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Carrie Hyde Receives 2018 Arlt Award in the Humanities

Washington, DC – The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has awarded the 2018 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities to Dr. Carrie Hyde, associate professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles. The awards ceremony was held during the CGS 58th Annual Meeting.

The Arlt Award is given annually to a young scholar-teacher who has written a book deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the humanities. Dr. Hyde becomes the award’s 48th recipient for her book, Civic Longing: The Speculative Origins of US Citizenship (Harvard UP, 2018). She received her PhD in English from the Rutgers University, New Brunswick in 2011.

In Civic Longing: The Speculative Origins of US Citizenship, Hyde examines the evolution of the way citizenship was conceptualized in the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War. No Constitutional definition of citizenship existed until the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868, which led politicians and writers to seek a construct of citizenship in fiction, religion, political philosophy, law, and literature imparted with moral and/or ethical guidance. Through Civic Longing, Hyde provides, “a powerful critique of originalism, and challenges anachronistic assumptions that read the definition of citizenship backward from its consolidation in the mid-nineteenth century as jus soli or birthright citizenship.”

“The Council of Graduate Schools is delighted to present this year’s Arlt award to Dr. Hyde for the outstanding scholarship in her recent book Civic Longing. The Arlt award recognizes exceptional work by early-career humanities faculty, and Dr. Hyde’s work is an invaluable contribution to understanding the history of U.S. citizenship and its complexities,” said Dr. Suzanne Ortega, president of the Council of Graduate Schools.

Created in 1971, the Arlt Award honors the first president of CGS, Gustave O. Arlt. The winner must have earned a doctorate within the past seven years, and currently be teaching at a North American university. Nominations are made by CGS member institutions and are reviewed by a panel of scholars in the field of competition, which rotates annually among seven disciplines within the humanities. This year’s field was English and North American Language and Literature. The winner receives a $1,000 honorarium, a certificate, and travel to the awards ceremony.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization’s mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.