

2. Professional Learning Development Statement

This statement should justify and explain to the reviewers the faculty member's rationale for pursuing this grant opportunity; this should be a compelling statement clearly explaining the opportunity involved, and how it will enhance his/her specific skills set as a researchers, teacher, etc. and how the students will benefit from the project. (Recommendation: Copy and paste from a word document - *maximum two pages, 3,000 characters per page*).

From January 28-29, 2016, I would like to visit the Margaret Bourke-White Special Collection housed at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. Besides the Library of Congress, this is the primary archival site of this significant 20th century photographer's work. Of particular scholarly interest to me, as a historian of modern South Asian visual culture, are Bourke-White's 1946-1948 photojournalistic images – first published in Life magazine – of the mass migrations within the Punjab (NW India) due to the 1947 Partition of India (which resulted in the formation of the nations of India and Pakistan). It is significant to note that few visual images of and around the 1947 Partition exist, and Margaret Bourke-White's photographs are often put forth as the iconic images of this transformative 20th century event. However, her photographs of the Indian subcontinent have been rather uncritically historically contextualized and theorized, which I will attempt to correct in my article to be expanded upon and completed for submission to the prestigious academic journal, Visual Anthropology Review during Spring 2016. Given that the nature of my work, although grounded in history, is interdisciplinary as well – often engaging with anthropology – this journal is a strong fit for the subject matter at hand.

A precondition of a final article's eventual acceptance to VAR is finding necessary accompanying photographs, and this is why consulting the Bourke-White Collection at Syracuse is essential. My academic progress here at ESU is contingent upon being able to publish well-researched, rigorous scholarly work in peer-reviewed, recognized journals like VAR, which consulting and using photographs from the Bourke-White Collection will enable me to do. I also foresee the possibility of this article and collection providing a foundation to lead to more expansive work on Bourke-White in the form of a book manuscript.

Furthermore, I routinely teach about 20th century South Asia, and specifically the 1947 Partition, in my GE undergraduate world history surveys, my upper level undergraduate modern South Asia course, and my graduate courses on colonialism and nationalism in South Asia and history through film. To have digital copies of Bourke-White's photographs for use in all of these courses would greatly enhance the ability of students to literally visualize South Asia during this critical period of the mid-20th century. Furthermore, our department is in the process of formulating a twelve-credit certificate for Public History that would allow students to obtain baseline experience in this historical field, which would serve to positively augment their resumes. My firsthand knowledge of utilizing the Bourke-White Collection will be of great value to communicate to our ESU students pursuing this certification in how to conduct hands-on historical research in an archival setting, and how such an archives is organized and managed.