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The American Geographical Society Awards 2022 Council Fellowship to Mx. Reagan Yessler

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) awards Mx. Reagan Yessler of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville the 2022 AGS Council Fellowship.

[New York City, NY] – [March 28, 2022] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2022 AGS Council Fellowships to support master’s and doctoral research. Mx. Reagan Yessler, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is one of four recipients of the 2022 Fellowship. Established in 2013, graduate students from universities around the world are eligible to apply for the $1,500.00 award. AGS will recognize the Fellowship recipients during its annual Fall Symposium, being held the week of November 14-18, 2022.

Mx. Yessler will use the fellowship award to fund their research, Cosplay as Personal Expression in Restrictive Environments: A Case Study on the Yamacon Anime Convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Upon receiving the scholarship, Mx. Yessler noted, “My work focuses on the intersections of queer identity, gendered performance, and race, as well as the confounding dynamics a politically conservative environment places upon these overlapping identities. My research into cosplay at the Yamacon Anime Convention expands traditional concepts of gendered performance and cultural diffusion to explore the understudied communities of queer cosplayers in the Appalachian region. This fellowship will allow me recording devices and convention access to contact and interview fellow queer cosplayers, especially queer cosplayers of color, about how the convention spaces allow them to differently embody their identity than in surrounding spaces.”

"Members of the American Geographical Society Council believe that supporting researchers who address contemporary issues is fundamental. To ensure the health of the discipline, we must support young scholars” said Dr. Marie Price, Chair of the Selection Committee and President of AGS. “We are delighted to fund four promising young scholars in their field investigations through the AGS Council Fellowships and we look forward to reading about their discoveries," added Dr. Price.

The American Geographical Society is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States. It is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education for 170 years. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning and exploration; and advance geographic science and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

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