Report to the Louisiana Board of Regents

Review of Proposals Submitted for Funding Consideration

In the Board of Regents Support Fund R&D Program

Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram

Subject-Area Review: SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Phase One: IN-DEPTH EVALUATIONS OF PROPOSALS BY SUBJECT-AREA PANEL

Professors Susanne Lohmann and John Hartigan reviewed 14 ATLAS social sciences proposals using the following criteria: (1) the significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences; (2) the strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution; (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 within a limited timeframe.

Lohmann reviewed the proposals of Professors Bauer, Dimitrov, Hoerger, Murakami, Philips, Tirone, and Truitt, and Hartigan reviewed the proposals of Professors Aidoo, Balee, Chen, Colten, Papesh, Shport, and Sluyter. Lohmann and Hartigan further exchanged notes on each others' proposals and reviews to merge their respective rankings and create a joint ranking.

Two proposals—Colten and Sluyter—were "revise and resubmits" from last year. Sluyter is a previous recipient of an ATLAS grant. Truitt applied previously, but with a different project.

Ms. Carrie Robison informed us that the dollar amount of $70,000 would be available to the social science proposals. This implies that the "funding action" lies with the top three proposals, as in, the top two will get funded, and the third will not. Hence we put special care into ranking the top three proposals.

We sorted the proposals into two categories: (1) recommendation to fund and (2) recommendation to reject. The proposals in category (1) are rank-ordered by quality, that is, #1 should be funded before #2, which should be funded before #3, and so on. The

proposals in category (2) are sorted alphabetically by last name. The funding recommendations are followed by the individual reviews, which are sorted alphabetically.

(1) Recommendation to fund (rank order)

#1. Tatsuya Murakami, The Making of an Ancient City: Materiality of Power and Identity and Teotihuacan

#2. Martin Dimitrov, Dictatorship and Information: Autocratic Regime Resilience in Communist Europe and China

#3. Andrew Sluyter, Publication of an Online Database of Colonial Maps for the Analysis of Social and Environmental Change in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

#4. Daniel Tirone, A Political Economy of Piracy and Maritime Crime

(2) Recommendation to reject (alphabetical order)

Fallon Aidoo, New Orleans Historical Live! Revitalizing a Local Register of Historic Places

William Balee, Historical Ecology of the Lower Amazon

Nichole Bauer, Qualifications Count: Why Women Must Be Better Than Men to Win Political Office

Xiaojin Chen, Parental Migration Caretaking Arrangements and Children's Wellbeing in Rural China

Craig Colten, A Place for People: Society and Culture on Louisiana's Fragile Coast

Michael Hoerger, Psychologist: Reluctant Warrior in Care for the Seriously Ill

Megan Papesh, Modern Pupillometry: Cognition, Neuroscience, and Practical Applications

Menaka Philips, The Liberalism Trap: John Stuart Mill and Our Crisis of Certainty

Irina Shport, Acquiring Word Prosody in Second Language Learning

Allison Truitt, Gold Matters: Materializing Money in Vietnam at the End of the Twentieth Century

Fallon Aidoo, New Orleans Historical Live! Revitalizing a Local Register of Historic Places

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Aidoo aims to explore whether participatory and public GIS, the newest decision-support tools of preservation planners, can enliven public history platforms as well as revitalize historic places. Her audience is city history buffs, architecture enthusiasts, neighborhood stewards and heritage managers, all of whom could contribute their knowledge to current campaigns to save or restore New Orleans' built environment through the app Dr. Aidoo envisions designing—*New Orleans Historical Live!*, a web-based envelope proposed for *New Orleans Historical*—could transform the public history site into a shaper of preservation praxis.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Dr. Aidoo sees preservationists "muddling through" procurement, production and processing of historical documentation and data on urban heritage; she has designed her project "to support public historians as they decide whether to adapt their placekeeping apps to placemaking or to adopt placemaking platforms for placekeeping." More particularly, Dr. Aidoo recounts that "*New Orleans Historical* operates at a loss at a time when the state is gaining standing in national networks of cultural heritage management and historic resource preservation." Her plan is to assemble an interdisciplinary research team consisting of a preservation planner, a public historian and tech entrepreneurs to explore how ArcGIS Apps from ESRI (a mapmaking software company) might be contribute to and enhance *New Orleans Historical* stories and tours. She envisions that these apps will "allow users to investigate many, sometimes conflicting, histories of and plans for a single place," while also "incentiviz[ing] investment in historic and cultural preservation projects as practitioners and/or patrons." But the key limitation is that this project is very narrowly tailored to the website *New Orleans Historical*.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The strength of Dr. Aidoo's project is she sees opportunities to increase the accessibility to historical knowledge in New Orleans. She understands technology very well, both in terms of its potential and its constraints. She imagines how these apps will "enlist digital and actual 'site' visitors and tourists in place-based activities, engage app users in historical and contemporary site analyses, entrust documentation to conservancies and commissioners of cultural heritage, or expense place making or placekeeping to grassroots and governmental grantmakers." She is very knowledgeable about how *New Orleans Historical*'s archives of sounds, sights, stories and scholarship could be of interest to visitors of historic places. Also, she has a keen sense of how, with new data architecture and data science, "the domain will host both 'legacy data' apps that archive and author documentation of historic places and 'live data' apps that activate and analyze place-making and placekeeping." Importantly, too, she sees the necessity "to convene both consensus and contentious politics in a commons, where relationships with preservation practitioners and data-driven planners in New Orleans can be renegotiated and rebuilt." But to enhance the potential significance of this project, it would matter for Dr. Aidoo to elaborate on how *New Orleans Historical Live!* "places public history centers such as the UNO Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies and their decision-support tools at fork of the road forward for policymakers, planners and preservationists." How might her approach be relevant to historical enthusiasts in other cities?

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Aidoo is an urban planning scholar, educator and practitioner. She has spent two decades leading diversity, equity and inclusion programs in architecture, planning, preservation and engineering professions. Her digital projects have been successful and led to two peer-reviewed publications on "grey infrastructure greening such as rail-trails and canal reconstruction", which earned recognition from academic and professional organizations. As well, her research on decision-support tools for historic and cultural

preservationists is the subject of a book chapter in a forthcoming publication of Columbia University Press. All of this speaks to the likely high quality of her project.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

Dr. Aidoo lays out a reasonable schedule for her plan of work, which involves assessing hardware needs and human resource costs, evaluating compatibility constraints and compiling opportunities of ESRI's AppBuilder, deciding on historical content to include and developing the decision-support tool. It is likely that this app will be thoroughly tested for "applicability, affordability and accessibility."

Recommendation for Funding:

Because of its narrow scope and focus, the panel does not recommend funding this project.

William Balee, Historical Ecology of the Lower Amazon

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

The principal product of this project is a monograph on the Lower Amazon, examining the region's distinctive cultural, linguistic, geographic, ecological, and biological aspects. Balée envisions this book as "a well-illustrated, historical-ecological guide to societies, histories, and landscapes of this equatorial subregion of the Americas," aimed at "an educated audience, including specialists and general readers."

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

The significance of this project is difficult to assess because Balée devotes scant effort to addressing the question. The cultural groups that are the focus of his current research are "several peasantries distinctive by ethnicity and traditional knowledge in the region of the Lower Amazon." These are part of a community of descendants of fugitive Afro-Brazilian slaves (known as *quilombolas*). Balée will presumably frame their distinctiveness in relation to other indigenous societies in this region where he has done extensive fieldwork over the years. But how that comparison will be developed is unclear.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The preponderance of Balée's proposal is devoted to his considerable career of doing fieldwork along the Amazon since 1979. Over the course of his inquiries, he developed "historical ecology" as a distinctive research program. Starting in the 2000s, he began to expand beyond his exclusively Amazonian focus to consider the applicability of historical ecology as a "way of understanding peoples and their landscapes in tropical forests elsewhere in the world, for the specific purpose of comparison with the Ka'apor people and their landscapes of eastern Amazonia." In a future resubmission, Balée will, the panel hopes, explain this developing perspective in more detail, if it is to be a substantial aspect of his monograph.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

As indicated above, Balée's scholarship to date is of very high quality. He is clearly the expert on his area of study. His book, *Cultural Forests of the Amazon: A Historical Ecology of People and their Landscapes*, was awarded the Mary W. Klinger Book Award from the Society for Economic Botany, in 2014. Notably, this is his second time receiving this award. His record of receiving grant support also speaks to the quality and relevance of his research. Taken together, all of this is a strong indicator of the promise of his scholarly monograph.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

Balée plans to write the monograph in two locales: New Orleans and Santarém, Brazil, where he will be close to his most recent field collections. Balée has completed the research for this monography and has begun writing the introductory material, including a "Prolegomena" and the Table of Contents. But he also notes that he "extensive material…[to] be worked into this monograph," and he does not provide a clear account of how he is going to develop this material into a series of chapters. Balée writes that he is "a disciplined book author," which his record supports, but without a more detailed "Work Plan," it is difficult to assess the likelihood that he will complete this project within the timeframe of this grant.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Nichole Bauer, Qualifications Count: Why Women Must Be Better Than Men to Win Political Office

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Women are underrepresented at every level of elected office in the United States. For example, they hold less than 20% of the seats in Congress but make up just over 50% of the U.S. population. The observation that women and men win elections at about equal rates is often used to argue that there is no gender bias in voter decisions. It turns out, however, that the women who run for office typically have stronger qualifications than do the men who run. Women having stronger qualifications does not translate into greater electoral success, however. Instead, a highly qualified woman is about as likely to win as a lesser qualified man. This is where the gender bias in voting decisions shows up.

Dr. Bauer seeks to investigate the negative impact of stereotypes about women on voting decisions. Previous research is all over the place, variously suggesting that stereotypes help, hurt, or have no effect. Dr. Bauer argues and shows that feminine stereotypes undermine female candidates when voters are given information that reinforces stereotypes of women as poorly suited for political leadership positions. She also identifies strategies female candidates might use to overcome the gender qualification gap.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Dr. Bauer's project is urgently important given the pervasive and systematic underrepresentation of women in elected office in the United States.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The proposal is somewhat repetitive and lacks substance. It does not convey a deeper sense of the theory Dr. Bauer is advancing, nor a clear idea of the empirical work she is planning to do.

Here are some sample sentences that illustrate the repetition and lack of substance in the proposal:

"I investigate how female candidates develop campaign strategies to mitigate the potential for gender bias" (p. 1).

"I identify strategies female candidates can use to overcome the gendered qualification gap" (p. 3).

"[H]ow can we close the gender qualification gap? This approach identfies what female candidates can do to limit the potential for voter bias and identifies strategies for training voters to examine information about candidates in an objective rather than a subjective way" (p. 3).

"Female candidates can reduce the gendered qualification gap by providing voters with objective information about their qualifications […]" (p. 4).

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Bauer is an assistant professor in political communication with joint appointments in the political science department and the Manship School at Louisiana State University. Given that her Ph.D. from Indiana University dates to 2014, which is just a couple of years ago, her publication list is seriously impressive, including leading political science and political psychology journals. Dr. Bauer comes across as a very accomplished scholar.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Bauer will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Xiaojin Chen, Parental Migration Caretaking Arrangements and Children's Wellbeing in Rural China

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Chen aims to write a book on the effects of rural-to-urban migration on "left-behind" children's development of behavioral and psychological problems in the context of rural China.

The audience of this book project is researchers, community leaders, and government policymakers who hope to understand the behavioral and psychological problems of this understudied population.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Some 61 million children in China are left behind by one or both of their parents when they migrate to major cities. This pattern developed over the last three decades, as China has witnessed a rapid increase in the movement of labor from rural primary industry to secondary and tertiary industries in urban areas. These children are subject to "left-behind syndrome," a set of impacts that include poor physical and mental health, a weak relationship with parents and friends, behavioral problems, and low school performance. This syndrome has generated anxiety and concern among the public, and so researchers are trying to understand its dynamics. Dr. Chen's book will "identify and describe universal and culturally specific risk and resiliency factors that may exacerbate or attenuate left-behind children's development of psychological and problem behaviors." Dr. Chen is confident that his book will help migrant parents better understand the psychological and behavioral risk that their left-behind children face, and perhaps empower them to formulate coping strategies that may mitigate the risks. Dr. Chen reports that "some rural communities are beginning to create structures to support left-behind children and caregivers, and this information will be instrumental in effective focusing efforts of local institutions (e.g., schools and local governments) to allocate their

limited resources for developing relevant treatment/prevention programs that specifically meet their emotional and behavioral needs."

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

There are several strengths to this project. Dr. Chen is knowledgeable about the subject, has already completed the research, and has a clear understanding of the audience to which his findings will be directed. Dr. Chen's research involves both quantitative and qualitative datasets collected over the last six to seven years; he also has a clear hypothesis—that psychological and behavioral problems are due to reduced engagement of guardianship and supervision. He recognizes, though, that this association "is mediated and moderated by multiple social factors, including gender of children, child-parent/caretaker bonding, associating with deviant peers, routine daily activities, and school bonding." He is optimistic that "the traditional Confucian ideology and the family-centered culture in rural China" have the potential to lessen the negative effects of parental migration on children. He should say more about how culture matters and what its characteristics are, in order to understand the "culturally specific risks" and the grandparents' potential roles better. Also, it matters to know how the qualitative and quantitative datasets will be combined; as well, how were they generated and what kind of data do they contain? Finally, it would be helpful for Dr. Chen to explain the overarching argument in the book and how it will draw from these various datasets.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Chen has a strong publishing record, with single- and co-authored articles reaching back to 2001. Given his extensive research on the "left-behind syndrome" and his publications to date, it is likely that Dr. Chen's book will be of high quality.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

Dr. Chen has five chapters to write yet. The other two chapters will draw from previously

published articles. He lays out a reasonable schedule to complete these chapters, but since he is mostly experienced in article writing, it is not certain he fully understands the challenges with completing a book manuscript. He also has been invited to write a chapter for another book project, which would limit the time he has available for completing this manuscript.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Craig Colten, A Place for People: Society and Culture on Louisiana's Fragile Coast

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Colten proposes to generate a retrospective assessment of the relationship between human communities and environmental changes in coastal Louisiana. He reviews environmental management decisions and considers their consequences to people and the environment. This project will broadly trace environmental crises and the social disruptions they produced over the past one hundred and fifty years, in order to understand their relationship to management policies. Dr. Colten envisions two primary audiences for this project: scholars concerned with issues related to Louisiana land loss and the larger public and local decision makers.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Dr. Colten aims to identify and document social adaptations made in the face of environmental crises and change. He asserts that state-funded studies of the coastal crisis in Louisiana have focused on geologic, hydrologic, and ecological processes while neglecting "the most critical consideration: people." By privileging scientific analyses and engineering solutions, "this grand environmental management exercise…ignores the fact that environmental management, at its core, is a human enterprise, not simply a matter of environmental science." This is certainly true, but the "people" he references seem rather generic; it matters to indicate what are the racial, ethnic, classed and gendered dimensions of the humans playing a role in remaking coastal zones. Perhaps the "community resilience studies" he draws upon contain these important social characteristics, or perhaps they can be discerned through extant ethnographic or sociological studies in this region. Without such an accounting, the overall significance of this project will limited.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The core strength of Dr. Colten's proposal lays in this diagnosis of a key blind spot for

environmental management regimes—they overlook that "humans have played a prominent role in modifying Louisiana's coastal margins for centuries…The underlying causes of land loss result from human pursuits such as flood protection, navigation, and mineral extraction." Without factoring in the role of humans, efforts to control or even reverse loss of costal terrain will be ineffective. But Dr. Colten places most of his emphasis on this diagnosis and could devote more effort to explaining his prescription in detail. By what model should "human desires, values, and technical capabilities" be "woven into the science-oriented discussion"? His gesture at this is overly general and optimistic: "By exposing the connections between society and environmental management decisions and outcomes, it will provide a solid resource for decision makers deliberating the future of Louisiana's coast." Most likely, exposing "the connection" is not sufficient; what resources will his project mobilize for educating decision makers in how to understand "historical geography" and its attention to "traditional societies"? As well, it would be helpful to have a more developed discussion of how the role of culture is envisioned, both in constituting subjects of study and as the medium through which people engage with scientific research.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project
Dr. Colten is an accomplished scholar with a great deal of expertise in this subject area. His relevant publications include a co-authored a study of an industrial disaster (*The Road to Love Canal*, 1996) and a single-authored book, *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wresting New Orleans from Nature*. Dr. Colten has an extensive record of scholarship on the relationship between New Orleans and its natural environment (e.g. *Transforming New Orleans*) His notable record of scholarship is a strong indicator that he has the requisite expertise to proceed with this project; it also speaks to the quality of the final product

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe
Dr. Colten states that he has "assembled most of the material that will constitute the

chapters on social adaptation and environmental crises," and he "estimate[s] about 75 % of the archival/documentary research is completed." He notes that one major phase of new work remains: "preparing maps depicting the changing geography of coastal society in relationship to changes wrought by the several phases of environmental management with an emphasis on human mobility." But he has a reasonable timeline for completing this task, along with writing an introduction and conclusion to the proposed book, which he reasonably anticipates will be published by LSU Press, which has published his previous books.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Martin Dimitrov, Dictatorship and Information: Autocratic Regime Resilience in Communist Europe and China

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

In autocratic regimes there is a dearth of information on levels of popular discontent with the regime. For lack of information, it would appear that autocrats should face a high risk of losing office to a coup or a revolution. Single-party autocracies would appear to be especially vulnerable because they cannot take information cues from competitive election results. Somewhat puzzlingly, however, Communist single-party autocracies are remarkably long-lived.

The standard argument is that they rule through fear. But ruling through fear would appear to exacerbate the problem of not being able to get reliable information about the regime's popular support, given that fearful citizens may engage in "preference falsification," that is, express support for the regime in public even though they reject it in private.

A novel argument in the literature—developed specifically for the case of China—is that autocrats extract information from protests, commercialized media, and the Internet. This argument raises a puzzle as to how China solved its information problem before the advent of commercialized media and the Internet. There is also the question of whether the Chinese solution holds true just for China or more generally.

Dr. Dimitrov seeks to develop a theory of information-gathering institutions in Communist autocracies. He poses three questions: How do autocrats become aware of the importance of monitoring popular discontent? How do they go about measuring it? And how do they use the information in normal times and in times of crisis?

In his account, autocrats who replace "ex-post governance" (ruling through fear) with "ex-ante-governance" (setting up complex institutions to monitor popular discontent) face a tricky dilemma. (The expressions "ex-post governance" and "ex-ante governance"

are awkward.) To extract information about latent discontent from their populace, they need to give people incentives to respond truthfully, which requires reducing repression, making political concessions, and responding to complaints. The result is to decrease fear and increase people's expectations of what the regime will deliver for them. Some time down the line, when regime's ability to deliver economic growth or redistribution declines, the populace mobilizes against the regime. It then becomes apparent that the regime's coercive capacity is insufficient to clamp down the protests because levels of fear are too low.

Dr. Dimitrov seeks to back up his theory empirically by comparing and contrasting the practices in single-party Communist autocracies with the practices in other types of autocratic regimes. The empirical materials include a corpus of Chinese archival sources and internal-circulation materials; Bulgarian, East German, and Soviet state security and Communist Party archival documents; interviews conducted in China, Bulgaria, Germany, and Cuba; and primary and secondary sources from non-Communist autocracies.

Dr. Dimitrov will lay out his theory and evidence in the form of a book.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences
The proposed project is an ambitious contribution to comparative politics and neighboring subfields. It holds a lot of promise.

First, autocracies are famously opaque. Unearthing research materials that are secret or guarded is a challenge. Dr. Dimitrov is seeking to use regime-generated materials, which are difficult and labor-intensive to collect. Indeed, the panel would have liked to see some discussion in the proposal as to how Dr. Dimitrov will overcome the challenges.

Second, the comparative approach will allow him to break with the standard practice of treating China as a *sui generis* case. Instead, he will integrate the Chinese case into a

more general theory of autocracy that attends to the varieties of authoritarianism even as it retains the ability to compare and contrast across countries. Dr. Dimitrov is to be commended for taking on the challenge of coping with so many different languages and cultures. Some discussion as to how Dr. Dimitrov will overcome the challenges would have been welcome.

Third, somewhat unexpectedly, autocracies are dominating today's world—"somewhat unexpectedly" because in the 1990s there was an expectation that liberal democracy would take over the world, and instead liberal democracy is stagnating and in some respects struggling. Then again, in the case of China even the most knowledgeable scholars disagree radically as to whether it will continue to flourish, sink into a malaise, or collapse altogether—such radical disagreement among experts suggests that we have a poor understanding of what makes China (and autocracies more generally) tick. On top of that, autocracies are quite diverse, and any theory of why they will flourish, sink into a malaise, or collapse has to accommodate this variety. For all of these reasons, there is an urgent need for a theory of autocracy that explains why autocracies are doing unexpectedly well; spells out under what conditions they might do poorly in the future; and is attentive to their empirical variety. On all of these counts, Dr. Dimitrov has the potential to deliver.

In comparative politics, there is the perennial question of "why these particular cases," that is, what in the theory justifies this particular selection of countries? The proposal is largely silent on this question, but the book will have to address it.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution
The work plan is well thought out. That said, the panel would have liked to see more elaboration of the theory and an account of how it fits with the proposed empirical work.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Dimitrov comes across as a very strong candidate for this particular project based on his life experiences (among other things he was born in Bulgaria), his training (among other things he holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford), his various scholarships and grants (among other things he received research grants to fund his field research in China and Russia), and his publications (his publication list looks good, quantitatively and qualitatively). There is something of a shortage of publications in leading political science journals, but then again, he has a book with Cambridge University Press, which is arguably the leading university press in political science. Moreover, the many articles he has published on the various countries that are mentioned in his proposal suggests that Dr. Dimitrov will be able to pull off his ambitious comparative project.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Dimitrov will complete the project by mid-2020.

Recommendation for Funding:

Full funding is recommended.

Michael Hoerger, Psychologist: Reluctant Warrior in Care for the Seriously Ill

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)
Dr. Hoerger is seeking to study the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral factors that are preventing psychologists from getting involved in caring for the seriously ill (e.g., people with cancer).

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences
The project will contribute to psychology and allied helping disciplines.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution
The project is undertheorized, and it is unclear whether it includes any empirical work. The main activity seems to be the conducting of literature reviews.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project
Dr. Hoerger has a Ph.D. in psychology and a Master's of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR). As a psychologist he has extensive experience collaborating with professionals in the field of medicine, with a specialization on the seriously ill. He has received numerous grants and has an enormous number of collaborative publications. Some of his projects mix art and education (for example, he has developed an animated video to educate patients about serious illness care). Dr. Hoerger comes across as a deeply dedicated and highly accomplished social scientist. He clearly has the expertise and skills to execute the proposed project successfully.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe
The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Hoerger will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Tatsuya Murakami, The Making of an Ancient City: Materiality of Power and Identity and Teotihuacan

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)
Traditional research approaches conceptualized the ancient city as an engine of stratification, for it typically featured a hierarchy consisting of kings and priests at the top, merchants in the middle, slaves at the bottom, and peasants in the periphery. The "top-down" take is typically preoccupied with the decisions, interests, and infighting of the elites. Recent research has emphasized broader social transformations. The "bottom-up" take typically emphasizes the common people and their interaction with the elites.

Dr. Murakami seeks to study the entanglement of elites and commoners and thereby merge the above two approaches. The early cities juggled two forces: social differentiation (the creation of social inequality) and social integration (the creation of a shared social identity, an integrated community, and a functioning polity). Moreover, these two forces played out in the physical setting of a city, with the buildings and grounds reinforcing both social inequality and the shared cosmos.

Dr. Murakami seeks to study early urbanization and state formation in Teotihucan. He will analyze urban processes as they unfold over time and operate at multiple scales. He will explore the interaction between the physical city and its sociopolitical relations.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences
Dr. Murakami's project is ambitious and exciting. First, his theoretical approach juggles several tensions in a dialectical fashion, as in, social inequality vs. social integration, top down vs. bottom up, physical vs. sociopolitical, which is an improvement on the dichotomous approaches that came before him.

Second, starting about 10 years ago—for the first time in history—more than 50% of the world's population lives in cities. Understanding cities, and in particular the dialectical

tensions listed above, is urgently important. On top of that, the early civilizations rose and fell, and given the hypercomplexity of modern civilization, it would be useful to understand what drove the flourishing and collapse of complex societies in the past. The tension between social differentiation and social integration is very topical.

In passing, the panel suggests that Dr. Murakami take a look at the work of Peter Murphy, a professor at La Trobe University in Australia who has studied the interaction between the built environment of great portal cities and sociopolitical forces such as innovation.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The proposal comes across as very well conceptualized and planned.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

In terms of his undergraduate and graduate education and his professional career, Dr. Murakami is supremely well equipped to undertake the proposed project. Among other things, he has studied archaeology and anthropology at the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. He has participated in numerous archaeological digs, including Teotihucan. His Ph.D. is from Arizona State University, which arguably has the world's leading program on the flourishing and collapse of early complex societies.

There is something of a dearth of leading archeology and anthropology journals in his publication list, but even so, the list is impressive in its thick detail, and the details are very much in sync with the proposed research. Dr. Murakami clearly has the requisite expertise and skills to execute his ambitious project.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Murakami will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:

Full funding is recommended.

Megan Papesh, Modern Pupillometry: Cognition, Neuroscience, and Practical Applications

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Papesh's goal is to write a book that provides methodological and analytical frameworks for researchers to understand pupillometry—the study of the dynamic dilation and constriction of the eyes' pupils. Dr. Papesh uses pupillometry, along with behavioral and neuroimaging techniques, to better understand attention, memory, and face perception/recognition. The audience for this book potentially includes physiologists interested in the psychological "side effects" of their research, students wishing to learn more about pupillometry, and "lay people with an interest in reading the mind through the eyes."

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Dr. Papesh states that the field of pupillometry "is growing at an incredible pace, with a 600% increase in publications in the past decade." But this growth also involves substantial diversity in approaches and methods that make it difficult to compare findings across labs. One of Dr. Papesh's goals with this book "is to provide methodological and analytical frameworks within which researchers can better understand pupillometry." The "handbook" she envisions will cover the neurophysiology of pupil dilation, best practices across research domains, and examples of empirical and analytical methods. But to access the significance of this project, it would be necessary for Dr. Papesh to address in more detail how pupillometry is used across social and behavioral sciences. It is not clear how this subject will interest researchers in "political science, marketing/business, security, and mathematicians."

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The core strength of Dr. Papesh's proposal is her knowledge of both the historical context and modern view of pupillometry, as it applies to psychology. Dr. Papesh details the last

decade of research in this field and the dynamics by which the LC-NE (locus coeruleus-norepinephrine) system to modulate attentional states. She explains that this handbook will be organized into four sections (History and Neurophysiology, Pupillometry in Cognitive Psychology, Beyond Cognition: Pupillometry in Applied Contexts, and Methodology and Analysis). But she spends little time addressing the wider scope of relevance she sees for pupillometry. She gestures towards this in suggesting the "cognitive science will be represented" in the book. But how this will happen and what it will look like is not clear. She describes being contacted many times by researchers looking for advice setting up their pupillometry studies or their analyzing the data," and sees this handbook as responding in a practical manner to their methodological concerns. But the intellectual stakes—either of these researchers' larger interests or of the book—are not made clear.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Papesh has a strong record of publications, reflecting broad research interests in human attention, perception, and memory. She has published in top-tier journals, and her research and funding success have been recognized with several awards, including the LSU Emerging Scholar Rainmaker Award (2015) and the Association for Psychological Science Rising Star Award (2016). All of this speaks to the likely high quality of the handbook she aims to write.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

Dr. Papesh states that the breadth of this handbook means that she will not be able to contribute every chapter, and so will invite contributions from experts in domains less familiar to her. This introduces a degree of uncertainty as to whether these contributors will be prompt and scrupulous in providing their chapters for this volume. It is also not clear how these contributions will fit into the respective sections of the book, and whether any delays they might introduce would impact her ability to write an introduction to the volume.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Menaka Philips, The Liberalism Trap: John Stuart Mill and Our Crisis of Certainty

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Philips argues that John Stuart Mill has come to stand for liberalism in the United States even though his autobiography and letters suggest that he favored experimental ideas and open-minded uncertainty. She warns of the dangers of ideological labels. In her account people—including in particular political theorists—are obsessed with the concept of liberalism. They would be better off having real conversations. In the public debate, the fixation with the concept of liberalism is leading to divisive rhetoric and ideological disagreement. It is standing in the way of flexible thinking and pragmatic politics.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

The project is meant to make a scholarly contribution to political theory and to improve the quality of the public debate in the United States.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The proposal is repetitive and lacks substance. It is extraordinarily weak.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Philips wrote a dissertation on John Stuart Mill and in that sense is well-equipped to write a book on him. Relative to the date of her Ph.D. (2013), her publication record is weak, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Philips will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:

Do not fund.

Irina Shport, Acquiring Word Prosody in Second Language Learning

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Shport investigates the role of age and differential cognitive influences on tone-word learning, as with languages such as Vietnamese and Mandarin. She anticipates that her findings will be of interest to psycholinguists and to language teachers, students, and their parents, "who often struggle with the practical questions such as the cost-benefit analysis of starting second language instruction at a young age, choice of a foreign language to study, and the range of expectations from language learners who have different cognitive strengths and weaknesses."

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Broadly, Dr. Shport's research is focused on word prosody—vocal stress, tone, and intonation, which "is an inalienable part of a word form that has to be learned." Up until 2008, prosody was not granted much attention in international linguistic journals. But Dr. Shport reports that over the last decade published research on prosody has grown, due to its significance for "second language acquisition, pedagogy, child language development, and speech communication." She has contributed to this burgeoning literature with her dissertation on perception and learning of Japanese lexical prosody and, more recently, with publications on "cross-language differences in the acoustic correlates of word-level and phrase-level prosodic structures in Japanese, Vietnamese, and English." While these are highly technical subjects, Dr. Shport has a good sense of how her work contributes to practical aspects of second languages acquisition.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

One strength of Dr. Shport's proposal is that she effectively explains the import and relevance of her linguistic research. She delineates two research projects, both completed. For "Project 1," the central finding is that "adults were better at production of novel tone-words than children," though "children exhibited learning in a short training task,

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whereas adults did not." Notably, "it appears that different learning mechanisms are at play in the task of tone-word learning in children and adults." In "Project 2," which examined the role of cognitive abilities in novel tone-word learning, "the results suggested that working memory and attention control correlated with the degree of perceptual tone-word learning." These are surely significant findings but Dr. Shport could devote more attention to elaborating on this significance and relate it more directly to current understandings in linguistics. While she gestures towards the practical aspects of her findings, it would be good to know how her results contribute to theories of language.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project
Dr. Shport has a solid track record of publishing her research on prosodic learning in adult learners of a second language over the last ten years. She also has the experience (during her fourth-year research leave in fall 2016) of working on and completing two manuscripts on different topics that were subsequently published in peer-reviewed journals. These are good indicators of both the likely quality of her proposed project and her able preparation for this undertaking.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe
Dr. Shport states that for both projects, "the data collection has been completed, the preliminary analyses have been conducted, and the results were presented at the meetings of the Acoustical Society of America." All that remains to be done is to complete the article manuscripts. Based on her presentations to date, she likely has a keen sense of how to proceed. She has identified likely journals (*Cognition* and *Language Learning*) and sketched out a reasonable schedule for writing, submission, and revision. Hence, Dr. Shport is quite likely to complete her projects well within the time frame of this grant.

Recommendation for Funding:
Do not fund.

Andrew Sluyter, Publication of an Online Database of Colonial Maps for the Analysis of Social and Environmental Change in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

The aim of this project is to publish an online analytical database and front-end website with interactive features for accessing Louisiana's colonial land survey maps. The audience would be university and high school instructors aiming to engage their students with primary research material. This proposal is a revised and enhanced version of one recommended for funding in 2018 but not supported due to a lack of available monies.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

A great deal of archival material on land-use patterns in Louisiana remains inaccessible to many researchers and lay people with an interest in this history, which has bearing on "our understanding of differences in the acquisition and use of land by people of African, French, Spanish, English, German, and mixed origin." Dr. Sluyter's project proposes an innovative means for accessing this material and navigating it in a comprehensive manner. He aims to publish *LandscapeLouisiane: A Database of Colonial Land Grant Maps*, consisting of a dynamic, interactive online Geographic Information System and website through which users will search and analyze the database of colonial maps. Easy access to these maps will likely offer insights into "environmental changes such as coastal erosion, social changes such as ethnic settlement patterns, political changes related to territorial integration, family genealogy, and other topics." This is a significant array of subjects and concerns. The database Dr. Sluyter aims to produce will likely be of great interests to historians, geographers, and anthropologists. This project will be developed in QGIS, a sophisticated open source and free GIS, rather than Google Maps, which has limited functionality and capacity.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

Dr. Sluyter's original proposal was quite strong. He targeted important materials (some 1,400 colonial maps) and discerned their possible relevance to researchers; and he diagnosed a notable problem: "The Louisiana Digital Library does not have any analytical functionality, however, and cannot perform the analyses necessary to use the survey maps and documents to understand spatial-temporal patterns of colonial land acquisition and use by people of varied ethnic origins." This project addresses the problem by georeferencing already scanned items in GIS so they relate readily to modern base maps, whiles also translating text features and making all this available through an open-access website. He has a well-aligned problem and digital solution. What makes his proposal stand out this year is that he has done considerably more advanced work in incorporating more surveys into the prototype website; as well, this progress has been presented at three conferences and been written up in a book chapter in press in an edited volume. Importantly, too, he has additionally generated some preliminary findings that suggest how revealing these maps and surveys are of "this borderland region on the eve of its incorporation into the US". Intriguingly, "most of the women to receive land grants were free women of color." Finally, a clear strength of this proposal is that Dr. Sluyter has secured seed funding (from the Omohundro Institute and LSU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences) to inventory and scan important documents and to develop a prototype of the website.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Sluyter is an accomplished historian of the Atlantic world, with an impressive record of publication (37 articles in leading journals), which includes a book with Yale University Press based upon research that was supported by an ATLAS grant (2009-2010). Just as important, he is digitally dexterous and astute, as manifest in such online projects as *Hispanic and Latino New Orleans* and *The Atlantic Network Project*, which was supported by a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (2012-2013). This record attests to the likely high quality of this finished project.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

Dr. Sluyter's plan of work is based on a good deal of previous digitizing work, and he has sketched out a reasonable schedule of "tasks to be completed," which indicates he will likely complete this project within the grant's timeframe. He faces a challenge in geographically locating a large number of land grants in the GIS and entering their coordinates and links to related documents in the online American State Papers and archive of the Louisiana Office of State Lands into the database. But given his experience, expertise and well-conceived work schedule, this challenge will quite likely be solved by the researcher during the course of this funding period.

Recommendation for Funding:

Full funding is recommended.

Daniel Tirone, A Political Economy of Piracy and Maritime Crime

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

International law defines piracy as acts committed outside of a state's territorial waters and maritime crime as acts occurring within 12 nautical miles of shore. The scholarship on piracy and maritime crime disregards the role of state territory and state sovereignty. Together with an unfunded collaborator, Dr. Tirone is seeking to address this omission by developing a more nuanced political-economic theory of piracy and maritime crime. He has come up with a typology that distinguishes between state-sponsored piracy, criminal enterprises, and privation-driven piracy.

Dr. Tirone is putting together an original data set covering the period 1991-2016. The unit of observation is the maritime attack, defined by its date, latitude and longitude, whether it occurred in territorial or international waters, the attacker's home state, the distance between the attack location and the attacker's home state capital city, whether violence was threatened or utilized, the types of weapons used, which state possesses the nearest territorial waters to the attack location, and the distance between the attack location and the nearest maritime border.

Dr. Tirone will complement the quantitative data analysis with case studies from Africa (Horn of Africa and Gulf of Guinea vs. South Africa and Egypt) and Asia.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

Piracy and maritime crime are important phenomena in the real world, with consequences for economics and security. Dr. Tirone's argument that political elements (territorial boundaries and so forth) need to be included in the analysis is convincing. Dr. Tirone's typology and empirical analysis will advance security studies and international law.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The project is well conceptualized in that Dr. Tirone advances a three-fold typology and a detailed empirical work plan.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Tirone received a Ph.D. in political science (subfield of world politics). He has been an assistant professor of political science at Louisiana State University and A&M College since 2012. His publication list is impressive, including articles in leading political science journals. Dr. Tirone comes across as a highly accomplished scholar with the expertise and skills to execute the proposed project successfully.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe

The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Tirone will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:

Full funding is recommended.

Allison Truitt, Gold Matters: Materializing Money in Vietnam at the End of the Twentieth Century

Project Summary: Principal concerns of the project and its intended audience(s)

Dr. Truitt is interested in the materiality of gold in the dematerialized world of international money flows. She plans to examine the political and social life of gold from the early 1970s (when the United States went off the gold standard) to the first decade of the 21st century (which includes the 2008 global financial crisis). She is seeking to understand neoliberal globalization through the lens of gold, with a focus on the people in Vietnam; Vietnamese refugees; and the Vietnamese diaspora in the United States. Her empirical work makes use of interviews and archival sources.

Criterion 1: The significance of the project as described to its current field of study or art practice and to broader academic and/or lay audiences

The project fits into the anthropology of money and finance. It also relates to the sociology of money as well as monetary and financial economics. One weakness of the proposal is Dr. Truitt's failure to establish connections to neighboring disciplines. Sociologists have a lot to say about money and modernization, and Vietnam has been subject to a breakneck process of modernization in the time period Dr. Truitt is seeking to study. Economists have a lot to say about the gold standard, and this project is orthogonal to that literature.

Criterion 2: The strength of the proposal's conceptualization, organization, and plans for project execution

The proposal is repetitive and lacks substance. Reading it, the panel did not get a deeper sense of the theory Dr. Truitt is advancing, nor a clear sense of the empirical work she is planning to do.

Criterion 3: The quality of the applicant's previous work and/or promise of quality based on the applicant's preparations for the current project

Dr. Truitt received a Ph.D. in anthropology from Cornell University in 2013. In her

dissertation she studied how people draw on the symbolic life of money to navigate new forms of selfhood in a country governed by a Communist party. Her dissertation fieldwork took place in Ho Chi Minh City. The resulting book, *Dreaming of Money in Ho Chi Minh City*, was published by the University of Washington Press. In a follow-up book titled *Pure Land in the Delta: Vietnamese Buddhism in the U.S. Gulf South*, which is under contract with the University of Washington Press, Dr. Truitt covers the Vietnamese diaspora in the United States. Given her prior work, Dr. Truitt is well equipped to handle the proposed project.

Criterion 4: The feasibility of the proposed plan of work and likelihood that the applicant will complete the project within a limited timeframe
The proposed plan appears feasible, and it appears likely that Dr. Truitt will complete the project in the time made available by the ATLAS award.

Recommendation for Funding:
Do not fund.