

Previous USC Libraries Research Award Winners

Winners of the 2024 Research Award

Undergraduate Student Winners

1st Prize

Tricia Lim Castro, "Moving in (American) Time: The Formation of Philippine Dance Culture in the Era of Filipinization"

2nd Prize

Judy Lee, "The Power of Youth: Student Activism in the Gwangju Uprising"

3rd Prize

Juno Wolfe, "Bay Area Peace Action and the Weakening of the American Left"

Graduate Student Winners

1st Prize

Emily Varley, "Reconstruction Right Now: Conserving Vernacular Heritage in Beaufort, South Carolina, as An Act of Reconstructing Preservation Practice"

2nd Prize

Zagros Heivand, "Marked by Greed: The Hoover Redevelopment Project and USC's Surrounding Community"

3rd Prize

Liane (Xinhui) Yang, “A New Way to Explain the Scarcity of Tang Dynasty Female Hu Dancing Figurines

You can [read additional information about our 2024 winners here](#).

Winners of the 2021 USC Libraries Research Award

Undergraduate Student Winners

1st Prize

Adam Jackman

“Avarice and Ambition: John Adams’s Fight Against Commercial and Private Interest”

2nd Prize (4x)

Tiffany Chou

“Strategic Use of Patent Portfolios in Cloud Computing Enterprises”

Ayaka Kimura

“Representing *Ūman Ribu* Japan’s Radical Feminist Movement as seen through Print Media”

Ellen Minkin

“Jewish Childbearing in Ghettos During the Holocaust”

Abigail Rawlinson

“All 'Bout the Money: Governor Ronald Reagan & Higher Education”

3rd Prize

Brynn Sauer

“A Triple Threat: Investigating the Relationship Between Payment Schemes, Personality, and Performance”

Graduate Student Winners

1st Prize:

Saar Shahar

“Artistic Incentives and the Quest for Status: John Webber and the making of Captain Cook’s Death”

1st Prize:

Ann Tran

"USC in 1970: Politics, Race, and the Antiwar Movement."

Winners of the 2020 USC Libraries Research Award

Undergraduate Winners

First prize: **Christopher Aranda**, a junior majoring in history, for "Mickey's Army: Frontierland in the Creation of the American Western Myth," written for History 457: The American West, taught by Alice Baumgartner

First prize: **Sophie Hammond**, a senior majoring in history and English, for the history honors thesis, "'The Moral Regeneration of Civilized Humanity': Bourgeois Women's Movements in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna," advised by Paul Lerner

First prize: **Ryan Nhu**, a senior majoring in Creative Writing; Law, History, and Culture, for "Compromising: On Richard Aoki, Midcentury Radicalism, and the Limits of Solidarity," written as an independent research project in History for Professor Alice Echols

Second prize: **Morgan Harler**, a senior majoring in political science, for "Social Identity Theory Skews 27 Emotions Study: An Investigation of Political Polarization and Emotions," an experimental honors thesis in political science

Second prize: **Edward Mack**, majoring in international relations, for "Of Millets and Murder: A Discourse on the Ottoman Genocides, From Cause to Effect," written for International Relations 437: Comparative Genocide, taught by Patrick James

Third prize: **Annie Li**, a freshman majoring in Business Administration and Accounting, for "It's Not Just the Devil That Wears Prada," written for Deborah Sims' Writing 150 class

Third prize: **Bridgett Purcell**, a senior majoring in French and Communication, for "Of Myths and (Wo)men: The International Implications of the Enlightenment in 'Voltaire to Jeanne Antoinette Pompadour—1750 August 20,'" written for French 370: Equality and Difference around the Enlightenment, taught by Natania Meeker

Graduate Winners

First prize: **Judy Zhou**, a first-year PhD student in Biokinesiology and a recent Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate, for "Infant reaching in the first year of life: a scoping review of typical development and examples of atypical development"

Second prize: **Ryan Nhu**, a senior majoring in Creative Writing; Law, History, and Culture, for "Violent Affect(ions), Queer Desires," written for Viet Thanh Nguyen's class English 504: Theories of Race, Class, and Gender

Winners of the 2019 USC Libraries Research Award

Undergraduate Papers

1. Place

Matthew Tomazic

Paper: The Hand That Signed the Paper: Treaty Breaking and Native American Legal Resistance to Genocide

Class: HIST 446: Resistance to Genocide, Fall 2019, Professor Wolf Gruner

2. Place

Shir Attias

Paper: The US-Russia BMD Confrontation: A study of American Perception of Russian Rhetoric on US BMD and the Implications for Future Arms Control

Class: IR (International Relations)494 Honors Thesis Seminar, Fall 2019, Professor Jacques Hymans

3. Place

Ashlyn Elliot

Paper: Shadow Couriers. The Dissemination of Information by Women as Resistance to the Third Reich

Class: HIST 446: Resistance to Genocide, Fall 2019, Professor Wolf Gruner

Graduate Papers

1. Place

Michael Anthony Turcios

Paper: Decolonial Expressions in Barrio Film of 1970s East Los Angeles

Class: CTCS 677: Colonialism, Cinema and Culture", Spring 2019, Professor Priya Jaikumar

2. Place

Ryan Nhu

"Coming Out" on the Global Stage: Queer Theory and International Human Rights Law
Class: POIR 648: International Human Rights Law and Policy, Spring 2019, Professor Alison Dundes Renteln

Winners of the 2018 USC Libraries Research Award

Graduate Student Award:

1st prize:

Darshana Mini

- Paper: "To Tame a Savage Land: Photographs, Documentaries, and Travelogues as Colonial Texts in the New Hebrides (1860s-1920s)."
- Major: Cinematic Arts

Undergraduate Student Awards:

1st prizes:

Nikhil Vettikattu

- Paper: "Collaboration or Resistance? Prisoner Physicians in Concentration Camps"
- Major: Human Biology & Jewish Studies

Griffin Hale Williams

- Paper: "Marching to What End" The Death Marches and the Final Solution"
- Major: History

2nd prizes:

Annie Ly

- Paper: "Witchcraft as a Vehicle of Resolution during the Jacobean Era"
- Major: Health and Human Sciences

Ryan Kazemaini

- Paper: "Weapon of Coercion: How North Carolina Eugenicists Utilized Propaganda to Enforce Sterilization"
- Major: History

Winners of the 2017 USC Libraries Research Award

Undergraduate Thesis Award:

Jacob Lokshin

- Paper: "Whose War is it Anyway? Examining Decision-Making in the Construction of U.S.-Afghan Policy During the Carter Administration"
- Major: History

Allison Smith

- Paper: "The News from Nowhere: William Morris's Icelandic Landscapes"
- Major: English

Undergraduate Research Papers

First place: **Anna Lipscomb**

- Paper: "China's Regional Identity Crises: Exploring Identity in Xinjiang and Taiwan's Relations with Beijing"
- Majors: International Relations, East Asian Languages and Cultures

Second place: **Matthew Simon**

- Paper: "Global Evolution: How Globalization shaped the National Basketball Association into an International Power"
- Majors: Communication and Political Science

First-Year Undergraduate Paper Award:

Rebecca Breitstein

- Paper: "La Ventana a la Cultura: El Papel del Idioma en la Educación Primaria"
- Major: Business Administration

Graduate Student Awards:

Emily Rauber Rodriguez

- Paper: "Hidden Follies: The Lost Labor Behind Arthur Freed's Unmade MGM Musicals"
- Program: Cinema and Media Studies

Michael Turcios

- Paper: "Debates and Questions for Studying Black Murals: The Case of Noni Olabisi's 'To Protect and Serve' (1996)"

- Program: Visual Studies

Winners of the 2016 USC Libraries Research Award

Undergraduate papers:

Tying for first prize:

José Alaras.

- Paper: "La frontera lingüística de los inmigrantes en el sector de salud"
- Major: Biochemistry

Brittney Kidwell.

- Paper: "Portrait of the German-American Economic Relationship from 1933-1945"
- Majors: History and Economics

Tying for second prize:

Roberto Nazario.

- Paper: "The Work and Struggles of Jewish Physicists and Mathematicians in Nazi Germany"
- Major: Physics

Rebecca Teper.

- Paper: "Analyzing the Effects of Political Preferences and Negative Advertising on Voting Decisions"
- Major: Business Administration

Graduate papers:

First prize:

Darshana Mini.

- Paper: "The Great Indian Road Trip: Constructing the Picturesque Colony in 1940s and 1950s Travelogue films"
- Program: PhD, Cinema and Media Studies

Winners of the 2015 USC Libraries Research Award

Tying for first prize in the honors thesis category:

Emily Hodgkins.

Paper: "Beat Music and the Politics of Youth Identity in the German Democratic Republic, 1949–1965"

Alexander Finkelstein.

Paper: "Los Angeles Transformation: 1863–1876,"

Undergraduate papers category

1st prize

Mahima Verma. Paper: "Unpackaging *Life* magazine's photographic essay of the 1946 Calcutta Riots."

Tying for second prize:

Sareen Palassian. Paper: "The Femme Fatale in LGBT Science Fiction"

Diana Kruzman. Paper: "Uncontacted No Longer: Globalization's Impact on Kinship, Conflict and Ritual Cannibalism Among the Korowai of Papua."

Honorable Mention

Sasha Pearce. Paper: "Mary Stuart in Letters"

Winners of the 2014 USC Libraries Research Award

First Place Graduate Student Winner:

Natalie Dame

Major: Slavic Languages and Literatures

Paper: Russia in Distress or the Tortured Virgins in the Russian Satirical Journals of 1905-1906

First Place Undergraduate Student Winner:

John Merritt

Major: History

Paper: South Tyrol, Südtirol, or Trentino? National Community on the Linguistic Frontier of Austria and Italy, 1848-1945

Second Place Undergraduate Student Winner:

Leslie Chang

Major: History

Paper: Charles Dickens and the Ethics of Accounting

Winners of the 2013 USC Libraries Research Award

First Place (\$500):

Nitya Ramanathan

Major: International Relations, minor- Human Rights, Resistance to Genocide

Semester in which the Research Paper was written: Fall 2013

Academic Class Level: Junior

Title of paper: *How do We Put Ourselves Back Together? An Analytical Comparison between Transitional Justice in Rwanda and South Africa*

Second Place (\$200):

Diem-Tran Nguyen

Major: History (Minor: Natural Science),

Semester in which the Research Paper was written: Fall 2013

Academic Class Level: Senior

Title of paper: *The Paradoxical Treatment of Male Homosexual Prisoners During the Holocaust*