

Southern Historical Association  
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**Southern Historical Association announces C. Vann Woodward Award Winner for 2018**

**Athens, GA:** The Southern Historical Association (SHA) is pleased to announce the winner of the 2018 C. Vann Woodward Dissertation Prize: Jason Hauser, author of "By Degree: A History of Heat in the Subtropical American South," written under the direction of James C. Giesen at Mississippi State University.

Established in 2000, the Woodward Award is given annually to recognize the best dissertation in Southern history defended in the previous calendar year. The prize consists of a \$3,000 stipend provided by the Woodward Fund, a generous bequest left to the SHA by C. Vann Woodward.

According to the prize committee, Hauser's thesis is "an ambitious and novel dissertation, grand in scope and interdisciplinary in methodology." In his work, Hauser examines 'heat' as "a social construct, tracing the ways in which the South's climate served as both a material and ideological force. He argues that perceptions of heat and climate were as important as the reality, and more importantly, that these ideas were intimately linked with the political, economic, and social history of the South from the Ice Age to the recent past."

**About the SHA:** The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

**About C. Vann Woodward:** Comer Vann Woodward is widely regarded as one of the most influential historians of his generation. Martin Luther King Jr. called his *Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955) "the historical bible of the Civil Rights Movement." Woodward won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1982 for *Mary Chesnut's Civil War*.

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