

Southern Historical Association
thesha.org
berrys@thesha.org

Southern Historical Association announces Francis B. Simkins Award Winner

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce that the 2019 winner of the Francis B. Simkins Award is Caitlin Rosenthal, Assistant Professor of History at the University of California, Berkley for her 2018 Harvard University Press book, *Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management*.

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 *Accounting for Slavery*, Rosenthal presents impressive evidence from account books and other plantation records to argue persuasively that slavery encouraged the development of systematic management practices and, in fact, that managerial innovations on southern plantations sometimes antedated similar advances by northern industrialists. In recommending Rosenthal for the Simkins Award, the prize committee complimented *Accounting for Slavery* for offering fresh new perspectives on both the history of antebellum business practices and the lived experiences of both slave masters and the enslaved. "Beautifully written and cogently argued," the committee concludes, "*Accounting for Slavery* is an unusually polished piece of historical scholarship with wide-ranging implications. Rosenthal's achievement is significant and her book is a worthy recipient of the Simkins Award."

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*.

###