

Southern Historical Association
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Southern Historical Association announces Francis B. Simkins Award Winner

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce that the 2017 winner of the Francis B. Simkins Award is Emily Suzanne Clark, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA for her 2016 University of North Carolina Press book, *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans*. First awarded in 1977, the Simkins Award is given in recognition of the best first book by an author in the field of southern history over a two-year period. The award is sponsored jointly with Longwood College and is awarded in odd-numbered years.

In making its recommendation, the committee noted the book's "great originality and imagination." "*A Luminous Brotherhood*," the committee continued, "tells us much that we did not know about African American spirituality.... Writing model microhistory with the verve of a much more seasoned scholar, this young author demonstrates exquisite command of her material, knowing just when to blow up her story to show its transnational implications, and when to take it back down to the local and the minute."

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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