The American Geographical Society Awards 2021 Wrigley-Fairchild Prize

Description: The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize, awarded by the American Geographical Society (AGS), is one of several prestigious honors given by the Society. Dr. Alexandra Giancarlo has been recognized for the best article published in AGS’ academic journal in 2021.

[New York City, NY] – [March 1, 2023] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) is pleased to announce Dr. Alexandra Giancarlo as the recipient of the tenth Wrigley-Fairchild Prize. Her Geographical Review paper “Spatializing Black Culture through the Placemaking Tradition of the Rural Louisiana Creole Boucherie” was selected as the winner from 29 articles published in Geographical Review under consideration for the award.

The Wrigley-Fairchild Prize was established in 1994 as a way to promote scholarly writing among new scholars. The prize is given every year to the author of the best article by an early-career scholar published in the most recent three volumes of the Geographical Review. It is named for two previous editors of the journal, Gladys Wrigley and Wilma Fairchild, whose combined editorships covered 60 years of publication.

“The Wrigley-Fairchild Committee unanimously selected Alexandra Giancarlo’s paper, Spatializing Black Culture, as the best paper of 2021,” said Dr. David Kaplan, Editor-in-Chief of Geographical Review. “Giancarlo weaves together a beautiful narrative about how practices in rural areas help to reaffirm Black culture and provide for community sustenance. Well written and rigorously researched, Giancarlo’s paper exemplifies the qualities the Geographical Review is known for,” added Dr. Kaplan.

Alexandra Giancarlo is a multi-disciplinary settler scholar. She is an Assistant Professor in socio-cultural studies of sport and physical activity in the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Her research examines the connections between cultural identity, historical memory, physical culture, and wellbeing in, primarily, Indigenous and Black communities. Presently, her work focuses on histories of Indian residential school sports and recreation. “It is an honour to receive this award. I hope that--following in the footsteps of Black geographers--this work demonstrates how community members actively create places of cultural endurance (and joy!),” said Dr. Giancarlo. “For Creoles in SW Louisiana, a boucherie is a day to honour their ancestors who survived enslavement and an opportunity to pass their proud history, and survival skills, onto the next generation.”

The American Geographical Society (AGS) 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 over 170 years. The mission of AGS is to advance and promote geography in business, government, science, and education. Our goal is to enhance the nation’s geographic literacy to engender sound public policy, national security, and human well-being worldwide. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.
Dr. Alexandra Giancarlo

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