Lisa Fink awarded an Oregon Humanities Center Fellowship

Lisa Fink, a PhD Candidate in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy, has been awarded an Oregon Humanities Center Fellowship for her dissertation project “Unsettled Ecologies: Alienated Species, Indigenous Restoration, and U.S. Empire in a Time of Climate Chaos.” Fink’s work “traces environmental thinking about invasive species from Western/colonial, Indigenous, and anti-imperialist perspectives within the context of settler colonialism, immigration, and climate change.” The inherent promise of Fink’s project proposes a more capacious and ethic politics by considering both human and other-than-human beings in a world marked by increasingly unstable climatic and economic conditions. When asked about the scope and stakes of her work, Fink answered that her research “enters the thorny arena of ‘incommensurability’ between Native American and immigrant organizing, pointed out by Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang, in order to think with other scholars about opportunities for advancing both groups’ objectives.”

An accomplished scholar, Fink completed her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Virginia, and her Master of Arts in English from the University of Oregon. Her article, “Sing the Bones Home”: Material Memory & the Project of Freedom in M. NourbeSe Philip’s Zong!” appeared in Humanities, volume 1 in 2020. She co-authored “Helena Maria Viramontes’ Under the Feet of Jesus: A Teaching Guide” for the UO Common Reading Program in 2019. In addition to these publications, Fink’s most current work, “Refusing the Discourse of Animality: Farmworkers, Insects, and Decolonial Posthumanism in Helena Maria Viramontes’s Under the Feet of Jesus” is under review at MELUS.

Fink plans to use the fellowship, especially its release from a teaching requirement, to focus on her research and writing. As a parent, she appreciates the extra time afforded her because of the fellowship. In addition to time, she is also excited to use the research and support resources made
available through the OHC—resources which include an extension of her summer fieldwork into the fall.

She would like to thank the Oregon Humanities Center for their generous support. She also offers her thanks to her dissertation director, Professor Sarah Wald, Profs. Kari Norgaard (Environmental Studies & Sociology), Stacy Alaimo (Environmental Studies & English), Laura Pulido (Geography & Ethnic Studies), and Mark Carey (Environmental Studies & History) for their continued support and encouragement.