

ARNOVA

Presents the

Best 2023 Conference Paper Award

to

Simon Shachter

for

“City Formations under New Racial Formations: Ethnic Civil Society Networks in the Creation of Portland and Seattle, 1888-1909”

This paper has been chosen to receive the ARNOVA Best Conference Paper Award due to its theoretical innovation and methodological rigor. The paper makes significant contributions by challenging traditional urban theories that assume homogeneity at a city's inception and uncovering the value of board interlocks on building city leadership over time. Focusing on Portland and Seattle at the turn of the 20th century when both cities transitioned from small towns to major cities, the author utilizes an extensive dataset of over 45,000 organization member-years based on 42 years of annual city directories, alongside an ethnicity identifier based on 1850-1910 Censuses in those two cities. The author found that marginalized ethnic groups can be central founders of urban politics in the U.S., and this power is contingent on groups' historically dynamic relations to Whiteness. This extensive data collection offers a solid foundation for a deep understanding of the historical context of city building and opens new avenues for nonprofit scholars to understand the development and influence of marginalized ethnic groups. The committee, thus, unanimously selected this paper as the winner of the 2023 ARNOVA Best Conference Paper Award.