

**REPORT OF THE FINAL PANEL**  
**BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND**  
**AWARDS TO LOUISIANA ARTISTS AND SCHOLARS (ATLAS)**  
**SUBPROGRAM**  
**FY 2011-12**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Forty-nine (49) proposals requesting a total of \$2,147,688 in first-year funds were submitted for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 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-nine (49) 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 2011-12 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 26, 2012, 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-one (31) 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 2011-12, 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 \$877,116 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 2011-12 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.**
- Each year in this competition, many more quality proposals are received than can be funded with available resources. The panel notes that the pool of applications is particularly strong this year, with many worthy projects left without support. This indicates the great need for this kind of program. ATLAS 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)

Rank	Proposal #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
1	020ATL-12	LSU-BR	Laura Mullen	\$50,000	\$50,000
1	029ATL-12	McNeese	Janet Allured	\$25,490	\$25,490
1	037ATL-12	Tulane	Mark I. Vail	\$48,430	\$48,430
4	031ATL-12	Tulane	Kevin H. Jones	\$47,418	\$47,418
5	035ATL-12	Tulane	David W. Shoemaker	\$49,924	\$49,924
6	005ATL-12	LSU-BR	Craig Colten	\$50,000	\$50,000
7	021ATL-12	LSU-BR	Dennis N. Parker	\$43,900	\$43,900
8	041ATL-12	UL Lafayette	John W. Troutman	\$34,708	\$34,708
9	049ATL-12	UNO	Anne Boyd Rioux	\$35,602	\$35,602
10	027ATL-12	LSU-BR	Sharon Aronofsky Weltman	\$50,000	\$50,000
11	007ATL-12	LSU-BR	Dydia DeLyser	\$50,000	\$50,000
12	028ATL-12	LA Tech	Laurie Stoff	\$34,183	\$34,183
13	014ATL-12	LSU-BR	Kelli Scott Kelley	\$32,344	\$32,344
14	004ATL-12	LSU-BR	Laura Choate	\$50,000	\$50,000
15	040ATL-12	UL Lafayette	John Laudun	\$39,677	\$39,677
16	016ATL-12	LSU-BR	Sean M. Lane	\$46,568	\$46,568
17	038ATL-12	UL Lafayette	Elizabeth Bobo	\$46,373	\$46,373
18	019ATL-12	LSU-BR	Paul Mooney	\$50,000	\$50,000
19	030ATL-12	Tulane	Michael Cohen	\$42,499	\$42,499
20	011ATL-12	LSU-BR	Carl Freedman	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$877,116</b>	<b>\$877,116</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 eleven (11) proposals for a total amount of \$485,472.

**APPENDIX B**

**MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY II  
BY THE SUBJECT AREA PANELS AND CONSIDERED BY THE FINAL PANEL  
BUT NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (16)**

002ATL-12	006ATL-12	008ATL-12	010ATL-12
012ATL-12	015ATL-12	017ATL-12	018ATL-12
022ATL-12	023ATL-12	024ATL-12	026ATL-12
034ATL-12	036ATL-12	047ATL-12	048ATL-12

**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 2012.

**APPENDIX C**

**PROPOSALS RANKED PRIORITY III BY THE SUBJECT-AREA PANELS  
AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (13)**

001ATL-12	003ATL-12	009ATL-12	013ATL-12
025ATL-12	032ATL-12	033ATL-12	039ATL-12
042ATL-12	043ATL-12	044ATL-12	045ATL-12
046ATL-12			

**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 2012.

**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. 020ATL-12**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Engagements”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Laura Mullen

Professor Mullen’s new project proposes to undertake an inquiry into the possibilities of writing, representation, ethics and identity. The applicant does not assert the universal, humanist possibilities of poetry but rather interrogates the form for the very possibility of recognizing ourselves. The project is rooted, in part, in formal experimentation, combining fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, and the intended audience includes contemporary readers of all three forms. The subject matter is sexuality and love, including political, economic and cultural pressures on love.

The applicant grounds her ideas in questions about value and poetry as a form, cites a number of significant scholars and artists to frame her inquiry, and thus successfully demonstrates that she actively participates in ongoing intellectual conversations about her art. Professor Mullen describes her method—“I break things (lines, narratives, images, expectations) in order to make room for change, while working to create work that accurately reflects lived experience”—in a clear and compelling way. She also enclosed a generous sample of her new work, some of it published in literary magazines, that will be part of the new collection. This collection will feature different combinations of interplay between verse and prose, and submitted samples are of the highest quality. To an extent the poems submitted feel like classics, yet in combination with the diurnal, mundane, surreal popular culture represented can move the reader to another place that is less familiar yet equally engaging.

The quality of the work and depth of Professor Mullen’s treatment of her complex subjects promise to appeal to a wide audience. Professor Mullen has previously published volumes of poetry and won a remarkable number of national and international awards, including an ATLAS award in 2006. The previous ATLAS grant resulted in the 2011 publication of a well-reviewed poetry collection, *Dark Archive*. Other recent poems have been published in a variety of well-regarded literary magazines. The poems submitted as the proposal’s work sample are formidable.

The applicant completed the book for which she was previously funded by ATLAS and her sample demonstrates that she is well along in completing the new book. These factors strongly suggest that she will complete and publish this project in a reasonable timeframe.

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

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



**PROPOSAL NO. 029ATL-12**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Women’s Rights Movement in Louisiana, 1960-1985”

**INSTITUTION:** McNeese State University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Janet Allured

Dr. Allured’s project offers a corrective to received views about the women’s rights/feminist movement in Louisiana, and places a regional perspective within broader national and international contexts. Her excellent study is likely to attract scholars interested in the history of the South, women, civil rights, and protest organizations. She aspires to reach beyond a scholarly audience to that always-elusive general reader. Based on the clarity and vigor of the writing sample and the appeal of this topic, this seems a realistic hope.

This is a work of recovery and celebration fueled by personal experience and political understanding, rather than theoretical ambition. It is, nonetheless, a serious scholarly project which examines the lives of a number of women activists, recognizing the variety of their origins and aspirations, acknowledging their accomplishments and limitations, and sympathizing with their courage and commitment. This will be an important book, as is reflected in the number of university presses expressing interest in the finished work.

Given the extraordinary teaching and administrative burdens that she carries, Dr. Allured has accomplished a great deal. Her work sample is excellent and the prospectus for the monograph admirably detailed. She has gathered a vast amount of evidence, put together an important collection, and begun to publish the results of her research. This is her book, the culmination of a lifetime of scholarship and teaching. The writing sample is first rate.

Considering how much she has been able to do with such little time and slender resources, there is every reason to believe that, with support from the ATLAS program, Dr. Allured will complete this project as planned.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$25,490**

**PROPOSAL NO. 037ATL-12**

**Rank: 1**

**TITLE:** “The Comparative Politics of Liberalism: Ideas and Institutions in Contemporary European Economic Policy”

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Mark I. Vail

Dr. Vail proposes to analyze how differences in traditions of economic liberalism shape trajectories of institutional and policy adjustment to conditions of economic austerity in Germany, France, and Italy. Germany is marked by a corporate liberalism, France, by a neutralist liberalism, and Italy, by a clientelist liberalism. These ideational differences emerged during the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. This project is significant to the comparative politics subfield in the discipline of political science and of immense interest for broader academic and lay audiences.

From a disciplinary perspective, Dr. Vail’s project is exciting because it merges the political economy approach of comparative politics with the ideational approach of political theory. Comparative politics is a subfield in political science traditionally uninterested in exploring the role of ideas in shaping economic policy and political institutions; political theory is a subfield in political science traditionally uninterested in relating the history of ideas to economic policy and political institutions. Furthermore, there is a tendency among American scholars in various disciplines to conceptualize the Enlightenment in Europe as a unified phenomenon when in fact Enlightenment ideas differ greatly across countries. It is high time for a scholar to make distinctions by country and to use those distinctions to understand cross-country differences in political institutions as they shape economic policy.

From the perspective of broader audiences, the project is exciting because it speaks to critically important issues in the European Monetary Union today—issues that, if mismanaged, will drag down the world economy—namely, how to deal with the wildly different ways in which the member countries have suffered under and responded to the 2008 Great Recession. Germany came out of the recession in relatively great shape, Italy, in disastrously bad shape, with France somewhere in between. Understanding the different institutional and policy adjustments made by these three countries is critical for the future of Europe, and such understanding requires precisely what the applicant proposes to do—to combine the history of ideas, political institutions, and economic policy.

The proposed book is nicely situated in the crosscurrent of two subfields in political science. It is further positioned to deal with a critically important real-world question. For both reasons, it seems likely that the applicant will succeed in publishing a paper in a leading comparative politics journal (he has submitted a book-related paper to the *British Journal of Political Science*) and the book with a leading university press.

Dr. Vail filed his dissertation in 2005. Given the relatively short period of time he has been professionally active, he has produced an impressive number of publications, both articles in peer-reviewed comparative politics journals and a book with Temple University Press. This appears to be a case in which the applicant’s field (roughly, comparative politics of Western Europe with a focus on welfare state, labor markets, and the like) was a disciplinary backwater in

the years leading up to the 2008 Great Recession and now suddenly has become the disciplinary center of action. If anything, Dr. Vail's future promise exceeds what one might predict based on his past accomplishments, which are impressive enough. Not only is he well published, he has also attracted a large number of fellowships and grants, some of them competitive and prestigious. He is an outstanding applicant.

The applicant's proposed book builds on his past book, and he has submitted a book-related paper for publication to a leading comparative politics journal. It appears very likely that he will achieve his goal of completing the proposed book during the ATLAS year.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED:      \$48,430**

**PROPOSAL NO. 031ATL-12**

**Rank: 4**

**TITLE:** “Interactive Installations Creation and Research”

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kevin H. Jones

Professor Jones presents a very interesting project that will contribute to the field of electronic/digital installation art and contemporary art in general. He is participating in the conceptual reevaluation of information systems and their representations through installations and constructs. Large-scale projections will be combined with an internal looping system or an interactive system. The process suggests the possibility of a work that will come into being through a complex, expansive manner of working, and will itself become complex and expansive. Through this work Professor Jones participates in an important inquiry, which can largely be understood as an inquiry into ways of knowing.

The proposal is presented in a straightforward way and written in a manner that clearly conveys its complex ideas. The applicant will explore large-scale installations that examine the natural world and utilize various electronic systems to make interactive art. The gallery images of previous work are informative and the sample succeeded in displaying how rather plain images could be enhanced when combined with movement and illumination. While the interactive elements of the project could not be experienced on the DVD, the proposal conveyed well the intent of and approach to this element.

Professor Jones’s previous digital installation work is strong and inclusive. It has an uncommon complexity: clean and dirty, logical and illogical, controlled and uncontrollable are featured within it. For the current project, the work sample and the clear statement of goals were a solid introduction and also persuasively argued that the project would be successfully completed. Professor Jones intends to acquaint himself with techniques for using electronics by studying in Japan and then exhibiting new work there. It is of great significance that the applicant has been invited to Akihabara, the “techno” city district of Tokyo. That he goes to Japan after the 2011 Tohoku tsunami and resulting nuclear disaster and after having had his own experience of Hurricane Katrina informs the current project and nicely extends his previous work. This is one of best places in the world to conduct research on interactive digital art. New arts forms such as cyborg performance and digitized sets and furniture for theatre are emerging from Akihabara. No documentation of the invitation to show at Art Lab Akiba was provided, so should be required prior to funding.

The work plan seems feasible and the applicant indicates he already has a date for exhibition. The panel is confident the project will be completed within the ATLAS year.

**The project is strongly recommended for funding, provided adequate documentation of the applicant’s invitation to show at Art Lab Akiba is furnished. The budget is reasonable and should be maintained in full.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$47,418**

**PROPOSAL NO. 035ATL-12**

**Rank: 5**

**TITLE:** “Responsibility From the Margins”

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** David W. Shoemaker

Dr. Shoemaker has developed an original theory and model of moral responsibility grounded in considerations of attributability, answerability, and accountability. He explains his paradigm by means of an exploration of real-world cases and a thorough grounding in the critical literature. The resulting book, likely to be of great interest to legal theorists and other scholars interested in questions of moral responsibility, promises to advance the field, and offers a view of the subject that might appeal beyond a specialist readership.

The applicant displays a mastery of the field based upon a decade of concentrated work, as well as a wide familiarity with major figures within his discipline. His project is well conceived, and the proposal very well written.

The level and frequency of Dr. Shoemaker’s publications – since receiving his doctoral degree in 1996, he has published a scholarly monograph, a textbook, and more than thirty articles and encyclopedia entries – feed naturally into the project. He has shown himself to be a regular contributor to the scholarly discourse and has already published arguments related to the proposed project. Dr. Shoemaker’s position as editor for a new Oxford University Press series further underscores his high profile as a researcher and scholar.

The amount of work already done and the maturity of the arguments are strong indicators that the project will be successfully completed in the near future. The panel is confident that the completed book will be a major contribution to the field and related scholarly areas.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$49,924**

**PROPOSAL NO. 005ATL-12**

**Rank: 6**

**TITLE:** "Southern Waters"

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Craig Colten

In his proposed project, Dr. Colten has discerned a significant gap in the literature on water in relation to environmental history and government policy. New England and the West have been extensively covered, with these regions serving as the focal points for understanding water use and the various perils with which it is faced. The South has been almost entirely overlooked, largely due to its surfeit of water: flooding is a far more common concern than scarcity. But as Dr. Colten observes, climate change is drastically altering the former dynamics of the region, resulting in a situation in which water supplies are increasingly imperiled. His project responds to this developing situation by offering an historically informed account of how water in the South has been regarded, alternately, as a resource and a hazard. His "regional interpretation of water resources" is directed towards water managers, environmental historians, and geographers. The perspective he offers is designed to overcome the myopic aspects of single-purpose policies (concerning flooding, pollution, or marine resources management), which can often work at cross-purposes, making a regional approach untenable.

The core insight in this project is that Southern water-use policies and practices are a tangled outgrowth of overlapping colonial structures. English, French, and Spanish legal precedents have intertwined over the centuries, resulting in patchwork and sometimes contradictory orientations toward water resources. As well, most approaches to water in the region have been shaped by concerns over individual river basins, which have historically limited the scope of water management policies. The resulting legal landscape is far more complex than that of other regions, presenting distinct challenges for water managers. This central insight is well founded and, via this treatment, is likely to have bearing on current policies and practices. Perhaps the greatest strength of this project is Dr. Colten's recognition that a profound shift is underway in the region, as scarcity replaces both flooding and contamination as the principal concern.

Dr. Colten is an accomplished scholar with a solid publishing record in history, geography, and environmentalism. He has published a substantial number of journal articles and a well-received book on New Orleans, which won both the J. B. Jackson Prize (Association of American Geographers) and the Fred B. Kniffen Book Award (Pioneer America Society). He has been researching and writing on water issues for over twenty years and has acquired considerable expertise, which he has brought to bear in public forums as an expert witness and in numerous media interviews on issues linked to New Orleans.

Dr. Colten's work plan is sound and quite feasible. Three of the eight proposed chapters will be drawn from previously published journal articles, and a fourth chapter will draw on material from forthcoming articles. The remaining chapters involve a mix of revising and expanding unpublished material while conducting some additional research. Given his record of productivity, Dr. Colten is very likely to complete this work as planned.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 021ATL-12**

**Rank: 7**

**TITLE:** “300 Years of New Masterworks for the Cello/3 CD recordings/3 New Published editions/and performances in N.Y. Carnegie Hall, Berlin, and Brazil”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dennis N. Parker

Professor Parker’s proposal, requesting support to produce three CDs of cello repertoire, as well as published editions and performances, shows strong initiative and ingenuity. It addresses an important question: how can a performer expand the repertoire for his instrument without the resources to commission new work? One answer proposed is a judicious transcription of work written for another instrument. But the main thrust of this proposal is in searching out work by significant modern composers that is not yet recorded. The audience for this project includes classical music enthusiasts and musicians.

The proposal clearly explains Professor Parker’s background and success as a performer (as well as a teacher, which is how most classical musicians earn a living). He provides a clear rationale for the selection of each piece that will be recorded. Besides the Mozart transcription that he will print and make available to other cellists, works include the world’s first commercially available recordings of cello pieces by Brazilian composer Walter Burle Marx as well as unrecorded work by the American composer Scott Eggert and works by Viktor Kalabis. It is a fresh, imaginative, varied, and well-balanced selection and does what so many concerts only pretend to do—genuinely extend the repertoire.

The applicant has won fellowships, produced music, and performed recitals and concerts internationally, including a debut at Carnegie Hall. He has sustained an artistic life as a cellist while teaching at LSU. His previous recordings, such as the cello concerto by Dinos Constantinides, exhibit the same imaginative extension of the repertoire. He brings considerable experience and deeply informed taste to this project. Based on his previous work and the submitted samples, Professor Parker is well prepared to undertake the three aspects of the project outlined in the proposal.

Given the history of previous work and the sound plan in the proposal, there is every reason to believe the project will be successfully completed. Arrangements are already in place with the LSU Symphony and other artists to record some portions of the CD.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$43,900**

**PROPOSAL NO. 041ATL-12**

**Rank: 8**

**TITLE:** “Kika Kila: The Hawaiian Guitar and the Indigenization of American Music”

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** John W. Troutman

Dr. Troutman’s proposal requests support to complete his cultural history of the Hawaiian steel guitar. The work will demonstrate the instrument’s importance in the evolution of American music in the early twentieth century. This will be an important book, both as a study of the origins of popular music and an analysis of how music changes in response to social, cultural, and economic developments.

The applicant has a powerful intellectual agenda that has sustained his work from the beginning of his career, addressing the question of how music (and particularly the music of indigenous peoples) creates and responds to historical change. His first book, *Indian Blues*, examines the political and cultural evolution of American Indian music in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The book won the American Historical Association’s W. Turrentine Jackson Award for the best dissertation on any aspect of the American West – a very significant honor.

The current project is clearly and forcefully presented. Dr. Troutman argues persuasively for the significance of his subject, reaching across disciplines with great skill. He makes a good case for the originality of his ideas and his command of the evidence, and demonstrates his ability to write an exciting and stimulating historical narrative.

Dr. Troutman’s proposal clearly presents a well-defined topic, an obvious mastery of the evidence, and a feasible schedule for completion. He is a productive and committed young scholar. The panel is confident that he will finish this work as planned and within a reasonable timeframe.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$34,708**



**PROPOSAL NO. 049ATL-12**

**Rank: 9**

**TITLE:** *“From Cleveland to Cairo: A Life of Constance Fenimore Woolson”*

**INSTITUTION:** University of New Orleans

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Anne Boyd Rioux

A first biography of Constance Fenimore Woolson would make a significant intellectual contribution to the field of American literary history. As Dr. Rioux persuasively shows in her proposal, Woolson was a writer of note whose life and career offer valuable perspectives on post-bellum U.S. letters (and not just because she was a good friend of Henry James). The applicant places Woolson nicely in 19<sup>th</sup>-century conversations about “gender, art, realism, the politics of race and ethnicity, and the devastation of nature,” as well as within the larger frame of international realism (and, more broadly, Romanticism).

This is a biography, so its conception, definition, and description are appropriately straightforward. Dr. Rioux has provided an exceptionally clear and specific account of the work she proposes to do. The highly detailed chapter summaries and outlines indicate that she is steeped in her subject and has resolved any organizational issues. The scope of the biography is traditional, and the applicant does not try to situate her analysis within the matrix of U.S. literary studies today. Indeed, the book as she has proposed it could have been written ten or even thirty years ago. However, this is not a serious shortcoming, and is more than offset by the intellectual value of the biography.

Dr. Rioux’s previous work is first rate. Since getting her doctorate in 1999, she has published two well-received books with John Hopkins University Press, one of these an anthology. Johns Hopkins has already placed this work under contract as well, demonstrating its appeal and value. The proposal makes a strong case for a biography of Woolson, and indicates that the project is already well underway.

The proposed work plan is certainly feasible. The applicant has a demonstrated ability to work efficiently and complete the work she undertakes, and the panel is confident this project will be no exception.

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

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$35,602**

**PROPOSAL NO. 027ATL-12**

**Rank: 10**

**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 been submitted several times to the ATLAS program, and has improved with each submission. This year, Dr. Weltman describes her project more narrowly and more promisingly as far as its significance and potential audience. She no longer aims to write primarily an American Studies book that sheds light on U.S. culture by way of Broadway performance of Victorian literature, but a work that will substantially contribute to the history and understanding of the American musical theater. The finished work should be important and attract scholarly audiences across numerous arts and humanities disciplines.

The organization of this project is appropriate and promises to be effective. Conceptually, it is now much stronger than previous versions. The revised proposal contains a new section in the introduction that addresses concerns about the historical context for the study, and the chapter descriptions contain additional historical details, some quite interesting. However, traces of the old problem of definition linger here and there. The panel urges Dr. Weltman to focus her work as an account of Victorians on Broadway, and to bring in only secondarily what significance the musicals studied might have as a window into U.S. cultural history. For example, in the writing sample the discussion of “performing Jewishness” in *Oliver!* is on solid ground as long as it addresses the critical reception of the musical in the United Kingdom and U.S. and to interviews with performers *et al.* But the applicant should take care to restrict the scope of her claims, since the endnotes to the essay suggest that she has not had time to read and reflect on the extensive bibliography in American Studies on performance and ethnic identity, as well as the complex relations between black and Jewish identity in musical performance.

Dr. Weltman is a distinguished scholar with an impressive research record. Her previous work has been of very high quality, as is the writing in this proposal. She is clearly passionate about this project and well prepared to bring it to fulfillment. The panel is certain that she will complete this project successfully and in timely fashion.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 007ATL-12**

**Rank: 11**

**TITLE:** “*Writing with shadowless light: How the skilled craft of neon transformed the night*”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dydia DeLyser

This project on neon lighting in the American landscape represents the kind of interdisciplinary scholarship that emerges at the boundaries of disciplines – in this case, geography (social sciences) and the humanities. Dr. DeLyser’s previous publications are found in works of qualitative geography and hermeneutics (the interpretation of landscapes). She has also done work in historical geography (woman homesteaders and early women pilots) that has taken expression in both monuments and PBS documentaries. Although the panel is not keen on neologisms like “geo-Humanities,” it is justified if one is to understand the scale, scope, mission, and audience for the applicant’s work.

Dr. DeLyser has accumulated a significant body of work that augurs well for the intellectual significance of her current project on neon lighting. Far from being merely a commercial tool for advertising goods and service, neon lighting is itself a product of both art and craft, and no scholar has yet told this story or interpreted its significance for cultural history. Such work needs someone with the right mix of technical skills, cultural sophistication, and ethnographic sensitivity – and Dr. DeLyser has demonstrated that she has these qualities.

The project, which involves both a case study and archival research, is clearly described and organized. The applicant is very familiar with the subject and with the methodology required for such interdisciplinary research, and her proposal is highly scholarly in conception. The essay on *Ramona* submitted in the sample of work nicely illustrates Dr. DeLyser’s interdisciplinary approach and expertise.

The applicant’s first book on tourism in Southern California won a prestigious award in her professional association (geography). She has received a number of other awards for scholarly achievement, and the panel has no doubt that the new project will bring professional recognition by her peers. Especially commendable is the fact that she is writing not just for her own field but also for a broader scholarly community that includes researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

Although the writing schedule is ambitious, Dr. DeLyser successfully followed a similar schedule for her earlier book. She can certainly complete the work in the timeframe envisaged.

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

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

**PROPOSAL NO. 028ATL-12**

**Rank: 12**

**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

Dr. Stoff’s project examines women’s medical service in Russia during the First World War. This will be a significant contribution to the social history of the War, and especially the role of women both at the front and at home. As the panel has noted in previous reviews, while these subjects have attracted a good deal of attention among French and British historians, the Russian experience is less well known. This will be a useful and important book, and attract a wide scholarly audience interested in the First World War, Russian history, women’s studies, and other fields.

This is a clearly defined project that proposes to conduct conventional historical scholarship. It aims to study a well-defined topic, clearly set in time and place, a body of evidence that illuminates this subject, and a set of questions about how and why this subject matters. There is no deep theory here, but solid, impressive historical scholarship. No one has studied this topic before; it is worth knowing about; Dr. Stoff will tell us what we need to know.

The applicant has published an important, well-received book that has established her place in a field that has long attracted excellent scholarship. Her current book builds on, but extends this previous work. The writing sample, a chapter from the proposed book, is well written, clearly argued, and deeply researched.

The project seems to have progressed well toward completion. Considering the amount Dr. Stoff must teach and the administrative burdens she carries, she has accomplished a great deal. With a year’s leave, the panel has no doubt that she will complete the project on schedule.

**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: \$34,183**

**PROPOSAL NO. 014ATL-12**

**Rank: 13**

**TITLE:** “Fairytale”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kelli Scott Kelley

Kelli Scott Kelley’s proposed project is a foray into narrative and image. Fairytales have been and continue to be a resource and inspiration for many artists. There is a strong tradition within contemporary visual art practice of deploying the fairytale in a straightforward manner, and an equally strong tradition of questioning, mocking, and subverting it, thus undermining its meaning. Although the applicant acknowledges each of these traditions in her written application, the significance of her project in relation to either tradition or to current visual art practice is not well articulated. Professor Kelley’s imaginative, playful, accessible paintings, however, are true to her description of them as an exploration of the world of the fairytale with all its attendant Jungian implications. Although the works do not depict scenes from specific stories, their dreamlike imagery suggests narrative power. The applicant’s imaginative domain seems particularly connected to Louisiana history when she uses “found materials” such as crochet, linen and other fabric. The significance of the project for current art practice is in this experimentation with the combination of forms.

The proposal draws upon older and conventional sources for an understanding of fairytales. The work is unified by style, tone, and imagery; this is a case in which each painting genuinely gains significance from its inclusion in the series. Professor Kelley’s prints are imaginative, fantastic, and evocative of childhood from an adult perspective. The samples of work are accomplished and, along with the applicant’s history of exhibitions, give reason to believe this project will be successful. Professor Kelley has a very clear idea of what she wants to accomplish. The short video, *Bird and Squirrel*, is not equal in quality to the other works and its intended audience is uncertain.

The project is artfully conceived, skillfully executed and appears to be well underway. The panel is confident that the project will be successfully completed in a timely fashion.

**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: \$32,344**

**PROPOSAL NO. 004ATL-12**

**Rank: 14**

**TITLE:** “Counseling Adolescent Girls: A Guide to Mental Health Treatment and Prevention”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Laura Choate

The importance of Dr. Choate’s project is that she expands current perspectives on adolescent mental health by attending to both processes of socialization and a range of powerful societal messages that impact young girls’ thinking about their bodies and identities. In the current moment, adolescent girls may simultaneously be quite accomplished academically and yet prone to major episodes of depression, with increasing rates of suicide and at serious risk of sexual abuse. Dr. Choate seeks to contextualize this predicament, not by fixating on purported or presumed mental states but rather on the major social transformation that has resulted in “the sexualization of girlhood.” She delineates key cultural trends that have produced this transformation and then renders them tangible and relevant to mental health professionals. Her timely take on current trends should be well received.

The great promise of the project’s approach is that Dr. Choate combines a broader social analysis with a set of therapeutic and prevention approaches. This is not solely an academic project. Positing an “ecological, multi-systemic analysis of the changes and transitions” girls face in adolescence, she develops intervention strategies that counselors can use in helping young girls contend with emotional distress. Her therapy suggestions are directed towards major health problems, such as depression, eating disorders, and substance abuse. But since Dr. Choate does not provide much detail on the type of interventions she promotes, it is unclear how these fit in relation to current practices in the field or more academic work. She also does not convey how she researched this subject or brought her analytical model to bear on particular subjects. Adolescents are rendered here in generic terms, with no attention to the important impacts of race and class. It would be helpful to have some discussion of how these experiences – and, most importantly, the processes of socialization – vary across significant social boundaries.

Dr. Choate has a steady publishing record in the area of counseling on the topic of girls’ and women’s wellness issues. She appears to be well regarded in her field, and the fact that she has received an advance contract from Springer Publications speaks to the merits both of her proposal and the quality of her previous research. She has laid out an ambitious plan to complete a first draft of her book manuscript by July 1, 2013. Given that this project will come soon after completion of a manuscript she is currently writing, it seems likely this pace is optimistic.

**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. 040ATL-12**

**Rank: 15**

**TITLE:** "Genius Loci: How Cajun and German Farmers and Fabricators Invented a Traditional Amphibious Craft"

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** John Laudun

Through this project, Dr. Laudun proposes, in effect, to create a new field of study: the crawfish boat. He addresses his topic movingly and with analytic ease, developing a theory of creativity as he proceeds. At the same time, he places his work within the emerging study of folklore and folk production. In fact, his argument for the study of creativity contests or, at the least, supplements that of Henry Glassie. The project will be published as part of the Mellon Foundation's series, "Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World," and is likely to attract a considerable readership among both scholarly and general audiences, particularly those interested in Louisiana folk culture.

The application has been developed to a suitable level of detail and is clearly presented and organized. The proposal has been framed well, provides concrete discussion and illustrations, and powerfully underscores the German/Cajun confluence and interaction. As with last year's submission, the panel found the project highly engaging. Dr. Laudun brings knowledge and passion to his topic, and everything about the project benefits from the virtue of his fine prose. While the conceptualization and organization of the work have undergone changes and further definition since last year's submission, the panel was somewhat concerned that the writing itself does not seem to have progressed.

Although scholarly monographs have not been the applicant's usual idiom of contribution, he has been productive, and he has thoroughly thought through the present project. He has placed several articles in journals of folklore studies. Since last year, Dr. Laudun has published a book chapter and had another article accepted. It is clear that he is an active and engaged scholar, committed to this work.

The work is well conceptualized and defined, and the finished project will fit nicely in the Mellon Foundation's series. The panel is confident that the work will be completed successfully in the near future.

**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: \$39,677**

**PROPOSAL NO. 016ATL-12**

**Rank: 16**

**TITLE:** “Trusting Memory”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Sean M. Lane

Dr. Lane proposes to merge basic research on perception, attention, and memory with applied research on eyewitness memory of complex real-world events. This merger is important to his field of study (eyewitness memory) and of interest to broader academic and professional audiences. Basic researchers tend to focus on narrow and simplified settings, and their work does not necessarily carry over to complex real-world settings. Conversely, applied researchers analyze complex real-world settings, but their work is not necessarily grounded in basic research findings. By spanning basic and applied research, the applicant promises to inform both types.

This project speaks to the real-world problem of eyewitness memory. Eyewitnesses are simultaneously compelling and unreliable, as a result of which there are people in prison or on death row who should not be, which is a moral disaster. Legal professionals should be urgently interested in what Dr. Lane has to say. This project might support the development of effective ways to help eyewitnesses do a better job remembering what they saw and investigators do a better job assessing the accuracy of eyewitnesses.

The applicant is well suited to this project. His career combines academic (research-oriented) and real-world (practice-oriented) appointments. In addition to being affiliated with universities, Dr. Lane has worked in industry, including one year at a scientific consulting company that provided expert testimony in civil cases. His numerous publications include both basic and applied research. He has been active professionally in real-world settings as, for example, member of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Face Memory and Lie Detection. The overall picture is that of a researcher who is eminently competent and well positioned to execute the proposed project.

The project is well considered, grounded in the applicant’s past research, and far enough along that it appears likely that he will complete the project within or soon after a year of ATLAS support.

**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: \$46,568**



**PROPOSAL NO. 038ATL-12**

**Rank: 17**

**TITLE:** “Marketing Milton: Constructing the Author and a Middlebrow English Canon: 1642-1736”

**INSTITUTION:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Elizabeth Bobo

This project – a print culture study of Milton representations, including Milton’s own construction of his identity in print – promises to open new vistas in the history of the book. The panel believes that Dr. Bobo’s work on Milton has strong promise, though the application does not go far enough in articulating and arguing for its importance in relation to other work in the fields of the study. The proposal would be strengthened if it made stronger, more direct claims for its place within Milton studies and/or print culture studies.

The conception of this project is straightforward and sensible: a chronological exposition of the establishing of Milton’s reputation and canonical status in English literature. Integrating reception theory, canon formation, and publication history into the critical frame, Dr. Bobo provides an excellent account of each chapter of the proposed book, and the work sample is both well written and compelling. Her scholarship is likely to make a major contribution to the study of Milton.

Dr. Bobo does not yet have a strong publication record, but the fact that she has a number of essays (including one in an MLA volume) accepted during the past few years speaks well to the quality of her research. It may be that she has chosen to focus principally on this book project rather than shorter scholarly work; for that reason she should make the strongest possible case for the significance and value of this project.

Dr. Bobo’s work plan appears to be feasible and the timeline reasonable. The panel is confident she will be able to complete the work successfully and in the time envisioned if ATLAS funding is provided.

**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: \$46,373**

**PROPOSAL NO. 019ATL-12**

**Rank: 18**

**TITLE:** “Finishing and Fine Tuning an Academic GPS for Content Teachers”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Paul Mooney

Dr. Mooney is an active researcher in the field of curriculum-based measurement. He proposes to develop an “academic GPS” for middle school teachers. His tool consists of a briefly and easily executed five-minute vocabulary-matching test. The test results are strongly correlated with student performance in an annually recurring State grade-level accountability test – indeed, they correlate better than do the results of other well-recognized tests, including tests that are vastly more difficult to execute. The vocabulary test thus enables teachers to determine in an ongoing way whether their students are making progress towards the proficiency levels required by the State test; to identify at-risk students; and to make real-time data-driven curriculum adjustments. It will presumably also increase the number of students who pass the State test, which comes with all sorts of advantages to students, teachers, administrators, and schools. This is particularly important given that in 2011 about 200,000 students in Grades 5 through 8 completed the Louisiana State grade-level accountability test, with one in three students failing to meet grade-level proficiency requirements, but one in five students scoring close to passing scores. The applicant’s academic GPS tool could nudge those borderline students into passing the State test.

Concretely, the applicant proposes to use ATLAS funding to develop a completely functional online version of his test, which will make it more convenient for teachers to apply the test as well as open the door to further research. Dr. Mooney offers a powerful argument for the practical importance of the measurement tool he has developed, including the value of moving it online. For the purposes of the ATLAS award, the larger question of whether the testing movement in the U.S. educational enterprise is a good thing or a bad thing is not at issue. What is at issue is whether, relative to the current debates in the learning sciences, the applicant is proposing to do something of value, and the applicant has made the case. If there is a weakness in the case, it is that what Dr. Mooney proposes to do with the ATLAS funding – having a consultant upgrade the score reporting and feedback functions of the LSU Moodle, and developing written and video materials that will foster application of the tool – does not strongly correlate to ATLAS program goals and objectives. That said, the applicant’s applied activities are an integral part of a larger research program on curriculum-based measurement, which is research university-level work.

Dr. Mooney is well suited to complete the project successfully. His career combines academic (research-oriented) appointments with real-world (practice-oriented) appointments. In addition to being affiliated with a research university, he has worked in K-12 schools, including seven years as a school psychologist. His numerous publications include both basic research and applied research in the learning sciences. The overall picture is that of a researcher who is eminently competent and well positioned to execute the proposed project.

The proposed project is an extension of work Dr. Mooney has done in the past (he developed a paper-and-pencil tool which is now going online). In terms of his intellectual and organizational preparation, the panel is confident that he can complete the proposed project in a timely way.

**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:     \$50,000**

**PROPOSAL NO. 030ATL-12**

**Rank: 19**

**TITLE:** *“Jews in the Cotton Industry: Ethnic Networks in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gulf South”*

**INSTITUTION:** Tulane University

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Michael Cohen

Dr. Cohen is interested in American Jewish history and proposes to examine a relatively unstudied time and place in the Jewish experience: the South during the middle decades of the nineteenth century. His project examines the role of Jews in the development of the cotton industry before, during, and after the Civil War. He is less interested in questions about economic growth than in the formation of a Jewish middle class, which includes such prominent later figures as the Lehman brothers. The Lehman brothers/Macy’s/New Orleans connections were particularly intriguing, and the idea of treating Jewish economic life through dealings in the cotton industry is fertile ground for a wide-ranging exploration of North-South-British connections during the Civil War era.

This is a clear-cut historical project, focused on the work of selected individuals and firms. The project is well organized, deeply researched, and cogently argued, but, as presented in the proposal, is largely descriptive. It does not seem to draw on the rich theoretical literature about managerial organization, commercial networks, and ethnicity. The proposal could have argued more strongly for the project’s broader significance.

This project marks a new direction in the applicant’s work, towards economic history and the South. His first book, forthcoming from Columbia University Press in 2012, seems to be a more conventional study of Jewish religious ideas and organizations. Dr. Cohen has given a paper on the proposal topic and has conducted much of the required archival work, suggesting he is well prepared to complete the current project.

Given the amount of work that remains, Dr. Cohen’s timetable may be overly optimistic. He has written one chapter, but still has some research to do. He is a productive and well-organized scholar, but it not clear that he can finish such extensive work by the end of the ATLAS funding 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 recommends revision of the proposal for the next ATLAS cycle.**

**BoRSF FUNDING RECOMMENDED: \$42,499**

**PROPOSAL NO. 011ATL-12**

**Rank: 20**

**TITLE:** “Art and Idea in the Fiction of China Miéville”

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

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Carl Freedman

China Miéville is an important science fiction writer whose novels have garnered a committed following throughout the world. As is often the case with science fiction, there is a deep ideological current running through this work; he creates alternate universes in order to examine critically contemporary society. Dr. Freedman’s proposed book promises to become the standard work on Miéville, and his brief account of the literary context helps the panel to understand the importance of this author and his study.

Dr. Freedman’s project is quite straightforward: he will analyze Miéville’s major works, devoting a chapter to each. The purpose of the resulting book is to provide a literary guide to Miéville’s fiction and to set it within its literary, philosophical, and ideological contexts. Dr. Freedman obviously knows this landscape well; in many ways his entire career has been a preparation to write this book.

The applicant is a very productive scholar. He has published widely on popular culture (including film), cultural theory, and literature, particularly science fiction. He is also well known as an editor and reviewer, further signs that he is a leader in this field.

The project is well defined, and the panel noted several revisions from the previous submission. A chapter has been added, a chapter deleted, and the prospectus reordered. Little progress seems to have been made on the writing over the last year. Nevertheless, there seems little doubt that Dr. Freedman can and will complete it if he has a year’s leave.

**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 2011-12 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

#### **49      TOTAL PROPOSALS**

25	HUM	Humanities
15	ARTS	Arts
9	SOC SCI	Social Sciences

**TOTAL FIRST-YEAR FUNDS REQUESTED: \$2,147,688**



**Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Program  
FY 2011-12 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-12 ARTS/Poetry	Mona Lisa Saloy	Dillard	Humidity & Heart: Post-Katrina Poems	\$20,486
002ATL-12 ARTS/Design	Lynne Baggett	LSU-BR	Idiosyncrasies and Innovation: A detailed analysis of the incised letterform carvings from 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> Century grave markers	\$44,936
003ATL-12 ARTS/Fiction	James G. Bennett	LSU-BR	The Home Front	\$50,000
004ATL-12 SS/Other	Laura Choate	LSU-BR	Counseling Adolescent Girls: A Guide to Mental Health Treatment and Prevention	\$50,000
005ATL-12 SS/Geography	Craig Colten	LSU-BR	Southern Waters	\$50,000
006ATL-12 HUM/Foreign Lang & Lit	Alejandro Cortazar	LSU-BR	Historias de amor, historias de la nación: romanticismo e identidad cultural en México [Love Stories, Stories of the Nation: Romanticism and Cultural Identity Formation in Mexico]	\$45,809
007ATL-12 HUM/Other	Dydia DeLyser	LSU-BR	<i>“Writing with shadowless light: How the skilled craft of neon transformed the night”</i>	\$50,000
008ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	William W. Demastes	LSU-BR	Contemporary Drama: Completing Works on John Guare, Tom Stoppard, and the American Short Play	\$50,000

009ATL-12 HUM/Philosophy	Denise Egéa-Kuehne	LSU-BR	<b><u>Completion of original book: Key Critical Thinkers in Education: Derrida - Introduction to the Philosopher of Deconstruction and Responsibility, Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Sense Publishers. UNDER CONTRACT</u></b>	\$50,000
010ATL-12 HUM/Religion	Cecil Eubanks	LSU-BR	The Dialectic of Grace and Power: Niebuhr, Bonhoeffer, and Christian Pacifism	\$50,000
011ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Carl Freedman	LSU-BR	“Art and Idea in the Fiction of China Miéville”	\$50,000
012ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Angeletta Gourdine	LSU-BR	DestiNation Paradise	\$50,000
013ATL-12 ARTS/Digital Art	Margaret “Margot” Herster; Frederick “Derick” Ostrenko	LSU-BR	THE GUANTANAMO PROJECT INTERACTIVE DOCUMENTARY	\$65,436
014ATL-12 ARTS/Painting, Sculpture & Installation Art	Kelli Scott Kelley	LSU-BR	Fairytale	\$32,344
015ATL-12 HUM/Foreign Lang & Lit	Touria Khannous	LSU-BR	<i>The Politics of Representation in African Women’s Literature, Film, and Internet Discourse: Gender, Nationalism, Islam, and Globalism</i>	\$18,090

016ATL-12 SS/Psychology	Sean M. Lane	LSU-BR	Trusting Memory	\$46,568
017ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	John Lowe	LSU-BR	“The Tropical Sublime in the Atlantic World”	\$50,000
018ATL-12 ARTS/Design	Cathy S. Marshall; J. Kevin Risk	LSU-BR	<i>Louisiana Palimpsest: order, pattern, territory</i>	\$63,915
019ATL-12 SS/Other	Paul Mooney	LSU-BR	Finishing and Fine Tuning an Academic GPS for Content Teachers	\$50,000
020ATL-12 ARTS/Poetry	Laura Mullen	LSU-BR	The Engagements	\$50,000
021ATL-12 ARTS/Performance Arts	Dennis N. Parker	LSU-BR	300 Years of New Masterworks for the Cello/3 CD recordings/3 New Published editions/and performances in N.Y. Carnegie Hall, Berlin, and Brazil	\$43,900
022ATL-12 HUM/Foreign Lang & Lit	Rosemary Peters	LSU-BR	Charles de Foucauld’s <i>Reconnaissance au Maroc</i> : A Critical Edition and Translation	\$41,913
023ATL-12 HUM/Philosophy	John Protevi	LSU-BR	“A book on philosophy of biology”	\$50,000
024ATL-12 ARTS/Other	Loren Schwerd; Lara Glenum	LSU-BR	<i>Yumfactory</i>	\$94,039

025ATL-12 SS/Geography	Andrew Sluyter	LSU-BR	“New Orleans, Nueva Orleans, Nova Orleães: The Latino Side of the Crescent City”	\$49,960
026ATL-12 SS/Anthropology & Archaeology	Peter Sutherland	LSU-BR	Ancestral Modernities: Neoliberal Visions of the Middle Passage	\$35,341
027ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Sharon Aronofsky Weltman	LSU-BR	<i>Victorians on Broadway: The Afterlife of Victorian Literature on the American Musical Stage, 1951-2000</i>	\$50,000
028ATL-12 HUM/History	Laurie Stoff	LA Tech	“More than Binding Men’s Wounds: Women’s Medical Service in Russia during the Great War”	\$34,183
029ATL-12 HUM/History	Janet Allured	McNeese	The Women’s Rights Movement in Louisiana, 1960-1985	\$25,490
030ATL-12 HUM/History	Michael Cohen	Tulane	<i>Jews in the Cotton Industry: Ethnic Networks in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Gulf South</i>	\$42,499
031ATL-12 ARTS/Digital Art	Kevin H. Jones	Tulane	Interactive Installations Creation and Research	\$47,418
032ATL-12 ARTS/Design	Grover E. Mouton, III	Tulane	Exhibition: Drawings to Inform Urban Design	\$39,585
033ATL-12 SS/Economics	Mary K. Olson	Tulane	Examining the Determinants of Declining U.S. Launch Lags	\$50,000

034ATL-12 SS/Anthropology & Archaeology	Christopher B. Rodning	Tulane	Chaos Theory and the Archaeology of Cherokee Towns in the Southern Appalachians	\$43,575
035ATL-12 HUM/Philosophy	David W. Shoemaker	Tulane	Responsibility From the Margins	\$49,924
036ATL-12 HUM/Foreign Lang & Lit	Michael Syrimis	Tulane	Italian Film Culture of the 1930s: Literary Adaptations	\$42,097
037ATL-12 SS/Political Science	Mark I. Vail	Tulane	The Comparative Politics of Liberalism: Ideas and Institutions in Contemporary European Economic Policy	\$48,430
038ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Elizabeth Bobo	UL Lafayette	“Marketing Milton: Constructing the Author and a Middlebrow English Canon: 1642-1736”	\$46,373
039ATL-12 ARTS/Studio Arts	David DuBose	UL Lafayette	<u>On the Island: Original Prints by David DuBose, Northern Ireland 1992-2005</u>	\$30,810
040ATL-12 HUM/Other	John Laudun	UL Lafayette	Genius Loci: How Cajun and German Farmers and Fabricators Invented a Traditional Amphibious Craft	\$39,677
041ATL-12 HUM/History	John W. Troutman	UL Lafayette	Kika Kila: The Hawaiian Guitar and the Indigenization of American Music	\$34,708

042ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Jack Heflin; William Ryan	UL Monroe	ULM Press/turnrow books Two International Anthologies	\$69,897
043ATL-12 ARTS/Creative Nonfiction	Randy Bates	UNO	<i>Magnolia Amusement Company: Portraits in Mississippi</i>	\$15,470
044ATL-12 ARTS/Photography	Nikki Brown	UNO	African American men and Rites of Passage in New Orleans: A Photographic Essay	\$7,282
045ATL-12 ARTS/Filmmaking	Laszlo Fulop; Marline Otte	UNO	IMMIGRANTS	\$50,000
046ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	John R. O. Gery	UNO	EZRA POUND'S VENICE: A LITERARY GUIDE	\$39,217
047ATL-12 HUM/History	Michael Mizell- Nelson; Matthew Martinez	UNO	New Deal Artist via New Media: Curating Enrique Alferez for Mobile Tours	\$35,004
048ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Zhaoming Qian	UNO	Winter Sunrise: New York Modernists' Late-Life Collaborations with Far-Eastern Artists	\$17,710

049ATL-12 HUM/English Lang & Lit	Anne Boyd Rioux	UNO	<i>From Cleveland to Cairo: A Life of Constance Fenimore Woolson</i>	\$35,602
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**2011-12 COMPETITION: SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

**NUMBER OF PROPOSALS: 49**

**Arts: 15**

**Humanities: 25**

**Social Sciences: 9**

**TOTAL REQUESTED: \$2,147,688**