

PRESS RELEASE

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Maryl B. Gensheimer Receives 2020 Arlt Award in the Humanities

Washington, DC – The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has awarded the 2020 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities to Dr. Maryl B. Gensheimer, associate professor of Roman art and archaeology and director of undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. The awards ceremony was held as a post-meeting event of the virtual CGS 60th Annual Meeting.

Bestowed annually, the Arlt Award recognizes a young scholar-teacher who has written a book deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the humanities. Dr. Gensheimer becomes the award's 50th recipient for her book, *Decoration and Display in Rome's Imperial Thermae: Messages of Power and their Popular Reception at the Baths of Caracalla* (Oxford UP, 2018). She received her PhD in Classical art and archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University in 2013.

In *Decoration and Display in Rome's Imperial Thermae*, Gensheimer analyzes the decoration of the Baths of Caracalla (inaugurated 216 CE) and elucidates its critical role in advancing Roman imperial agendas. As Gensheimer notes, "This reassessment of one of the most sophisticated examples of architectural patronage in Classical antiquity examines the specific mechanisms through which an imperial patron could use architectural decoration to emphasize his sociopolitical position relative to the thousands of people who enjoyed his benefaction."

"Elevating the exceptional work of early-career humanities faculty has never been more important, and Dr. Gensheimer's brilliant work contextualizes the cultural significance of the two-thousand-year-old ancient Roman Baths of Caracalla and the role art and architecture plays in advancing the politics of imperialism. We are honored to present her with this year's prestigious Arlt Award," said Dr. Suzanne Ortega, president of the Council of Graduate Schools.

Created in 1971, the Arlt Award honors the first president of CGS, Gustave O. Arlt. The winner must have earned a doctorate within the past seven years, and currently be teaching at a North American university. Nominations are made by CGS member institutions and are reviewed by a panel of scholars in the field of competition, which rotates annually among seven disciplines within the humanities. This year's field was The Arts (Art History/Criticism/Conservation and Music). The winner receives a \$1,000 honorarium and travel to the awards ceremony.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.