

## **Citation for the 2017 Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award**

It is my pleasure and honor to announce that the recipient of the 2017 Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award is Michelle Weitzel, a doctoral candidate in Politics at the New School for Social Research.

For the 2016 award, six papers were submitted for consideration. For the previous year, it was five. This year, we received 14 submissions. This is a clear indication of the vitality of interpretive research. On behalf of the committee, it was a pleasure to have the chance to see that so much interesting work is being conducted in the interpretive tradition.

While the large quantity of submissions was matched by their consistently high quality, our deliberations were notably brief, as all of the committee members were especially impressed by Weitzel's contribution, entitled "An Acoustemology of Conflict in Israel-Palestine: Toward a Theory of Sound-Power."

This insightful, reflexive, and well written paper stands out for both its originality and methodological sophistication. Weitzel adds an important new perspective to our understanding of power and power relations through interrogating how sound is implicated in the control of territories and populations. Focusing on two case studies from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Weitzel demonstrates, as she puts it, "how an ethnographic attention to sound may advance empirical understandings of contentious politics in particular settings, and, [further], what a sound-centric interpretive methodology in political science might entail."

This highly original analysis utilizes yet critically revises existing theoretical frameworks by integrating sound as an oft-overlooked site of power, thus contributing to interpretivism's development as a lens for understanding the political in its many forms.

The members of the selection committee – Karen Baird, Jaime Lluch, and I – invite the audience to join us in celebrating Michelle Weitzel's excellent work.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Kevin Funk

Chair of the 2017 Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award Selection Committee