

Fellowship Report
SESAH 2019 SAH Annual International Conference Fellowship
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I was fortunate to attend the 72nd annual SAH International Conference held in Providence, R.I., thanks to the generous support of SESAH's 2019 SAH Conference Fellowship. Although I have attended several SESAH conferences in the past, this was my first time at an SAH conference.

The conference was held at the Rhode Island Convention Center, with lodging provided at the attached Omni Providence Hotel. The conference venue was not ideal in my opinion; it seemed oversized (I believe we occupied only half of one floor of the convention center), and spaces for informal interaction outside of paper sessions seemed disconnected and vacuous. It was, however, very nice and well appointed, and Providence is obviously rich with architectural history.

This year there were thirty-eight sessions representing a broad cross section of the discipline. I particularly enjoyed sessions on Race and Space in Latin American Cities, Architectural Fallout and Moral Failure, and Marginal Landscapes, among others. Barnaby Evans, the founder of Providence's famous WaterFire event, gave the introductory address Wednesday evening, and Joan Ockman gave the inaugural Eduard F. Sekler Talk in the famous First Baptist Meeting House.

The Southeast was well represented by both paper topics and presenters. There were four presenters from my home institution LSU, as well as others from Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia. I didn't see any SESAH members from North Carolina present, but of course Lee Gray was among the audience. There was a less impressive showing of paper topics covering the American South; John Davis gave a good paper on Reconstruction Landscapes, Danielle Wilkens presented a paper on Selma, Bryan Norwood presented a paper on the Plantation Museum, there were a few papers on the TVA, and I spoke about a pedestrian mall in North Carolina. Notably, almost all of these papers were given by either Ph.D. candidates or junior faculty, with the exception of Avigail Sachs' excellent work on the TVA.

I was very fortunate for the opportunity to present in the session titled "Agora to WaterFire: Landscape Histories of the Public Realm" chaired by Professor Thaïsa Way, and really enjoyed the cross themes among the session participants. We were a diverse group of five academics and one professional including an architectural historian, two landscape historians, two art historians, and one practicing architect.

Unfortunately, my paper was scheduled for the last paper session of the conference, and of course I was the last presenter in our group, but Professor Way was exceedingly helpful by ensuring we were prepared well in advance. Afterwards, April showers made for an unpleasant journey to surrounding restaurants as our conversations continued over dinner and drinks. I first attended the Landscape Chapter 15th anniversary celebration at The Rosendale two blocks from the conference hotel, and later stopped by a happy hour at The Dorrance generously hosted by the University of Michigan before having dinner there with colleagues.