FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The American Geographical Society Awards 2024 AGS Council Fellowship to Mrs. Sonia Kaufman

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) awards Mrs. Sonia Kaufman, a Ph.D. candidate at University of Arizona, a 2024 AGS Council Fellowship.

[New York City, NY] – [April 2, 2024] — The American Geographical Society (AGS) announced the recipients of the 2024 AGS Council Fellowships to support master’s and doctoral research. The recipients are Mr. Abdulla Al Kafy, a Ph.D. candidate at University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Liana Katz, a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, Mrs. Sonia Kaufman, a Ph.D candidate at University of Arizona, and Ms. Zoe Rosenblum, a Ph.D candidate at Oregon State University. Masters and doctoral students from American universities are eligible to apply for the Fellowships. Established in 2013, each recipient receives a $2,000 award for their graduate research project. AGS will recognize the four Fellows during its annual Fall Symposium, Geography 2050, to be held November 21-22, 2024 in New York City.

Mrs. Kaufman will use her fellowship to fund her mixed-methods research project, The politics of trash: Municipal waste management, illegal dumping, and community resistance in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She wrote, “While Philadelphia’s litter crisis is widely known, what is less understood is how broader shifts of municipal disinvestment intertwine with a long history of environmental injustice in the city to create one of the worst urban trash crises in the U.S. This project investigates the history, policies, public perceptions, and contemporary strategies of trash management in Philadelphia...” She remarked, “Thank you so much for this true honor! I look forward to many future years of collaboration with the American Geographical Society.”

Dr. Marie Price, President of AGS and Chair of the Selection Committee, remarked, “The Council of the American Geographical Society is pleased to award four research grants to student members of the society. In our effort to support the next generation of scholars and practitioners we began the Council Fellowships ten years ago. We have awarded 37 Council Fellowship since 2014. Our intent is to expand the program in coming years to fund more awards through partnering with the AGS Champions program. Congratulations to this year's winners.”

The 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. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. 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 knowledge and technologies to address society’s challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. 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.
Mrs. Sonia Kaufman  University of Arizona

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