



For Immediate Release

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2019 Center for Missouri Studies Fellowship Winners Selected

Scholars to Examine Missouri's Experience with the Vietnam War and 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act

COLUMBIA, MO, December 20, 2018 — The State Historical Society of Missouri will award Center for Missouri Studies fellowships in 2019 to scholars examining consequences for Missouri of the Vietnam War and the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

Thomas Ringenberg, an assistant professor of political science at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, will receive the Center's fellowship focusing on Missouri during in the Vietnam War era. In his study, "Representing Dissent: Missouri and Opposition to the Vietnam War in the People's House," Ringenberg proposes to assess the diverse responses to the war by Missouri congressmen in the US House of Representatives, as characterized by Democrat Richard W. Bolling of Kansas City, Democrat William Lacy Clay Sr. of St. Louis, Republican Durward Hall of Springfield, and Democrat Richard Ichord of Licking in southeast Missouri.

"Members of Congress serve as a mouthpiece for 'average' citizens, and their words are taken as illustrations of American sentiment," Ringenberg said. "I believe the study of members of the House provides a unique and important lens on the past that combines the grand historical study of war and politics with the individual focus of social history."

Huping Ling, a professor of history at Truman State University in Kirksville, has been named the recipient of the Center's fellowship to study how the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act affected Missourians. The 1965 act changed US immigration policy by replacing the National Origins Formula, a protocol introduced in 1921 which created a quota system based on national origin, with the current system based on family relationships and work skills.

Ling's proposed study, "The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act and the Formation of Cultural Community in St. Louis, Missouri," will focus on the development since the 1960s of a St. Louis Chinese American community that, unlike older immigrant communities, has not formed its identity from living together in a close physical neighborhood, but is unified by a sense of shared cultural heritage despite being spread throughout the metropolitan area.

"These new immigration criteria drastically impacted the landscape of American immigration everywhere, and in St. Louis, Missouri, the new law contributed to the rise of a 'cultural community,'" Ling said. "Its members dwell throughout the city and its suburban municipalities, and there are no substantial business and residential concentrations or clusters to constitute a 'Chinatown' or even a 'suburban Chinatown.' Nevertheless, the Chinese St. Louisans have formed their community through various cultural activities organized by community organizations and cultural institutions of Chinese-language schools, churches, and other cultural agencies."

Ringenberg and Ling will hold their appointments for the 2019 calendar year. Each will write a scholarly essay for possible publication in the *Missouri Historical Review*, the quarterly journal of the State Historical Society of Missouri, and may also make a public presentation of their work. Each fellowship award includes a stipend of \$5,000. New topics for the fellowships are introduced each year.

"I am looking forward to the discoveries of Missouri history that these scholars will bring to light," said Gary Kremer, SHSMO executive director. "We offer the fellowships each year with the expectation that they will lead to greater understanding of facets of our history which deserve more thorough exploration."

The Center for Missouri Studies is the State Historical Society's vehicle for carrying out its mission to promote and disseminate study and teaching of the state's past. In addition to the fellowship program, the Center's initiatives include publications, such as the *Review*; educational programs like National History Day in Missouri; and lecture series such as *The African American Experience in Missouri*, a partnership with the University of Missouri Division of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity that is co-sponsored by the Missouri Humanities Council. The Society's new headquarters building, currently under construction in Columbia, will also bear the name of the Center for Missouri Studies.

About the State Historical Society of Missouri

Founded in 1898 and established as a trustee of the state a year later, SHSMO is the premier center for the study of Missouri state and local history. Through its education program, the Center for Missouri Studies, SHSMO collects, preserves, and publishes materials that enhance research and support learning opportunities in the study of the Midwest at six research centers around the state, with headquarters in Columbia on the University of Missouri campus. Visit: <http://shsmo.org>

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