

Southern Historical Association
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Southern Historical Association announces Charles S. Sydnor Award Winners

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce that the 2020 co-winners of the Charles S. Sydnor Award are Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Stephanie Jones-Rogers.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall is Julia Cherry Spruill Professor Emerita at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been awarded the Sydnor Award for her 2019 W.W. Norton book, *Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America*.

Stephanie Jones-Rogers is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley. She has been awarded the Sydnor Award for her 2019 Yale University Press book, *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South*.

First awarded in 1956, the Sydnor Award recognizes the best book in southern history published in an odd-numbered year.

In announcing the co-winners, the prize committee noted that: Jacquelyn Dowd Hall's *Sisters and Rebels* is a major accomplishment. It is beautifully written, the product of decades of research, and epic in scale even while focusing on the specific lives of three white southern women. Hall balances an analysis of the prodigious record of the public lives of the Lumpkin sisters with a deft navigation of the fragmentary evidence of their intimate worlds.... This represents the best in southern history because it reveals how southern history is truly American history."

The prize committee had equal praise for Stephanie Jones-Rogers "genuinely field-changing book." "*They Were Her Property*," notes the prize committee, "offers a fuller picture of southern women slave owners, showing they were as invested (literally and figuratively) in the system of slavery as were their male counterparts—from the economic benefits of the system to maintaining it through violence. [This] is sure to be a book that will be taught in courses on the South, slavery, and capitalism for years to come."

About the SHA: The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

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