

Attention SHAFR Members

“ELECTIONS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE. IT’S THEIR DECISION. IF THEY DECIDE TO TURN THEIR BACK ON THE FIRE AND BURN THEIR BEHINDS, THEN THEY WILL JUST HAVE TO SIT ON THEIR BLISTERS.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The 2024 SHAFR election is upon us. As is traditional, *Passport* is publishing copies of the candidates’ biographies and statements by the candidates for president and vice-president, as well as biographies for the candidates for Council and the Nominating Committee, as a way to encourage members of the organization to familiarize themselves with the candidates and vote in this year’s elections. Additional information, including brief CVs for each candidate, will be available on the electronic ballot.

Passport would like to remind each member of SHAFR that voting for the 2024 election will begin in early August and will close on **September 30, 2024**. Ballots will be sent electronically to all current members of SHAFR.

“THE EXERCISE OF THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE IS A SOCIAL DUTY OF AS SOLEMN A NATURE AS [A PERSON] CAN BE CALLED TO PERFORM.”

DANIEL WEBSTER

“WE DO NOT HAVE GOVERNMENT BY THE MAJORITY. WE HAVE GOVERNMENT BY THE MAJORITY WHO PARTICIPATE.”

THOMAS JEFFERSON

If you are a member of SHAFR and do not receive a ballot by the beginning of September, please contact the chair of the SHAFR Nominating Committee, Julia Irwin (jirwin7@lsu.edu), as soon as possible to ensure that you are able to participate in the election.

Passport urges each member of SHAFR to take the time to participate in our organization’s self-governance this year. As we know, elections have consequences.

2024 SHAFR ELECTION CANDIDATES

President	Melani McAlister , George Washington University
Vice President/President-Elect	Jay Sexton , Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri Kathryn Statler , University of San Diego
Council (At-Large)	Elisabeth Leake , The Fletcher School, Tufts University Mario del Pero , Institut d’études politiques, Sciences Po–Paris
Council (At-Large)	Maurice Jr. Labelle , University of Saskatchewan Kaeten Mistry , University of East Anglia
Council (Teaching)	Brian Etheridge , Kennesaw State University Paul Rubinson , Bridgewater State University
Council (Graduate Student)	Alex Southgate , Temple University Zachary Tayler , Ohio University
Nominating Committee	Marc Palen , University of Exeter Karine Walther , Georgetown University–Qatar

Proposed By-Laws Amendment #1:

Council voted unanimously to eliminate gendered language in the SHAFR By-Laws, which requires amendments to Article II, Section 5(f); Article III, Sections 1 and 3.

Do you approve of this amendment?

Yes No

(This version shows the changes that would be made; additions are shown in italics and in blue)

Article II, Section 5(f): If a SHAFR member is nominated and placed on the ballot, but fails to win election, ~~he or she~~ *that member* shall wait one year before being nominated again for the same or a different office.

Article III, Section 1: The President shall supervise the work of all committees, formulate policies for presentation to the Council, and execute its decisions. ~~He or she~~ *The President* shall appoint the members of the Program Committee and of special committees, commissions, and boards. ~~He or she~~ *The President* shall sign all documents requiring official certification. The President shall be *ex officio* a member of the Council and shall preside at all Membership and Council meetings at which ~~he or she~~ *the President* is present.

Article III, Section 3: The Executive Director shall have charge of all Society correspondence, and shall give notice of all Council meetings. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall keep accurate minutes of all such meetings, using recording devices when deemed necessary. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall keep an accurate and up to date roll of the members of the Society in good standing and shall issue a notification of membership to each new member. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall see that the By Laws are printed periodically in the newsletter. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall submit all mail ballots to the membership and shall tabulate the results. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall retain those ballots, for possible inspection, for a period of one month. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall give instructions of the Council to the new members of committees when necessary. Under the direction of the Council, ~~he or she~~ *the Executive Director* shall manage all funds and securities in the name of the Society. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall submit bills for dues to the members and deliver an itemized financial report annually to the membership. ~~He or she~~ *The Executive Director* shall have custody of all records and documents pertaining to the Society and be responsible for their preservation, and shall prepare an annual budget for approval by the Council. The Executive Director shall be *ex officio* a member of the Council, but without vote.

Proposed By-Laws Amendment #2:

Council voted unanimously to amend Article V, Section 1, to require an international member of the Nominating Committee and to eliminate outdated information.

Do you approve of this amendment?

Yes No

(This version shows the changes that would be made; additions are shown in italics and in blue)

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members in good standing who hold no other office in the Society and shall be elected for a term of three years, ~~except that members of the first Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President to terms of one, two, and three years, respectively.~~ The Chair shall be held by the member with the longest years of service, except that when two or more members have equal length of service the President shall designate which of them shall serve as Chair. If a post on the Nominating Committee becomes vacant through death, resignation, or ineligibility through acceptance of an office in the Society, the President shall appoint a member to fill the post until the next annual election, when a replacement shall be chosen for the unexpired term. *Additionally, at least one member of the Committee shall reside outside of the United States (at time of election), thereby requiring the Nominating Committee to put forth a pair of qualifying Nominating Committee candidates if necessary to meet this minimum number.*

2024 SHAFR Election Biographies and Candidate Statements

PRESIDENT

Melani McAlister: is Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University. She is the vice-president of SHAFR, where she has served on many committees over the last two decades, including as program cochair, Ways and Means, and the Bernath article prize committee, as well as on the board of *Diplomatic History*.

McAlister is author of the forthcoming book, *Promises, Then The Storm: Notes on Memory, Protest, and the Israel-Gaza War* (London, MACK, Oct. 2024), as well as *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders: A Global History of American Evangelicals* (2018, 2nd ed. 2022), and *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (rev. ed. 2005, orig. 2001). She is the coeditor of three collections, including *The Cambridge History of America and the World, vol. 4* (2021). McAlister is currently working on a project that explores the circulation of Third World music and literature in the US in the 1970s and 1980s, tentatively titled: "The Art of Solidarity: The US Market for Third World Culture in the Late Cold War."

She has published broadly in both academic and general interest outlets, and serves on the board of *American Historical Review*, *American Quarterly*, and *Modern American History*. She is a Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Learned Societies.

We are once again at a time of reckoning for the role of the US in the world. The war in Gaza, the rapid escalation of the climate catastrophe, and the threats of antidemocratic forces around the world mean that our work is more important than ever. This is a time for SHAFR historians to make our voices heard: to grow our organization, increase our public profile, and speak forcefully about the relevance of our field.

SHAFR has been my primary intellectual home for more than two decades, and I have consistently attended our conferences and meetings, where I worked alongside many others to expand the definition of who and what is part of "US in the World," while not leaving behind traditional scholarship in diplomatic history. Expanding the diversity of our scholarly approaches is intimately linked to the increasing diversity of our membership, in terms of race, age, gender, and sexuality.

If elected, I will support increased attention to issues such as the environment, racial capitalism, global health, and technology, as well as more resources for graduate students, BIPOC historians, and scholars from outside the US. Internationalizing SHAFR is particularly important now: just as our work is increasing transnational, multilingual, and interdisciplinary, our membership is increasingly global, bringing a range of valuable perspectives to the study of the US in the World. I will work hard to continue the push, already well underway, to make SHAFR a big tent for a broad range of scholars and scholarship.

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jay Sexton: My research revisits nineteenth-century foreign relations, contending that this period should not be seen as the runway to post-1945 dominion, but rather as its own era of contested and contingent imperial formation. I am particularly interested in uncovering the entangled relationship between the global empire projects of Britain and the U.S.

I have authored/coedited seven books, including *Debtor Diplomacy: Finance and Foreign Relations in the Civil War Era* (2005); *The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth-Century America* (2011); and, *A Nation Forged by Crisis: A New American History* (2018). I'm a champion of academic collaboration. The highlights of my career so far have been the collaborative books co-edited with, respectively, Richard Carwardine, Ian Tyrell, and Kristin Hoganson (two books!). With Sarah Snyder, I'm founding co-editor of Columbia University Press's "Global America" book series, which now has 20 titles in production.

The first two decades of my career unfolded in Oxford, where I earned my PhD and ultimately worked my way up to Director of Oxford's Rothermere American Institute, the largest center for the study of the U.S. outside of North America. In 2016 I returned to my native Midwest as Chair (and now Director) of Missouri's Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. At Missouri I have fundraised to establish an MA program in Atlantic History, as well as student programs in Oxford, Cape Town, and DC. My involvement in SHAFR includes conference cochair, *DH* editorial board, and Bernath Lecture committee/chair.

The strength of SHAFR lies in its intellectual dynamism and pluralism. Annual conferences and the pages of *Diplomatic History* are sites of robust exchange. It is refreshing for an organization to embrace real debate, especially when that involves both speaking and listening (never underestimate the latter!). Thanks to the commitment of members and organization leadership over many years, SHAFR has become more diverse in demographic, as well as intellectual, regards, though work remains on this front.

The main job of future SHAFR leadership is to keep up this momentum, while growing the organization's membership and annual conference. The key is collaboration with the well-functioning governance structures of council and the organization's many committees. As I have throughout my career, as part of SHAFR leadership I would work with colleagues in an open and constructive manner. I'd hope we all would have fun, as well.

There are specific opportunities to be had for SHAFR in 2026 (the year in which the scholar appointed in this cycle will serve as president is the year of the U.S. semi-quintennial). Critical consideration of the U.S. at 250 is not the exclusive domain of organizations devoted to early America. I would platform SHAFR members during the semi-quintennial, centering in scholarly and public discussions the legacy of the United States in global context. This is an opportunity to expand our ranks and (finally!) entrench pre-1900 scholarship within our organization.

Kathryn Statler: I am Professor of History at the University of San Diego, where I have taught for twenty-five years. My publications include *Replacing France: The Origins of American Intervention in Vietnam* (2007); *The Eisenhower Administration, the Third World, and the Globalization of the Cold War* (2006; coedited with Andrew Johns); and, most recently, “Death Grip Handshakes and Flattery Diplomacy: The Macron-Trump Connection and Its Greater Implications for Alliance Politics,” in *The Liberal Order Strikes Back?: Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and the Future of International Politics* (2023). My current research project is *Lafayette’s Ghost: How Women and War Kept the Franco-American Alliance Alive for 250 Years*, which examines the importance of cultural diplomacy in alliance formation and preservation.

I have been a member of SHAFR since 1993 and presented my first paper in 1996. I have served in elected (Council and Nominating Committee) and appointed (Ways and Means Committee, *Diplomatic History’s* editorial board, Myrna Bernath Committee, William A. Williams Grant Committee) positions as well as on SHAFR task forces. I also cochaired the 2017 SHAFR/Miller Center workshop on public engagement and hosted the 2016 SHAFR conference at USD. As a result, I am extremely familiar with how SHAFR operates. I am also a general editor of the “Studies in Conflict, Diplomacy, and Peace” book series at the University of Notre Dame Press, on the editorial board for the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, an elected member of the PCB-AHA Council, and a frequent contributor to *H-Diplo* and *Passport*.

I have spent most of my academic career studying alliances—how and why they fail and what it takes to maintain them long-term. As SHAFR president, I would focus on fortifying SHAFR’s alliances, first and foremost within SHAFR through formal and informal community building. We all understand the enormous benefits of interaction among members and need to ensure these opportunities arise more frequently. Promoting broader coordination with external communities (including other professional societies, regional and national foreign policy organizations, local veterans’ and peace groups, and international constituencies) is also essential. In addition, SHAFR needs alliances that provide increased revenue to support graduate students and faculty whose institutions lack funding. I fully endorse SHAFR’s recent emphasis on teaching, public engagement, and diversity and plan to further these aims by encouraging undergraduate engagement in SHAFR, especially given universities’ growing sponsorship of undergraduate research and travel.

SHAFR is not only my intellectual home but also where some of the most friendly, generous, and dedicated people in the world reside. Walking into a SHAFR conference is always a welcome homecoming that allows me to catch up on my colleagues’ work and lives at panels, over coffee, and at social events. Their influence has made me a better historian and a better person, and I want every current and future SHAFR member to have the same experience. Ensuring our own sense of community will allow us to build alliances with others and keep SHAFR relevant and vibrant.

COUNCIL (AT-LARGE SEAT #1)

Elisabeth Leake: I have been Associate Professor of History at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, since 2022, where I hold the Lee E. Dirks Chair in Diplomatic History. Before that I was Associate Professor of International History at the University of Leeds (UK). My research focuses on the intersections between the global Cold War and decolonization, with particular attention on US relations with South Asia and the impacts of colonial knowledge-production on domestic and foreign policy-making. I am the author of two books, the latest of which, *Afghan Crucible: The Soviet Invasion and the Making of Modern Afghanistan*, won the Robert H. Ferrell Prize in 2023. I have been a member of SHAFR since 2011 and have served on the conference committee (2016-21), the 2021 conference programming committee, and the graduate students grants and fellowships committee (2022). I also established the SHAFR UK/Ireland seminar series in 2020, now run by Ilaria Scaglia. Additionally, I serve as the chief editor of the *Journal of Global History* and am an associate editor for the H-Diplo RJISS forum, where I’ve enjoyed supporting and promoting SHAFR authors.

Mario Del Pero: Mario Del Pero is Professor of International History at Sciences Po, Paris, and Senior Research Fellow at the *Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale* (ISPI), Milan. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on the United States in the world, 20th/21st century global history, transatlantic relations, and Cold War history. His research focuses on the United States in the world, particularly in the post-World War II era. He is the author or coauthor of eight books, including an intellectual biography of Henry Kissinger (*The Eccentric Realist*, Cornell UP, 2009) and a general history of U.S. foreign policy (*Libertà e Impero*, Laterza, 2022, 4th ed.).

He has published research articles in numerous journals, including the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of American History*, and *Diplomatic History*. He regularly comments on U.S. politics and foreign policy on the Italian and Swiss public TV and radio. His commentaries on current affairs have appeared in various magazines and newspapers, including the *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, and *Le Monde*. A longstanding member of SHAFR, he has served on the editorial board of *Diplomatic History* (2012-14, 2021-23), and several committees, including the Bernath and Ferrell Prizes, and the Membership Committee.

COUNCIL (AT-LARGE SEAT #2)

Maurice Jr. Labelle: Maurice Jr. Labelle (Moe, *pour les intimes*) is Director of the SSHRC-funded NonAligned News Research Partnership and an Associate Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan-located on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of Michif/Métis (Canada). Moe's current interests center on decolonization and anti-racism in the world. His first book project is entitled: *Tragedy of Decolonization: Lebanon, the United States, and the Making of the Postcolonial World, 1941-67*.

Since 2008, SHAFR and its members have offered me countless support, mentorship, and community. I have greatly benefited from involvement in twelve (12) SHAFR annual meetings, the 2011 Summer Institute, and four (4) sponsored panels at the AHA and OAH. The Robert A. and Barbara Divine and Samuel Flagg Bemis grants funded my dissertation research. *Diplomatic History* and *Passport* have also provided me with platforms to publish on U.S.-Middle East relations, as well as the Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts.

Naturally, I have tried to give back to our community as much as possible. I am especially proud for serving on the Committee on Women and SHAFR'S inaugural Conference Task Force and Reporting Team. It would be both an honor and a privilege to be an at-large member of Council.

Kaeten Mistry: I am Associate Professor of History at the University of East Anglia (UK) and my research focuses on the domestic and transnational forces shaping the U.S. in the World. I have published widely on the history and politics of U.S. foreign relations, national security, and the international cold war. Among my publications are *Whistleblowing Nation: The History of National Security Disclosures and the Cult of State Secrecy* with Hannah Gurman (Columbia, 2020), *Waging Political Warfare: The United States, Italy, and the Origins of Cold War* (Cambridge, 2014), articles in the *Journal of American History* and *Diplomatic History*, as well as guest editing *Intelligence and National Security* (2011). My current project is on the culture of state secrecy in modern America (contracted to Harvard). Like many non-U.S. based scholars, the SHAFR community has been my intellectual home away from home. It welcomed and supported my work at the 2010 Summer Institute. I co-chaired the 2019 programme committee, have served on the Committee on Public Outreach and Engagement and Membership Committee (including as chair), and been a mentor at conference job workshops. I have also sought to broaden our community informally, including initiatives to increase international submissions for SHAFR conferences since 2013.

COUNCIL (TEACHING-CENTERED SEAT)

Brian C. Etheridge: Brian C. Etheridge is passionate about SHAFR's teaching mission, and undergraduate education more broadly. Active in the organization since 1997, he has participated in eighteen sessions at the annual meeting (with six on teaching) and been involved with thirteen SHAFR initiatives/committees, the most relevant of which has been SHAFR's Teaching Committee (six years total with two as chair). He also has a record of administrative leadership in matters related to teaching and learning. He is associate dean for academics in the Keeping Sights Upwards Journey Honors College and professor of history at Kennesaw State University. At previous institutions, he has been responsible for units dedicated to faculty development and academic innovation. A previous winner of the Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize, he is the author of *Enemies to Allies* (2016) and co-editor of *The United States and Public Diplomacy* (2010), *Curriculum Internationalization and the Future of Education* (2018), and *Shaping a Peaceful World* (under consideration). In addition to his work on American foreign relations history, he has published on honors education, cybersecurity education, and game-based learning. As part of his teaching practice, he is revising two role-playing games on American foreign relations history (with students as co-creators and play-testers).

Paul Rubinson: I am professor of history at Bridgewater State University, a teaching-centered college founded by Horace Mann in Massachusetts. There I teach four courses each semester, including core surveys, courses for history majors, and seminars for first-year students. My research looks at the intersection of science and international social movements, including the antinuclear movement and the campaign for human rights. I am the author of *Redefining Science* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016) and *Rethinking the American Antinuclear Movement* (Routledge, 2018), and I currently hold the 2024-2025 BSU Presidential Fellowship for my next book project, *Mistress of the Sciences, Asylum of Liberty*. I have published articles in *Diplomatic History*, *Cold War History*, and *Isis*, and have been a member of SHAFR for about twenty years. I recently received two fellowships from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for the development of college courses on the Holocaust. Throughout my career, I have struggled to balance my commitment to teaching with the desire to produce scholarship in an institutional setting not always conducive to research. While almost all SHAFR members teach, those who come from teaching institutions face unique professional challenges, and I intend to be a voice for them on the SHAFR council.

COUNCIL (GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

Alex Southgate: Alexandra Southgate is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Temple University where she studies twentieth century U.S. foreign relations and cultural history. Her dissertation research focuses on Quaker internationalism during the early Cold War and explores the relationship between religious pacifism and diplomacy. She received both her B.A. in History and M.A. in Contemporary International History from the University of Toronto.

Alongside her historical research, Alexandra is passionate about editing and archival studies. She is currently an Assistant Editor for *Diplomatic History* and has previously worked for Rise Up! Feminist Digital Archive and Canada Declassified. Recently, she edited a collection about feminist archives for *Rejoinder*, an online journal published by Rutgers' Institute for Research on Women entitled "The Archival is Political." Alexandra is very interested in archival records sharing and collaboration—particularly to support graduate students and contingent scholars.

Alexandra is enthusiastic about international scholarship and exchange: in 2021 she was a Wilson Center Cold War Archives Research Fellow and in 2023 she studied at the University of Cologne as a Visiting Scholar. SHAFR is already a hub for international connection and Alexandra hopes to support initiatives to make the organization even more accessible.

Zachary Tayler: Zachary Tayler is a third-year doctoral student at Ohio University. His dissertation will examine how a number of issues between 1975 and 1995, including Indochinese refugees, prisoners of war/missing in action, and the Third Indochina War, forced the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to maintain a dialogue that eventually led to the normalization of diplomatic relations. Zach's first journal article, "Humanitarian's Legacy: Patricia M. Darien and the Indochinese Refugee Crisis," is set for publication in March 2025. He is a member of SHAFR's graduate student committee and looks forward to contributing to the SHAFR community. Before pursuing his doctorate, Zach taught 7th grade social studies in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, for four years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marc Palen: I am a Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter in England. My research explores how ideology and the international political economy have shaped US globalization and imperial expansion since the mid-19th century. I have been a SHAFR member for fifteen years, have published three articles in *Diplomatic History*, presented at numerous SHAFR conferences, have reviewed article manuscripts and books for *Diplomatic History* and H-Diplo, and have served on SHAFR's Open Access Task Force and SHAFR's Development Committee. Starting in 2025, I will also serve on *Diplomatic History's* Editorial Board. I strongly endorse SHAFR's commitment to diversity and to its support for graduate students and the precariously employed. While among the latter in 2013, I was very fortunate indeed to receive SHAFR's W. A. Williams Junior Faculty Research Grant to support research on my first book, *The "Conspiracy" of Free Trade: The Anglo-American Struggle over Empire and Economic Globalisation, 1846-1896* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). My newest book, *Pax Economica: Left-Wing Visions of a Free Trade World*, was published with Princeton University Press (2024). I look forward to expanding my service to SHAFR as an international member of the Nominating Committee.

Karine Walther: Karine Walther is associate professor of History at Georgetown University-Qatar. She earned her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in 2008. Karine is currently finishing her second book, *Spreading the Faith: American Missionaries, ARAMCO, and the Birth of the U.S.Saudi Special Relationship, 1889-1955*, under contract with the University of North Carolina Press. Her co-edited volume (with Oli Charbonneau), *The Gospel of Work and Money: Global Histories of Industrial Education*, is forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press. She is co-editing another volume, *Global Histories and Practices of Islamophobia*, with Abdullah AlArian.

I have been a member of SHAFR since I was a graduate student where, knees shaking, I presented my first academic paper. In the years that followed, SHAFR has become my home base and its members are where I go first to get feedback on my research. I have been proud to give back to SHAFR by serving and/or chairing multiple committees: the Michael J. Hogan foreign language fellowship committee (member/chair), the conference program committee (member), the SHAFR council (member), the newly created task force on Code of Conduct (member/chair), and the dissertation prize committee (member/chair). I would be honored to now serve on the nomination committee.