

SHARPIES

A GLOBAL BOOK HISTORY FESTIVAL

July 7–9, 2026

festival program

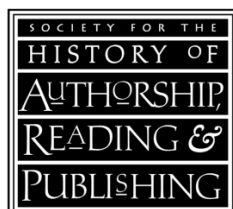


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words of welcome

from SHARP's President

Dear SHARP members,

Welcome to the very first SHARPIES Global Book History Festival! SHARPIES 2026 offers an innovative way for members to come together to hear about exciting research that has been supported through your membership fees and to meet new colleagues at social events.

As an international organization, SHARP's slate of research awards is designed to provide some financial support to scholars at various career stages working in different regions of the world. The newest addition to SHARP's roster of grants are the Archie L. Dick Research Development Grants for scholars of book history who are from or based in the Global South. Up to five of these will be awarded for the first time in 2026. Your membership in SHARP also helps to fund the 25th-Anniversary Fellowships: these have been increased to two awards for 2026. Of course, the long-running Book History Book Prize and the Greenspan–Rose Book History Essay Prize continue to recognize excellent scholarship by established and emerging scholars. And, fear not, the travel grants for the in-person SHARP annual conference will return for SHARP 2027!

The current Executive Council is very aware of research funding cuts for academic scholarship around the world, and we remain committed to finding sustainable ways of helping our community of scholars to flourish wherever they live and work. We recognize, too, the dominance of the English language within SHARP's activities and publications. One of our efforts to disrupt that situation will happen here at the SHARPIES during an all-languages coffee hour that leverages the affordances of technology to allow us to share our SHARPish book recommendations across languages. This is a small but important step towards making spaces and venues where multiple languages can be spoken and, ultimately, book history scholarship can be shared and published in a member's preferred language.

SHARP exists for its members, and your membership makes our community. SHARP flourishes thanks not only to your membership fees, your participation in conferences and events, and on the much-loved **SHARP-L**, but also to a considerable amount of volunteer labor from members. Nowhere is this more evident than in the makeup of the organizing committee for the inaugural SHARPIES, which includes one Board member, three Executive Council members, and four (extra)ordinary members! Many thanks to them all for their creativity and hard work. They have turned the request from SHARP members for a digital event into a dynamic festival that celebrates SHARP members and book history across the globe.

Thank you for your continued support of SHARP—and enjoy the SHARPIES!

Danielle Fuller, President (2023–27)

words of welcome

from the SHARPIES Organizing Committee

Dear SHARPIES participant,

We're so glad you're joining us for the first ever SHARPIES global book history festival! We designed this festival for you. Although in-person conferences are wonderful ways for us to sustain our community, there are more and more hurdles to meeting in person. Whether for financial reasons, sustainability concerns, care responsibilities, disability, or the difficulties of getting a visa, the fact is that in-person conferences are not easily accessible to everyone. As we experiment with holding conferences in alternating years, the SHARPIES aims to be a place where we can scratch our book history itch, see old friends, and get to know new colleagues in a relaxed but exciting on-line environment.

Unlike an in-person event, here on **Zoom Events** we're easily able to gather book history scholars and enthusiasts from around the world to share with us SHARP-awarded, cutting-edge research. For this reason, you'll find events scheduled across time zones. We certainly don't expect you to stay awake around the clock—another benefit of our online forum is that all events (except social events) will be recorded and available to you as a registrant until the end of 2026.

We hope you'll agree that the SHARPIES program combines the best of in-person scholarly excitement with the flexibility of the online platform. Alongside three keynote events, we're featuring four interviews, six themed conversations, two events designed to connect you with the work of SHARP News editors, a publisher's roundtable, a romance book clubs and author talk, and three structured social events. All of the events will be interactive, and you can choose to participate as little or as much as you like. The events are between 60 and 90 minutes, and long breaks are scheduled throughout the program to give you time to get up from your computer.

We hope you'll enjoy the SHARPIES festival as much as we enjoyed planning it. We're looking forward to seeing you on Zoom and hearing about your experience.

Sincerely,

The SHARPIES Committee

Chandni Ananth

Colleen Barrett

Jolie Braun

Michelle Michel

Anna Muenchrath, Chair

Rachel Noorda

DeNel Rehberg Sedo

Shaf Towheed

our sponsors

Our wonderful sponsors are making this festival possible! Make sure to check out their booths in the lobby. In the booths, you'll find information they've posted, special offer codes, and times when representatives will be in the booths and available for live meetings.

CHICAGO JOURNALS

The University of Chicago Press



BRILL



UNIVERSITY
PRESSES



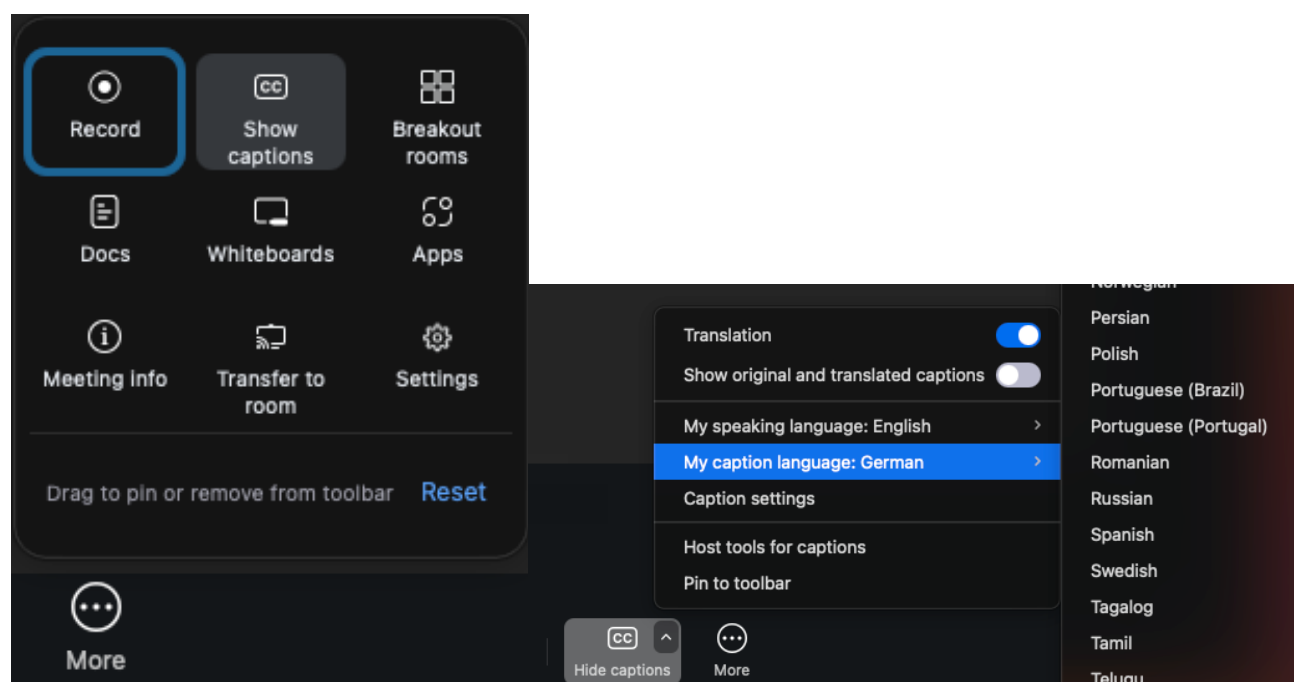
McGill-Queen's
University Press

**Boydell
& Brewer**

Statement on Accessibility and Using Zoom Events

One of our central aims in planning the SHARPIES has been to try to ensure accessibility for all participants. To that end, here's a quick guide on [using the Zoom Events platform](#) and toggling the settings to make your experience as barrier free as possible.

- Live, automatically-generated captions will be shown by default. By clicking next to the CC icon, you can toggle these off or on. This is also where you can choose to show a transcript of what has already been recorded in the meeting. Although the captions and transcript will automatically appear in English, you can change the language of the captions at any time. Note that these translations are done automatically by the program software.
- By clicking “Subtitle Settings” you can increase or decrease the size of the captions on your screen. This settings screen is also where you can change the size of the chat or adjust your screen reader notification settings.
- Navigating to “Keyboard Shortcuts” in the navigation menu on the left of your settings screen will allow you to set shortcuts for actions you take frequently.
- By navigating to “General” in the same menu, you can change your view to dark mode.
- If you have any questions about how to use any of the features of Zoom Events, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at SHARPIES@sharpweb.org.



How to manage caption settings on Zoom.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization Statement

SHARP strives to be a community that welcomes and supports people of all backgrounds and identities. This includes, but is not limited to, members of any race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, color, immigration status, social and economic class, educational level, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, size, family status, political belief, religion, and mental and physical ability. As a global organization, SHARP acknowledges the ongoing effects of colonization on Indigenous peoples worldwide. We are committed to supporting the deconstruction of ideologies that privilege Western thought and approaches to book history above all others.

SHARPIES code of conduct

We expect all participants—attendees, speakers, and sponsors—to affirm our shared values by demonstrating appropriate behavior. We expect members to:

- Treat others with respect, collegiality, and a collaborative spirit.
- Critique ideas rather than individuals. Personal attacks are not tolerated.
- Respect the [Zoom Event Participant Terms of Use](#).
- Refrain from harassing members. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, stalking and unwanted contact, the use of discriminatory language or images not justified by historical context or presented uncritically, and sustained disruptions.

SHARP uses Bluesky or other online communication tools as a complementary channel for event communication. This inspires intellectual exchange and facilitates virtual attendance to SHARP events. In order to ensure that conference social media use is a positive and affirmative experience for all who are quoted and referenced throughout a SHARP event, we expect social media users to:

- Use common sense and courtesy when posting.
- Uphold scholarly values of collegiality and accuracy when citing fellow scholars' work, including always correctly attributing ideas.
- Respect presenter wishes about posting unpublished work.
- Use alt text as often as possible when posting about SHARP events to help make our events more inclusive. Alt text is text that makes images more accessible to social media users with impaired vision by describing any visual elements used. Many platforms have settings that prompt users to add alt text before posting.

Participants who do not follow this Code of Conduct may be removed from the event.

Note on Navigating Time Zones

Navigating time zones can be a challenge when it comes to an international festival! Since we have people attending from all over the world, we've spread events out across the days to try and be as inclusive as possible.

In order to avoid too much confusion, we've included a program overview with all the event titles on the following page. We have used UTC times throughout the program, and you can use a website like [World Time Buddy](#) to convert to your local time. Once registration opens, the calendar of events may also be exported from Zoom Events. **Note: Because we're using UTC, events listed in the evening slots may actually be on the following day for those in Asian and Australian time zones.**

Event Legend

INTERVIEW
KEYNOTE
CONVERSATION
EDITOR INSIGHTS / AGM
SOCIAL
AUTHOR TALK

Time Zone Chart

PDT	EDT	UTC	BST	CEST	IST	AEST
21.30*	00.30	4.30	5.30	6.30	10.00	14.30
23.00*	2.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	11.30	16.00
1.00	4.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	13.30	18.00
6.00	9.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	18.30	23.00
7.30	10.30	14.30	15.30	16.30	20.00	00.30*
8.00	11.00	15.00	16.00	17.00	20.30	1.00*
9.00	12.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	21.30	2.00*
9.30	12.30	16.30	17.30	18.30	22.00	2.30*
11.00	14.00	18.00	19.00	20.00	23.30	4.00*
11.30	14.30	18.30	19.30	20.30	00.00*	4.30*
12.30	15.30	19.30	20.30	21.30	1.00*	5.30*
13.00	16.00	20.00	21.00	22.00	1.30*	6.00*
15.00	18.00	22.00	23.00	00.00*	3.30*	8.00*

*occurs on the previous (PDT) or following (IST, AEST) date.

Time (UTC)	Jul 7 Tuesday	Jul 8 Wednesday	Jul 9 Thursday
04.30		SOCIAL Coffee and Crafts Fika Social Hour	
06.00			AUTHOR TALK + BOOK CLUB <i>If the Dress Fits</i> Carla de Guzman
06.30		KEYNOTE What Contemporary Readers Do: A Spoken Word Interactive Video Game Experience Beth Driscoll	
08.00		CONVERSATION Imagining Readers	CONVERSATION Minority Publishing and Grant Info Session
13.00	INTERVIEW A Conversation about Digital-Textual Histories Martin Paul Eve / Matthew Kirschenbaum	SOCIAL Career Connections: Early Career Researchers Social	EDITOR INSIGHTS Publishing with Book History and <i>Lingua Franca</i>
14.30	KEYNOTE "Stacker/Finder/Keeper": Mayme Clayton and the Itinerant Life of Black Books Ruthie Block		CONVERSATION The World and the Book
15.00		CONVERSATION Early Modern Printing and Publishing	
16.00			INTERVIEW A Conversation on Technologies of Reading Adrian Johns & Priyasha Mukhopadhyay / Hwisang Cho
16.30		CONVERSATION Youth Reading	
18.00		EDITOR INSIGHTS SHARP News Editor Panel	INTERVIEW Demystifying the SHARP Book Prize Kinohi Nishikawa / Shafquat Towheed
18.30	CONVERSATION Archives, Power and Preservation		
19.30		INTERVIEW Alexander Manshel & Dan Sinykin / Greg Barnhisel	SOCIAL All Languages Book Recommendation Fika Social Hour
20.00	SHARP Annual General Meeting		EDITOR INSIGHTS Publisher's Roundtable
20.30			
22.00		KEYNOTE Ancient Book History: What Can We Learn by Studying Material Transmission and Transformation in the Ancient Mediterranean? Mark Lester & Mark Letteney	

festival schedule

Tuesday, July 7

A CONVERSATION ABOUT DIGITAL-TEXTUAL HISTORIES:

MARTIN PAUL EVE INTERVIEWED BY MATTHEW KIRSCHENBAUM

TUESDAY, UTC 13.00–14.00

Matthew Kirschenbaum will interview Martin Paul Eve, with time for audience questions.

Martin Paul Eve is the 2025 winner of the Book History Book Prize for *Theses on the Metaphors of Digital-Textual History* (Stanford University Press). He is Professor of Literature, Technology and Publishing at Birkbeck, University of London and Technical Lead of Knowledge Commons at MESH Research, Michigan State University. [@eve.gd](https://twitter.com/eve.gd).

Matthew Kirschenbaum was the Chair of the SHARP Board of Directors from 2021–25. He is Commonwealth Professor of Artificial Intelligence and English at the University of Virginia and the 2009 winner of the George A. and Jeanne S. DeLong Book History Book Prize for *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination* (MIT Press, 2008). [@mkirschenbaum.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/mkirschenbaum).

“STACKER/FINDER/KEEPER”: MAYME CLAYTON AND THE ITINERANT LIFE OF BLACK BOOKS KEYNOTE BY RUTHIE BLOCK

TUESDAY, UTC 14.30–16.00

This talk follows Mayme Clayton’s book collection as it moves through several decades, across multiple sites of refuge and displacement. Drawing on bibliographies, oral histories, newspaper accounts, and archival interviews, the talk examines how the forced movement of Black books registers the political geographies of dispossession while simultaneously revealing fugitive modes of Black feminist literary labor. Interested in the information landscapes Black women developed within domestic space during the late 20th century, the talk explores how the homeplace becomes a site of textual theory, Black study, and political contestation.

Ruthie Block’s keynote presentation will be followed by a question and answer session moderated by Elizabeth McHenry.

Ruthie Block is a 2024 recipient of a [Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for their work applying fugitivity studies to Black print culture studies, with a particular focus on Black feminist practices of print preservation, stewardship, and alternative circulation. They are a PhD student in English and African American Studies and a graduate fellow at the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM).

Elizabeth McHenry (Chair) was a member of the SHARP Board of Directors from 2022–25. She is Professor of English, Divisional Dean for the Humanities and Vice Dean for Interdisciplinary Initiatives at New York University. She has won the Book History Book Prize twice: for *Forgotten Readers: Recovering the Lost History of African American Literary Societies* (Duke University Press, 2002) and for *To Make Negro Literature: Writing, Literary Practice, and African American Authorship* (Duke University Press, 2021).

ARCHIVES, POWER, AND PRESERVATION CONVERSATION

Jeffrey M. Makala, Gloria J. Morales Osorio, Bryan Sinche, Yael Sternhell,
Colleen Barrett (Chair)

Sponsored by MNG University Presses

TUESDAY, UTC 18.30–19.30

The participants will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of archives, power, and preservation, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Colleen Barrett.

Jeffrey M. Makala was a 2024 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Publishing Plates: Stereotyping and Electrotyping in Nineteenth-Century US Print Culture* (Penn State University Press, 2023). He is Associate Director for Special Collections and University Archivist at Furman University. [@jeffmakala.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/jeffmakala.bsky.social)

Gloria J. Morales Osorio is a 2024 recipient of the [25th-Anniversary Fellowship](#) for her project “Filling the Silence before Rescue: Editorial Trajectories of Afrodescendant Writers in the 20th Century in Colombia.” She is an independent researcher with a PhD in Literature from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a junior fellow of the Rare Book Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography.

Bryan Sinche is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Published by the Author: Self-Publication in Nineteenth-Century African American Literature* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024). He is Professor and Department Chair of English and Modern Languages at the University of Hartford.

Yael Sternhell is the author of a 2024 Book History Book Prize commended title: *War on Record: The Archive and the Afterlife of the Civil War* (Yale University Press, 2023). She is Professor of History and English and American Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Colleen Barrett (Chair) is the Chair of SHARP’s Board of Directors and a member of the SHARPIES committee. She is the Rare Book Librarian at the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Kentucky. [@colleenlovesbks.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/colleenlovesbks.bsky.social).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, UTC 20.00–21.30

The SHARP Executive Council will provide an update of what has happened since the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), as well as celebrating the recipients of the 2026 awards, including the Book History Book Prize, the Greenspan–Rose Book History Essay Prize, the Archie L. Dick Research Development Grants, and the 25th-Anniversary Fellowships. Member feedback and announcements will be solicited. All members, new and old, are heartily welcomed!

The SHARP Annual Report for 2025–26 and an agenda for the meeting will be made available to members at least one week prior to the AGM.

Danielle Fuller (Chair) is President of SHARP and Professor of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta.

COFFEE AND CRAFTS FIKA SOCIAL HOUR

WEDNESDAY, UTC 4.30–5.30

This informal gathering is for all SHARP members to connect in a collegial and creative setting. Inspired by the Swedish tradition of *fika*—a pause for coffee, conversation, and connection—we'll come together for an hour of relaxed exchange. Whether your work engages print culture, material texts, reading practices, or digital book history, this book history *fika* offers a space to reflect, make, and learn alongside fellow scholars beyond formal panels or publications. A list of materials to gather from your home and office will be provided closer to the festival. This event will not be recorded.

Sydney Shep (Chair) is Reader in Book History and the Printer at Wai-te-ata Press, Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She served as *SHARP News* Editor for over a decade, was an active member of the SHARP Executive Committee and Board, and is a SHARP Past President. Her research focuses on both historic and contemporary text technologies and includes nineteenth-century transnational and cross-cultural book history, Māori data science, AI, and translation. She is also a practicing letterpress printer, designer bookbinder, and artist bookmaker.

WHAT CONTEMPORARY READERS DO: A SPOKEN WORD INTERACTIVE VIDEO GAME EXPERIENCE

KEYNOTE BY BETH DRISCOLL

WEDNESDAY, UTC 6.30–7.30

Twenty-first-century readers navigate multiple online and offline networks, from writers festivals and book clubs to Goodreads and Amazon. This keynote transforms the networks of contemporary reading into a playable video game-esque experience, with audience participation welcomed. The talk will move through four levels: Choosing a Book; Finding Time to Read; Telling Someone What You Think; and ultimately, A Rich and Meaningful Cultural Life. Completing each level will require us to defeat a Boss (culminating in a battle with the Final Boss). To do so, we will draw on research into the dynamic, diverse, and creative strategies of contemporary readers.

Beth Driscoll's keynote presentation will be followed by a question and answer session moderated by Alex Dane.

Beth Driscoll is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *What Readers Do: Aesthetic and Moral Practices of a Post-Digital Age* (Bloomsbury, 2025). She is Professor in Publishing and Communications and Deputy Dean (Academic) in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne.

Alex Dane (Chair) is co-editor of SHARP's journal, *Book History*. She is Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne.

IMAGINING READERS CONVERSATION

Aakriti Mandhwani, Peter McDonald, Sun Zhang, Leah Henrickson (Chair)

WEDNESDAY, UTC 8.00–9.00

The participants will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of imagining readers, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Leah Henrickson.

Aakriti Mandhwani is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Everyday Reading: Middlebrow Magazines and Book Publishing in Post-Independence India* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2024). She is Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Shiv Nadar University.

Peter McDonald is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *The Double Life of Books: Making and Re-Making the Reader* (Edinburgh University Press, 2024). He is Professor of English and Related Literature and Tutorial Fellow at St. Hugh's College at Oxford.

Sun Zhang is the winner of the 2024 *Greenspan–Rose Book History Essay Prize* for an essay co-written with Ryan Cordell and titled “Imagined Readers: Contrasting Professional and Reader Reviews of Chinese Book Design.” Zhang recently completed a PhD at Nanjing University.

Leah Henrickson (Chair) is a member of SHARP's Board of Directors and a past social media editor for *SHARP News*. She is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Media and Cultures at the University of Queensland.

CAREER CONNECTIONS: EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, UTC 13.00–14.30

This informal gathering brings together early-career and established scholars in book history to connect across career stages and research interests. Participants will be grouped into breakout groups and given suggested conversation prompts in order to learn more about each other and each other's research. Breakout groups will rotate periodically so that you can meet as many SHARPists as possible. A sign-up list for this event will be circulated to registrants in advance. This event will not be recorded.

Leslie Howsam (Chair) was SHARP President from 2009–13. She is the author of *Old Books and New Histories: An Orientation to Studies in Book and Print Culture* (University of Toronto Press, 2006) and the editor of the *Cambridge Companion to the History of the Book* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), as well as the General Editor of the University of Toronto Press series Studies in Print Culture.

EARLY MODERN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CONVERSATION

Ruth Ahnert, Sebastian E. Ahnert, Andreas Patrick Bassett, Stephanie A. Leitch, Geoffrey Turnovsky, Andie Silva (Chair)

Sponsored by Boydell & Brewer

WEDNESDAY, UTC 15.00–16.00

The participants will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of early modern printing and publishing, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Andie Silva.

Ruth Ahnert and Sebastian E. Ahnert are 2024 Book History book Prize finalists for *Tudor Networks of Power* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Ruth Ahnert is Professor of Literary History and Digital Humanities at Queen Mary University of London. Sebastian Ahnert is University Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at the University of Cambridge.

Andreas Patrick Bassett is a 2025 recipient of a [Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for his research on the publisher Robert Pollard and his bookshop in Restoration-era London. He recently received his PhD from the University of Washington. He is Assistant Professor of English at San José State University.

Stephanie A. Leitch is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Early Modern Print Media and the Art of Observation: Training the Literate Eye* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). She is Professor of Northern European Art and History of Graphics at Florida State University.

Geoffrey Turnovsky is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Reading Typographically: Immersed in Print in Early Modern France* (Stanford University Press, 2024). He is Professor of French and Chair of the French and Italian Studies department at the University of Washington.

Andie Silva (Chair) was Editor-in-Chief of *SHARP News* from 2020 until the end of 2025. She is Professor of English at York College.

YOUTH READING CONVERSATION

Titus Bose, Natalie Hsieh, Elizabeth Hoiem, Lisa Maruca (Chair)

WEDNESDAY, UTC 16.30–17.30

The participants will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of youth reading, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Lisa Maruca.

Titus Bose is a recipient of a [2025 Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for research toward her PhD, “Gift for Children: Bengali Children’s Periodicals and the Making of Children’s Reading (1883–1938) in West Bengal, India.” She is a graduate student in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

Natalie Hsieh is a recipient of a [2024 Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for research toward her PhD, “Encountering Windows and Mirrors in the Diaspora: Using Young Adult Literature to Explore the Stories and Counterstories of Asian American and British ESEA Young People,” which she completed at the University of Glasgow in 2025.

(continued on p. 13)

YOUTH READING CONVERSATION

Elizabeth Hoiem is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *The Education of Things: Mechanical Literacy in British Children's Literature, 1762–1860* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2024). She is Associate Professor in the School of Information Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Lisa Maruca (Chair) is currently SHARP's Director of Publications, but has also served as the Membership Secretary (2019–23). She is Associate Professor Emerita at Wayne State University.

SHARP NEWS EDITOR PANEL

Allie Alvis, Madeline Zehnder, Jolie Braun (Chair)

WEDNESDAY, UTC 18.00–19.00

Panelists will offer advice on writing effective features and book reviews for *SHARP News*, followed by a conversation with attendees.

Allie Alvis is Features Editor for *SHARP News*. They are Curator of Special Collections at the Winterthur Library.

Madeline Zehnder is a Reviews Editor for *SHARP News*. She is a postdoctoral fellow at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in the DFG-supported research group Kleine Formen/Small Forms.

Jolie Braun (Chair) is a member of the SHARPIES committee and a Reviews Editor for *SHARP News*. She is Curator of Modern Literature and Manuscripts in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at the Ohio State University. [@joliebraun.bsky.social](#)

INTERVIEW:

ALEXANDER MANSHEL AND DAN SINYKIN BY GREG BARNHISEL

WEDNESDAY, UTC 19.30–21.00

Greg Barnhisel will interview Alexander Manshel and Dan Sinykin, with time for audience questions.

Alexander Manshel is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Writing Backwards: Historical Fiction and the Reshaping of the American Canon* (Columbia University Press, 2024). He is Associate Professor of English at McGill University. [@manshel.bsky.social](#)

Dan Sinykin is a 2024 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Big Fiction: How Conglomeration Changed the Publishing Industry and American Literature* (Columbia University Press, 2023). He is the Winship Distinguished Research Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of English at Emory University.

Greg Barnhisel (Chair) is co-editor of SHARP's journal, *Book History*. He is Professor of English at Duquesne University.

ANCIENT BOOK HISTORY: WHAT CAN WE LEARN BY STUDYING MATERIAL TRANSMISSION AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN?

KEYNOTE BY MARK LESTER AND MARK LETTENNEY

Sponsored by Brill

WEDNESDAY, UTC 22.00–23.30

The last decade has witnessed a productive exchange between scholars of antiquity and those working on medieval and early modern book history, resulting in tremendous new growth in ancient book history and two SHARP Book History Book Prizes: in 2017, on early Jewish literature (Mroczek, *The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity*), and in 2019, on the earliest Christian manuscripts (Nongbri, *God's Library*). In this keynote, Mark Lester and Mark Lettenney explore their shared engagement with book history in approaching ancient evidence for both ancient Judaism and early Christianity. They consider how book historical approaches can inform the study of ancient contexts and corpora, how these methods can facilitate productive interdisciplinary exchange across classical, biblical, and Near Eastern Studies, and what ancient and late ancient data might contribute to the study of book history in subsequent periods.

Mark Lester's and Mark Lettenney's keynote presentations will be followed by a question and answer session moderated by Anna Siebach-Larsen.

Mark Lester is the author of a 2025 Book History Book Prize commended title, *Deuteronomy and the Material Transmission of Tradition* (Brill, 2024). He is the Assistant Director of the Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago.

Mark Lettenney is a 2025 Book History Book Prize finalist for *The Christianization of Knowledge in Late Antiquity: Intellectual and Material Transformations* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). He is an Assistant Professor and the Carol Thomas Endowed Professor of Ancient History at the University of Washington.

Anna Siebach-Larsen (Chair) was one of the co-organizers of SHARP's 2025 annual conference in Rochester, NY. She is the Director of the Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center for English Studies at the University of Rochester.

BOOK CLUB AND AUTHOR TALK

IF THE DRESS FITS BY CARLA DE GUZMAN

THURSDAY, UTC 6.00–7.30

Join SHARPists for a fun romance book club and discussion with the author. The book will be *If the Dress Fits* by Carla de Guzman; read the book beforehand and be ready to discuss! The first 45 minutes of the event will be focused on discussion then Guzman will join the group for a question and answer session!

Carla de Guzman is a romance author from the Philippines, writing Filipino characters set anywhere. She has been published both locally, with Vibal's Vida imprint, and internationally, with Harlequin's Afterglow Books, but she still considers self-publishing her home. Her books are explorations of her favorite places, food, and coffee spots, which is great since she runs Magdamag Market Cafe with her siblings in Quezon City. [@carlakdeguzman](#).

Claire Parnell (Co-host) is the author of *Inequalities of Platform Publishing: The Promise and Peril of Self-Publishing in the Digital Book Era* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2025). She is Lecturer in Digital Publishing in the School of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne.

Jodi McAlister (Co-host) is a Senior Lecturer in Writing and Literature at Deakin University, as well as an author of romantic fiction for adults and young adults.

MINORITY PUBLISHING CONVERSATION AND GRANT INFO SESSION

Billy Kahora, Jodie Lea Martire, Farhana Shaikh, Asha Rogers (Chair)

THURSDAY, UTC 8.00–9.15

The conversation will begin with an overview of SHARP's grants and fellowships. Participants, all of whom are past grant or fellowship winners, will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of minority publishing, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Asha Rogers. Depending on the interests of the attendees, the discussion may cover minority publishing as well as how to apply for SHARP's grants.

Billy Kahora is a recipient of a [2025 Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for his research on the writing of *Facing Mount Kenya* by Jomo Kenyatta during Kenyatta's time in London. He is Senior Lecturer in Creative and Professional Writing in the Department of English at the University of Bristol.

Jodie Lea Martire is the [2025 25th-Anniversary Fellow](#) for her research project on language rights and minority-language publishing in Australia. She is an HDR Candidate in the Centre for Communication and Social Change at The University of Queensland.

Farhana Shaikh is a recipient of a [2024 Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for her research on South Asian women writers in the UK publishing landscape. She is Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader of Marketing in the department of Leadership, Management and Marketing at De Montfort University.

Asha Rogers (Chair) is SHARP's outgoing Director of Awards. She is a Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Postcolonial Literature at the University of Birmingham.

EDITOR INSIGHTS: PUBLISHING WITH BOOK HISTORY AND LINGUA FRANCA

Yuri Cowan, Susan Pickford, Michelle Michel (Chair)

THURSDAY, UTC 13.00–14.00

Editors for *Book History* and *Lingua Franca* will share advice with participants on how to publish with their journals. This will be a short talk from both editorial teams, followed by a conversation with the Chair and attendees.

Yuri Cowan is co-editor of SHARP's journal *Book History*. He is Professor in the Department of Language and Literature at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Susan Pickford is co-editor of SHARP's journal of book history scholarship in translation, *Lingua Franca* and has been a SHARP award juror since 2022. She is Assistant Professor and Head of the English Unit at Université de Genève.

Michelle Michel (Chair) is a member of the SHARPIES committee and a doctoral researcher at the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham.

THE WORLD AND THE BOOK CONVERSATION

Mary C. Fuller, Claire Lavarreda, Guillermo Pupo Pernet, Xinyi Wen, Kirsti Salmi-Niklander (Chair)

Sponsored by McGill-Queen's University Press

THURSDAY, UTC 14.30–15.30

The participants will briefly introduce their research and approaches to the topic of the world and the book, followed by an interactive conversation with attendees, moderated by Kirsti Salmi-Niklander.

Mary C. Fuller is a 2024 Book History Book Prize finalist for *Lines Drawn across the Globe: Reading Richard Hakluyt's "Principal Navigations"* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023). She is Professor of English at MIT.

Claire Lavarreda is a recipient of a 2025 Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars for her research on Indigenous cosmologies and colonial texts in the dissemination of Catholicism in New France and New Spain. She is a PhD candidate in world history at Northeastern University.

Guillermo Pupo Pernet is a recipient of a 2025 Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars for his research on how the Orinoco River and its region influenced the production of *El Orinoco Ilustrado*. He is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Oxford College of Emory University with a PhD in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of Arkansas. @guillopupo

Xinyi Wen is a recipient of a 2024 Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars for research on extra-illustrating early modern natural history. She completed her PhD thesis "The Signatures of Plants in Early Modern Science and Medicine" at Cambridge University in 2025 and is currently a Frances Yates Long-Term Research Fellow at the Warburg Institute, London.

Kirsti Salmi-Niklander (Chair) is a member of SHARP's Board of Directors and has been a SHARP award juror since 2024. She is a senior research fellow in the Department of Cultures at University of Helsinki.

A CONVERSATION ON TECHNOLOGIES OF READING:

ADRIAN JOHNS AND PRIYASHA MUKHOPADHYAY INTERVIEWED BY HWISANG CHO

Sponsored by The University of Chicago Press Journals Division

THURSDAY, UTC 16.00–17.30

Hwisang Cho will interview Adrian Johns and Priyasha Mukhopadhyay, with time for audience questions.

Adrian Johns is the author of a 2024 Book History Book Prize commended title, *The Science of Reading: Information, Media, and Mind in Modern America* (University of Chicago Press, 2023) and the 1999 winner of the George A. and Jeanne S. DeLong Book History Book Prize for *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making* (University of Chicago Press, 1998). He is the Allan Grant Maclear Distinguished Service Professor of History, the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and the College at the University of Chicago.

Priyasha Mukhopadhyay is the author of a 2025 Book History Book Prize commended title, *Required Reading: The Life of Everyday Texts in the British Empire* (Princeton University Press, 2024). She is Assistant Professor of English at Yale University.

Hwisang Cho (Chair) was a juror for the SHARP Book History Book Prize in 2025. He is Associate Professor in the Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Emory University.

DEMYSTIFYING THE SHARP BOOK PRIZE:

KINOHI NISHIKAWA INTERVIEWED BY SHAFQUAT TOWHEED

THURSDAY, UTC 18–19

SHARP has been awarding an annual prize for the best published book-length research in book history since the inception of the organization in 1997. In this event, Shafquat Towheed, a former SHARP Book Prize juror and Chair, will interview Kinohi Nishikawa, a former Book Prize juror, to demystify the SHARP Book History Book Prize. We will find out more about the process of submission, how books are evaluated by jurors, and how they resolve potential disagreements, and how they reach an agreed final decision. There will be time for audience questions.

Kinohi Nishikawa has been a juror for the Book History Book Prize since 2021. He is Associate Professor of English and African American Studies, Director of the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities, and Director of the Behrman Undergraduate Society of Fellows at Princeton University.

Shafquat Towheed (Chair) is the Vice President of SHARP. He is Director of Research in the School of Arts and Humanities at The Open University.

ALL-LANGUAGES BOOK RECOMMENDATION FIKA SOCIAL HOUR

THURSDAY, UTC 19.30–20.30

This informal gathering is for all SHARP members to connect in a collegial and creative setting. Inspired by the Swedish tradition of *fika*—a pause for coffee, conversation, and connection—we'll come together for an hour of relaxed exchange. Bring a SHARP-relevant book recommendation to share—fiction, non-fiction, and scholarly books are all welcome. We'll be using Zoom's translated captions to communicate across languages, so get ready to stock up your bookshelves with global reading recs! This event will not be recorded.

Andrea Reyes Elizondo (Chair) was a 2021 recipient of the [Research Development Grant for BIPOC Scholars](#) for the development of a database on *diligencias matrimoniales* (marriage licenses) from New Spain (colonial Mexico). She is a self-funded PhD candidate at the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS) working on reconstructing the possibilities of reading in New Spain during the eighteenth century. She [blogs](#) regularly about her research.

EDITOR INSIGHTS: PUBLISHERS' ROUNDTABLE

THURSDAY, UTC 20.30–21.30

Come hear editors talk about their book history publications, what they are looking for in a book proposal, and the pressures within academic publishing. Participants continue to be added to this event, so check back for an updated list in the weeks before the festival.

Marie-Claude Felton is Acquisitions Editor at [McGill-Queen's University Press](#).

Dr. Elizabeth McDonald is Commissioning Editor at [Boydell & Brewer](#).

John A. Walsh (Chair) has served on the SHARP Board of Directors since 2025. He is Professor of Information and Library Science, Director of the [HathiTrust Research Center](#), and Affiliate Professor of English at [Indiana University](#).

meet SHARP leadership

running schedule

Have you ever wondered how to get more involved in SHARP's activities? Over the 3 days of the SHARPIES festival, you will have the chance to speak one-on-one with EC members, who will be able to tell you more about various roles and responsibilities you could take on in the organization. You can meet SHARP leaders at the times outlined in the schedule below, in the SHARP booth on the Expo floor of the Zoom Events platform.

Meet...	Date and Time (UTC)	Come chat about...
Francesca Benatti Director of Electronic Resources	July 7 14.30-16.30	... what is involved in managing SHARP's web presence and its digital assets. Also about their experience as a rookie EC member just completing their first year in the role.
Millicent Weber Membership Secretary	July 7/8 23.30-00.30	... how SHARP supports members, especially ECRs
Lisa Maruca Director of Publications	July 8 4.30-6.00	... all things SHARP, especially our three journals, as well as being on the EC in general (Lisa has served in three roles since 2019). The Publications Director role will be vacant in 2027, so Lisa is especially excited to talk about why you may want to run!
Laura Dietz Member, Board of Directors	July 8 8.30-9.30	... what it's like to be a board member.
Jess Linker Member, Board of Directors	July 8 16.00-17.30	... what it's like to be a board member and what Jess has done over the past decade to promote membership. Particularly happy to chat with early career folks, since she's been involved since she was an early graduate student!
Colleen Barrett Chair, Board of Directors	July 8 17.30-.30	... what it means to be a board member or ways you can get involved with SHARP outside of formal roles.
Danielle Fuller President	July 8 19.30-21.30	... anything to do with SHARP as an organization; Danielle is also happy to discuss what's involved in being a board member (having been on the board for 8 years) and various EC roles.
Corinna Norrick-Rühl Chair of Nominating Committee	July 9 8.00-9.30	... SHARP's leadership opportunities. Corinna has experience as a Regional Liaison, as Recording Secretary and Director of Publications, and has been a member of SHARP since she was a grad student.

guidelines

Presenters, Chairs, Alternative Hosts, and Booth Staff with Special Instructions for Social Events

Presenter Guidelines

- Please update your bio and photo, including alt text, on the [Zoom Events](#) platform as soon as possible. The event will open to the public for registration on March 1, 2026.
- You are requested to arrive 10 minutes early for your session so that we can test video and audio and troubleshoot any technical issues. Please ensure you use the correct email ID to log in to Zoom, as this will enable you to directly access your session.
- As with any meeting, please respect the time limits. The person chairing your session will be responsible for keeping time, and will ask you to wrap up your remarks if necessary.
- In addition to a chair, all sessions will have a SHARPIES committee member as a host. The host will be the one to check for technical issues at the start of the session. Please contact them via private message if you have any issues during the session.
- Some participants and attendees may be active on social media platforms such as Bluesky or X. If you would not like your session to be live-tweeted over these platforms, please say so in your bio and let the chair of your session know.
- All sessions will be recorded and available to registered attendees on the Zoom Events platform. They will not be made publicly available elsewhere.

Chair Guidelines

- Please update your bio and photo, including alt text, on the [Zoom Events](#) platform as soon as possible. The event will open to the public for registration on March 1, 2026.
- Please make sure you know the speaker(s) participating in your session, and familiarize yourself with their bios on the Zoom platform and clarify any name pronunciations and pronoun preferences. Email sharpies@sharpweb.org if you need the contact information for any of the speakers in your session.
- You are requested to arrive 10 minutes early for your session so that we can test video and audio and troubleshoot any technical issues.
- Please keep an eye on the chat for questions as well as looking out for raised hands in the Zoom room. Attendees can submit questions and upvote other people's questions in the chat, so you may wish to begin with the most popular questions, although the choice is completely up to you.
- If presenters would not like their session live-tweeted, please indicate this at the beginning of the session, when you introduce the speakers.
- You will be responsible for keeping time during the session. Please get in touch with sharpies@sharpweb.org if you have question about the timings of your session. You may wish to agree with the session participants on a way of communicating that time is running short.
- Please bear in mind that discussions should include as many attendees as possible; in the event of multiple questions from the same attendee, please encourage them to continue the conversation later in the Zoom Events lobby chat.

“Alternative Host” Guidelines

- Zoom uses the term “Alternative Host” to refer to a user who has special control over the technical aspects of the meeting in lieu of the event organizer. Since there is no way to change this terminology on the platform we’ve adopted it in order to avoid confusion.
- As the alternative host, you are SHARP’s representative in the session. You are also responsible for making sure that the session runs smoothly from a technical perspective.
- You are requested to arrive 10 minutes early for your session in order to facilitate the testing of audio and visuals of all speakers. Please ensure you use the correct email ID to log in to Zoom, as this will enable you to directly access your session. It is best if you log in using the link sent to your email from Zoom Events when you registered.
- Please monitor the waiting room throughout the session and admit participants once the speakers have finished the technical checks.
- As the “Alternative Host,” you have special access to changing the technical parameters of the meeting. You should do so judiciously. If you need to pause the recording, you can do so in the upper right hand corner. Hosts of social events should stop the automatic recording at the start of the session. You may also wish to mute all participants, which you can do on the “Participants” window. In the unlikely event that a participant is engaging in behavior contrary to the code of conduct, you can click “remove” under the ellipsis (. . .) menu.

Booth Staff: Help Desk and Meet SHARP Leadership Guidelines

- If you are signed up to either staff the SHARP help desk or participate in the “Meet SHARP Leadership” event, you’ll enter the SHARP booth through the Expo. You’ll then click “Start” on the appropriate meeting space. This will make you the host of a Zoom meeting, which visitors to the SHARP booth will be able to join.
- You will be asked if you would like to start a livestream to the Expo Booth. Click “Not Now.”
- The waiting room will be enabled, so please monitor it and admit participants as they join.
- If you are staffing the help desk, please also monitor the Lobby chat and the Booth chat. Both can be accessed by clicking the red speech bubble in the upper right of the screen. The right-facing arrow will collapse the chats; the left-facing arrow will allow you to navigate between chats. Note that you may need to adjust your windows in order to get both the Zoom meeting and the chats on the screen.

guidelines

Special Instructions for the Early Career Researchers Social

- This room will be set up with 10 breakout rooms. Each senior scholar will be assigned to one of the breakout rooms. Early career scholars will be randomly assigned.
- First Breakout Room Session: When you are ready for participants to move into breakout rooms, DeNel Rehberg Sedo will click the gear icon at the bottom left of the breakout room panel. Make sure “Automatically move all assigned participants into breakout rooms” is selected, and then click “Open all rooms.” DeNel will sort early career participants into rooms randomly.
- When you are ready to recall participants, click “Close all rooms.” Participants will have 60 seconds to return to the main room.
- Second Breakout Room Session: To reshuffle the rooms, click “Recreate” and create 10 rooms. The Host should project the slide showing which senior scholar has been assigned to each room. Senior scholars should join the room to which they have been assigned. All other participants may choose from among the rooms. In order to do this, instruct participants to open the Breakout Room panel. Click the gear at the bottom left and select “Allow Participants to Choose Room” before clicking “Open all rooms.”

Special Instructions for the All-Languages Book Recommendation Social

- The settings for translated captions are in the “Closed Captions” menu. The Caption Language can be adjusted by each participant. The host will project a slide showing how to navigate to the setting.

what's next?

How to Keep Up With SHARP in the Future

Did you enjoy learning about new work in book history? Feel like you've found your community? Make sure to keep up with SHARP through our member emails, bi-monthly newsletters, and Bluesky. There are always new ways to get involved, whether it's on a jury, in a working group, as a publications editor, or maybe even planning the next SHARPIES. 2027 is an election year for SHARP, and we'll be soliciting nominations for elected positions soon. If you have any questions about how to get involved, contact Executive Director Anna Muenchrath. In the meantime, we'll be looking forward to seeing you in person next year.