

Southern Historical Association  
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**Southern Historical Association announces Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award Winner**

**Athens, GA:** The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce the 2017 winner of the Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award for the best book in southern history published in an even-numbered year: Greta de Jong, Professor of History at University of Nevada, Reno in Reno, NV for her 2016 University of North Carolina Press book, *You Can't Eat Freedom: Southerners and Social Justice after the Civil Rights Movement*.

In the late 1960s, after the southern fight for equal rights produced the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965, the news media packed up their cameras and moved on to other stories. Meanwhile, farmers and sharecroppers in the South's plantation districts plunged into a new, grassroots struggle for social justice, one largely unexplored until de Jong's new book. In *You Can't Eat Freedom*, de Jong examines both the forced displacement of southern plantation workers in the wake of agricultural mechanization and the divergent responses to this humanitarian crisis from local activists, federal officials, representatives of foundations, and reactionary politicians. In selected the book for this year's award, the committee noted that de Jong's work was not only "deeply insightful but deeply compelling."

**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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