

Dr. Eric Gettig is the recipient of the 2018 Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Humanities for his dissertation, “Oil and Revolution in Cuba: Development, Nationalism, and the U.S. Energy Empire, 1902-1961,” which he defended, with Distinction, in 2017. He completed his Ph.D. in History under the mentorship of Professor David Painter of the Department of History.

Dr. Gettig’s dissertation illuminates the origins, course, and outcome of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 through the lens of the history of energy resources, tracing the rise and evolution of Cuban oil nationalism for over half a century in response to the island’s energy vulnerability. Supported by archival work in Cuba, the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, and Venezuela, his path-breaking dissertation reflects an international focus that will make contributions to a variety of fields, including: global and international history, the economic, political, cultural, environmental, and diplomatic history of modern Cuba, international histories of capitalism and development, and energy and environmental history. His mentor states that “[b]y looking at the history of oil and revolution from multiple vantage points over a broad span of time, he is able to provide a fuller and more accurate account and a model for other scholars to follow. It is a remarkable achievement.”

Dr. Gettig is currently a Lecturer and Postdoctoral Affiliate in the Center for Latin American Studies in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.

The Graduate School is very proud to award Dr. Gettig the Glassman Dissertation Award in the Humanities.

Dr. Kristin Brethel-Haurwitz and **Dr. Elise Cardinale** are joint recipients of the 2018 Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences for their dissertations, *“Multidetermined Concern: Roles for Affective and Cognitive Processes in Empathy and Altruism”* and *“An Investigation of the Role and Specificity of Affective Deficits in the Development of Callous Unemotional Traits and Antisocial Behaviors,”* respectively. Each completed her Ph.D. in Psychology under the mentorship of Professor Abigail Marsh of the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Brethel-Haurwitz’s dissertation is described as a “seminal social scientific inquiry into the roots of human altruism” that increases our understanding of emotion processing and brain pathways that promote altruism in some individuals. Through careful brain-imaging analyses, she discovered enhanced self-other neural mapping in the brains of altruists observing others’ distress, as well as an increase in communication between two structures—the amygdala and the periaqueductal gray—in the brains of altruists self-reporting an increased motivation to help; these findings conclusively link, for the first time, both empathic resonance and activity in parental care circuits to altruism. Dr. Brethel-Haurwitz is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Cardinale’s dissertation examines heterogeneity in the psychopathology of conduct problems, particularly the role of callous and unemotional traits, characterized by a lack of empathy, remorse, or guilt, in adolescents. Through her thorough and meticulous research, Dr. Cardinale discovered that poor moral decision making in adolescents with these traits is mediated by amygdala dysfunction that results in problems understanding why it is unacceptable to cause others to feel afraid—ruling out a popular alternative hypothesis that these adolescents’ symptoms result from perceptual causes. Her research is groundbreaking and has important implications for understanding the etiology of the disorder and for developing future treatments. Dr. Cardinale is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. David Pine’s Mood & Anxiety Program at the National Institute of Mental Health.

The Graduate School is very proud to award Drs. Brethel-Haurwitz and Cardinale with the Glassman Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences.

Dr. Kelly Chamberlain is the recipient of the 2018 Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Sciences for her dissertation, “The Role of Creatinine in Promoting Oligodendrocyte Survival and Modulating Axonal Mitochondria in the CNS,” which she defended in 2017. She completed her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience under the mentorship of Professor Jeffrey Huang of the Department of Biology.

Dr. Chamberlain’s dissertation examines the role of oligodendrocytes in the regulation of neuronal-axonal mitochondria. Using mouse models, Dr. Chamberlain successfully demonstrated, for the first time, that creatine—a nitrogenous organic acid that aids in cellular energy production—is critical for oligodendrocyte survival and regeneration after brain injury.. Her contribution to the field of oligodendrocyte biology cannot be underscored: her work has important implications for creatine treatment as a way to improve oligodendrocyte and myelin regeneration in chronically demyelinating disorders, most notably Multiple Sclerosis.

Dr. Chamberlain is a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Strokes at the National Institutes of Health, under the advisement of Dr. Zu-Hang Sheng, where she is pursuing new and exciting research projects on mitochondria energetics and neuronal transport.

The Graduate School is very proud to award Dr. Kelly Chamberlain with the Glassman Dissertation Award in the Sciences.