out as a school psychologist, serving in this role for seven years. He then returned to graduate school where as a research assistant he became actively involved in empirical projects having to do with assessment and intervention in the case of students at risk for reading and behavioral difficulties. Dr. Mooney is now an associate professor in the Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice at Louisiana State University, with a focus on Special Education. His accomplishments as a scholar include numerous grants, about two dozen publications (including articles in peer reviewed journals), and numerous presentations in both academic and practitioner forums. The overall picture is that of a person who successfully combines the practical and academic sides of his chosen field, and who is professionally well embedded and well regarded.

The project is sharply focused, and the steps needed to complete it are laid out concretely. Dr. Mooney's publication record is excellent as measured by the standards of his scientific subfield. For both of these reasons, it appears very likely that he will complete the project and produce the promised publications.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.**

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 011ATL-11**

**Rank: 17**

**TITLE:** "Pop Corpse"

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Lara Glenum

Dr. Glenum proposes to complete a collection of poems on the subject of fairy tales. The field of poetry, especially in relation to rewriting classic tales, is a rarified one, though the applicant notes a revival of interest in fairy tales in both their original and revived forms and situates her current work in the context of this revival. This collection of poems focuses on a feminist revision of *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Anderson, especially in relation to sexuality and desire outside of accepted social norms. This revision of the fairy tale would be mostly of interest to academic audiences. The collection as a whole would appeal to academic and general readers of poetry, though likely not to a broader readership.

The project has been clearly conceived and defined in the proposal. Dr. Glenum defines well her aesthetic interests and the choices that affect her use of language and the selection of her subject matter. Her representation of her career, reputation and project may be somewhat overstated; however, she has a clear voice and something to say.

Dr. Glenum's previous work is of high quality and she has been successful within the world of alternative poetry. Her books have been published by a small press that specializes in poetry and her individual poems have appeared in a wide range of literary magazines. The current project would have the same outlets for publication. The career narrative focuses on a list of accomplishments and claims of the applicant's importance; a narrative that accounts for her development of ideas and poetry style might have been more helpful. In addition, it is difficult to see the conceptualization of the project in the samples provided. The poems included in the application are not exactly revisions of the *Little Mermaid* story. At best, the story serves as a point of departure and a reference more than a foundation for a deeply probed critical approach to the tale's themes. The poems seem to be more about a cultural idea of femaleness. Often the fairy tale is not present in the prose in any comprehensible way. Some of the poems submitted have wonderful language surprises, however, and could inspire real turns of consciousness for the reader.

As described the work plan is feasible and likely to be accomplished. Dr. Glenum seems to be well along in the project and should finish in a reasonable timeframe.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funds are not available this year, the applicant is encouraged to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$37,240**

**PROPOSAL NO. 034ATL-11**

**Rank: 18**

**TITLE:** “More than Binding Men’s Wounds: Women’s Medical Service in Russia during the Great War”

**INSTITUTION:** Louisiana Tech University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Laurie Stoff

This strong project examines women's medical service in Russia during the First World War. This will be a contribution to the social history of the War, and especially the roles of women both at the front and at home. As the panel noted last year, while these subjects have attracted a good deal of attention among French and British historians, the Russian experience is less well known. This book will make an important contribution to the scholarly literature.

Dr. Stoff's reputation is based principally on her excellent monograph about women in the Russian Army, published by the University of Kansas Press in 2006. Her new work builds on and extends this first book, which was based on her dissertation. She is extremely well qualified and prepared for this project, though the proposal suggests some material remains to be collected, translated and interpreted.

The proposal was clear, straightforward and well crafted, but still lacked some detail about the core argument or chapter content. Although the proposal was recommended for funding in the last ATLAS competition, the panel would have liked to see some further development of the project over the intervening year, particularly a statement of the progress Dr. Stoff has made.

Indeed, the project does not appear from the materials submitted in the proposal to have significantly advanced or changed since the previous submission in 2009, and substantial work remains to be done. The panel is confident that the book will be finished, but uncertain that the applicant can complete it within or immediately following the ATLAS year.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available this year, the panel encourages the applicant to continue working and submit a revised proposal in the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$22,072**

**PROPOSAL NO. 021ATL-11**

**Rank: 19**

**TITLE:** “The Court of Comedy: Aristophanes, Rhetoric and Democracy in Fifth Century Athens”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Wilfred E. Major

Dr. Major’s work promises to make an outstanding contribution to studies of Greek rhetoric and its relation to democracy while at the same time offering fresh perspectives on Aristophanes. He sets forth an interesting premise about Aristophanes’ comedies as commentaries on rhetorical devices and Athenian politics, and does a superb job of explaining how his research and argument will build on or supersede earlier work in the field.

This is one of the most clearly and persuasively described projects in this year’s pool of ATLAS proposals. The chapter outline is detailed and informative yet also manages to convey a narrative that makes the book interesting. The panel would have liked to see a more substantial writing sample, to better understand the likely quality of the finished work.

The applicant has published numerous journal articles, including one forthcoming (and related to this project) in the prestigious *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*. He is clearly well qualified to undertake this project, which will be his first book.

The timetable as presented is highly ambitious, and the panel has some concern that Dr. Major will not be able to meet such a demanding schedule. But given the quality of the project description and outline and the fact that a significant part of the foundational argument has already been accepted for publication (as an article), it seems likely that he will finish the work within a reasonable period of time.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available this year, the panel recommends revision of the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$38,122**

**PROPOSAL NO. 033ATL-11**

**Rank: 20**

**TITLE:** “Victorians on Broadway: The Afterlife of Victorian Literature on the American Musical Stage, 1951-2000”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Sharon Aronofsky Weltman

This project has previously been submitted to ATLAS. In previous reviews the panel noted that Dr. Weltman seemed to have a sharp eye and promises to be an excellent reader of the “cultural work” performed by Victorian stories/mythos in contemporary U.S. musical theatre, but voiced concerns that the links from Broadway musical to history were very thin and too often predictable and the account of the historical/cultural context sketchy. The project has progressed but not changed dramatically from its most recent previous submission and, in particular, the aspects that promise to unpack the “cultural work” performed by these Broadway productions in the U.S. remain thin. That said, Dr. Weltman is clearly dedicated to the project, is a very competent scholar, and would almost certainly complete it and find a publisher with the help of ATLAS. Moreover, parts of this project have already been presented and/or published, and are well received, suggesting that there is value in and an audience for the work.

Although the panel has previously guided Dr. Weltman toward a different conception of the book, the one she continues to pursue has a good deal of merit and several unique qualities. The chapter outline is detailed, and she has certainly thought through the organization of the book as a whole. The description is clear and informative. Though she has made significant progress and presents some interesting ideas, the panel continues to be concerned about the extent of the prospective book’s contributions to the study of American history/culture or to Victorian studies.

Dr. Weltman’s previous work is of very high quality. She is an active and engaged scholar whose publication and presentation record is most impressive. Her dedication to this project is remarkable: she has been researching and meditating on this project for at least four years now. She knows how to finish projects (she has completed two books) and the panel sees no reason to doubt that she would finish this one within the year of support an ATLAS grant would afford.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding should sufficient resources be available. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full. If funding is not available, the panel recommends that the applicant continue working and revise the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.**

**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 2010-11  
SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

**40 TOTAL PROPOSALS**

24	HUM	Humanities
8	ARTS	Arts
8	SOC SCI	Social Sciences

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1,739,055**

**Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Program  
FY 2010-11 Competition  
Proposals Submitted**

<b>Proposal # &amp; Discipline</b>	<b>PI Name(s)</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Proposal Title</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>
001ATL-11 ARTS/Filmmaking/ Video & Audio	Sonya L. Caston	Dillard	An ATLAS Program: A Documentary on Diversifying the PhD Chemistry Program at LSU and Beyond	\$38,762
002ATL-11 SS/Planning	Robert A. Collins	Dillard	Dueling Plans: Land Use Planning in Post Katrina New Orleans	\$30,376
003ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Mona Lisa Saloy	Dillard	Timeless Beat: The Poetry of Bob Kaufman	\$49,447
004ATL-11 ARTS/Music Composition	Jesse Allison	LSU-BR	Perception – a Sonic Art & Media Concert Utilizing Distributed Performance Systems	\$30,162
005ATL-11 ARTS/Design	Lynne J. Baggett	LSU-BR	Idiosyncrasies and Innovation: A detailed analysis of the incised letterform carvings of the rural stonemason in the American Colonies	\$42,482
006ATL-11 ARTS/Fiction	James G. Bennett	LSU-BR	<i>The Home Front</i> , a collection of short fiction	\$50,000
007ATL-11 SS/Other	Jinx C. Broussard	LSU-BR	Our Side of the Story: A History of Black Foreign Correspondence	\$41,288

ATLAS Proposal Submissions  
 FY 2010-11  
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008ATL-11 HUM/Foreign Languages & Lit	Elena Castro	LSU-BR	“(Un)doing Gender: (re)presentation of alternative identities in the work of Spanish lesbian poets of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries”	\$49,635
009ATL-11 HUM/History	Maribel Dietz	LSU-BR	The Cult of Stephen the Protomartyr, 300-1000	\$49,632
010ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Carl Freedman	LSU-BR	Art and Idea in the Fiction of China Miéville	\$50,000
011ATL-11 ARTS/Poetry	Lara Glenum	LSU-BR	Pop Corpse	\$37,240
012ATL-11 HUM/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Dorota Heneghan	LSU-BR	Fashion, Gender, and Modernity in Galdós, Pardo Bazán, and Picón	\$34,580
013ATL-11 SS/Geography	Patrick Hesp	LSU-BR	Coastal Dunes: Geomorphology, Dynamics and Ecology	\$50,000
014ATL-11 HUM/Other	Dustin Howes	LSU-BR	Freedom and Violence	\$43,070
015ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Benjamin A. Kahan	LSU-BR	Celibacies, 1886-1969	\$37,240

016ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Joseph Kronick	LSU-BR	Modernism and the Ancient Quarrel: The Problem of Ethics at the End of Literature	\$50,000
017ATL-11 SS/Geography	Michael Leitner	LSU-BR	A Spatial and Temporal Analysis of the Impact of Hurricanes on Crime	\$50,000
018ATL-11 HUM/History	David Lindenfeld	LSU-BR	Lands of Canaan, Non-Western Negotiations with Judeo-Christianity, as Conveyed by Missionaries, in the Age of Imperialism, 1500-2000	\$50,000
019ATL-11 ARTS/Painting, Sculpture & Installation Art	Thomas A. Livesay; Natalie Mault	LSU-BR	<i>Tearing Granite: The Sculpture of Jesús Moroles</i>	\$49,295
020ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	John Lowe	LSU-BR	“The Tropical Sublime in the Atlantic World”	\$50,000
021ATL-11 HUM/Other	Wilfred E. Major	LSU-BR	The Court of Comedy: Aristophanes, Rhetoric and Democracy in Fifth Century Athens	\$38,122
022ATL-11 SS/Other	Paul Mooney	LSU-BR	Finishing and Fine tuning an Academic GPS for Secondary School and Teachers	\$50,000
023ATL-11 HUM/Linguistics	Rafael Orozco	LSU-BR	A sociolinguistic analysis of Spanish at the turn of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century: Three linguistic variables in two communities	\$46,325

ATLAS Proposal Submissions  
 FY 2010-11  
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024ATL-11 HUM/Other	Solimar Otero	LSU-BR	Coming Home: Nation, Gender, and Diaspora in Afro-Cuban Religion	\$44,571
025ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Irvin Peckham	LSU-BR	Pragmatic Assessments for Measuring Writing Achievement and Improving Teacher Performance	\$49,778
026ATL-11 HUM/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Rosemary Peters	LSU-BR	<i>Criminal Fictions: Theft and the Author in the Nineteenth-Century</i>	\$40,578
027ATL-11 HUM/Art History, Theory & Criticism	Susan Elizabeth Ryan	LSU-BR	Critical Dressing: Wearable Media as Discourse in the Digital Age	\$50,000
028ATL-11 HUM/Philosophy	Greg Schufreider	LSU-BR	Heidegger's Hole: Nihilism and the Space of Thinking	\$50,000
029ATL-11 HUM/Other	Patricia A. Suchy	LSU-BR	Bakhtin and Performance	\$43,059
030ATL-11 SS/Anthropology	Peter Sutherland	LSU-BR	Necromantic Atlantic: The Makings of an African/Diasporic Public Sphere	\$36,596
031ATL-11 SS/Anthropology	Robert Tague	LSU-BR	Human Obstetrical Pelvis: Functional, Developmental, and Evolutionary Biology	\$50,000
032ATL-11 HUM/Religion	Mark S. Wagner	LSU-BR	Jewish Lawyers in the Shari'ah Courts of Yemen	\$38,570

033ATL-11 HUM/English Lang. & Lit.	Sharon Aronofsky Weltman	LSU-BR	Victorians on Broadway: The Afterlife of Victorian Literature on the American Musical Stage, 1951-2000	\$50,000
034ATL-11 HUM/History	Laurie Stoff	LA Tech	“More than Binding Men’s Wounds: Women’s Medical Service in Russia during the Great War”	\$22,072
035ATL-11 HUM/History	Emily Clark	Tulane	The Strange History of the American Quadroon	\$41,512
036ATL-11 ARTS/Poetry	Peter John Cooley	Tulane	AFTERMATHS: An Original Book of Poetry Concerning Katrina and the Oil Spill	\$50,000
037ATL-11 HUM/Foreign Lang. & Lit.	Fayçal Falaky	Tulane	<i>Movement and Stillness: From Pascal to Bin Laden</i>	\$33,000
038ATL-11 SS/Anthropology	Matt Sakakeeny	Tulane	It’s Real: Brass Bands in the Streets of New Orleans	\$33,000
039ATL-11 HUM/Other	John Laudun	UL Lafayette	Genius Loci	\$38,663
040ATL-11 ARTS/Filmmaking/ Video & Audio	Laszlo Fulop	UNO	Immigrants: A Documentary	\$50,000

**2010-11 COMPETITION - SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

**NUMBER OF PROPOSALS: 40**

**Arts: 8**

**Humanities: 24**

**Social Sciences: 8**

**TOTAL REQUESTED: \$1,739,055**