

2019 DIGEL/JONES MEMORIAL AWARDS



Cherise Fung, James Hamill, Claire Silva

At the M.A. level, we awarded two students with the first-place prize.

Cherise Fung received the Digel/Jones Memorial Award for Graduate Student Writing for her essay entitled “In the Name of Sovereignty: Rethinking the ‘Tiger Bitch’ and the Terrorist Bomber in Nayomi Munaweera’s *Island of a Thousand Mirrors*,” based on a paper originally written for Suzanne Edwards’ Feminist and Queer Theory course and revised into her Ph.D. writing sample.

The graduate committee was very impressed by Cherise’s exploration of Jaspir Puar’s theory of assemblage in conversation with Nayomi Munaweera’s *Island of a Thousand Mirrors*. Committee members praised her essay’s beautifully styled prose, the lucidity with which she engaged a complex theoretical framework, and her historically-grounded close readings of the novel. We were especially impressed by Cherise’s ability to challenge her central theoretical model even as she engaged it, and we are delighted to celebrate her work with this award.

Claire Silva received the Digel/Jones Memorial Award for Graduate Student Writing for her essay entitled “The Networks of a Moravian Tutor: The Letters of Anna Rosina Kliet,” which she originally wrote for a 1-credit independent study with Scott Gordon. The graduate committee was very impressed by the extensive research evident in Claire’s essay on Kliet’s letters and the significance of the Bethlehem Boarding School for Girls in Moravian women’s development of broader social and political networks—and by the editorial and transcription work undergirding her essay. Committee members praised Claire’s lucid and compelling prose, the clarity with which she situated Kliet’s letters both in their historical context and in conversation with contemporary network analysis, and her excellent close readings of those letters. We were delighted to have the opportunity to learn from Claire’s work and to celebrate it.

At the Ph.D. level, we awarded one student with the first-place prize.

James Hamill received the Digel/Jones Memorial Award for Graduate Student Writing for his essay entitled “Queer Excess: Polyamorous Desire in Richard Bruce Nugent’s ‘Smoke, Lilies, and Jade,’” originally written for Seth Moglen’s Harlem Renaissance class. The graduate committee was very impressed by Jimmy’s intervention into the scholarly conversation regarding queer desire in the work of Richard Bruce Nugent, an understudied author of the Harlem Renaissance. Committee members praised Jimmy’s attention to the interplay of artistic production and sexual desire in Nugent’s work, his articulation of the broader political significance of your argument, and the clarity of his prose. We were especially excited about the potential for this essay to make a significant contribution to multiple fields, and we are so pleased to celebrate Jimmy’s work.