

Dr. Alissa Walter, Assistant Professor of History, received a 2022 [Graves Award in the Humanities](#) for "excellence in teaching." The Arnold L. Graves and Lois S. Graves Award in the Humanities was created to encourage and reward "outstanding accomplishment in actual teaching in the humanities by younger faculty members." This teaching award was accompanied by a \$11,000 grant to support Dr. Walter's research and the integration of her research into her classes at Seattle Pacific University. Dr. Walter plans to use this grant to carry out two rounds of fieldwork in Iraq and Kuwait. The first of her trips is scheduled for March 2022, when she will go to Baghdad, Iraq in order to carry out interviews and to do research in Iraqi archives in support of her book manuscript that is tentatively titled *Becoming Baghdad: State-Society Relations in Iraq's Capital City, 1950-2011*. She will also do some initial data gathering in Kuwait related to the history of the Iraqi occupation of that country in 1990-91. She plans to use the remaining funds for a longer follow-up fieldwork trip to the Middle East to continue her historical research of state-society relations in Iraq in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Graves Award in the Humanities recognized Dr. Walter's accomplishments in innovative strategies for teaching history to undergraduates at Seattle Pacific University. Students in her HIS 3730 Modern Middle East class read archival documents pulled from Dr. Walter's own research into Iraqi history as part of their class assignments, for example, illustrating the value that the Graves Award sees in supporting the research of early career professors who have "unusual skill and enthusiasm" for teaching and who draw on their research to "enhance their ability in the classroom." One new way that the Graves Award will allow Dr. Walter to further integrate her research into her classrooms is by using her fieldwork as an opportunity to establish partnerships with universities in the Middle East, through which she will be able to set up a virtual cultural exchange between her students and students in Middle Eastern universities. This virtual cultural exchange would take place in coordination with the Seattle Pacific University Office of Global Engagement's Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) fellows program.