The American Journalism Historians Association has named *Making Charlottesville: Media from Civil Rights to Unite the Right* by Aniko Bodroghkozy the winner of its 2024 Book of the Year award.

Bodroghkozy’s book explores the resurgence of white supremacy amid the 2017 “Summer of Hate” in Charlottesville, Virginia, by comparing that highly visible event to key moments in the civil rights era.

The book, published by University of Virginia Press, “turns the tragic events of Charlottesville on its head,” and “demonstrates that people can learn from history both for good and for evil,” said one member of the judging panel.

Another judge commended Bodroghkozy’s “innovative embrace of theory and historical and qualitative methods,” and said the work “makes a compelling case about historical rhymes, juxtaposing recent U.S. history with the cases of the 1963 Birmingham and 1965 Selma campaigns of the civil rights movement.”

“What can a comparative historical analysis of media treatment of these events separated by fifty years elucidate about the significance of what happened in Charlottesville?” said Bodroghkozy, a professor of media studies at the University of Virginia. “The book argues that ‘Birmingham’ and ‘Selma’ as media events brought to maximum visibility how a media-savvy social change movement using those towns as stage sets for confrontation with white supremacists and segregation could push the United States to begin repairing its racist and anti-democratic past. #Charlottesville brought to similar maximum visibility the rise of a potentially potent alternative white nationalist social change movement that was also media savvy and committed to the complete reversal of those progressive gains.”

AJHA also named three unranked runners-up for the annual book award.

*Live from the Underground: A History of College Radio* by Katherine Rye Jewell was described as “an excellent intervention into the history of radio/broadcasting and the place of college radio at the center of the cultural wars of the late twentieth century” by one judge.

Jewell’s book, published by University of North Carolina Press, explores the growth of underground radio on college campuses, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

“I’m thrilled by this honor, especially because my book focuses on the spaces where aspiring journalists often found their first broadcast experiences,” Jewell said. “Journalism and college radio are deeply intertwined. Its history shows how college radio was more than a space for alternative musicians -- it was a place that trained future journalists and broadcasters of many kinds, from Charles Osgood to Steve Doocy.”

Jewell is a professor of economics, history, and political science at Fitchburg State University.

*Shadow of the New Deal: The Victory of Public Broadcasting* by Josh Shepperd was also named a runner-up. The book, published by the University of Illinois Press, examines the people, institutions, and policies that helped shane National Public Radio during the mid-twentieth century.
“Previously unchronicled, the origins of U.S. public media can be located in a dialectic that emerged between communications regulation, institution building, funding, and early audience research between 1934 and 1941, Shepperd said. "‘Shadow’ traces the founding principles, players, and policies that set the scaffolding in the 1930s and 1940s for what became NPR and PBS."

A judge described Shepperd’s book as “an excellent addition to radio history, which sorely needs more depth” and “breaks new ground by exploring neglected years and policy in the history of public media.”

Shepperd is an assistant professor of media studies at the University of Colorado.

Ken Ward’s Last Paper Standing: A Century of Competition Between the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News was also named a runner-up in this year’s competition.

“I’m honored to have my research recognized alongside the tremendous work of my peers, and I look forward to discussing it in Pittsburgh,” Ward said.

Ward’s book, published by University of Colorado Press, “offers insights into the economic conditions that many daily newspapers found themselves in after the Great Recession and potential solutions for today’s newspaper publishers,” one judge said.

All four authors will participate in a panel discussion of their books and receive their awards during the 43rd annual AJHA National Convention scheduled for Oct. 3-5 in Pittsburgh.

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Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit http://www.ajhaonline.org.