

Lauren Ashley Bradford

B.A., History & German Studies, Gettysburg College, 2018

M.A., European History, Politics, and Society, Columbia University, 2020

For her first year of doctoral study, Bradford held the Albert M. Tapper Fellowship and the Ference and Ilona (Schulhoff) Czigler research award. Prior to embarking on her doctoral studies, Bradford earned an MA in European History, Politics, and Society from Columbia University where she focused on the experiences of Jewish Displaced Persons in post-war Berlin. For her doctoral project, Bradford researches violent white women, both those engaged in direct physical violence and those who promoted it, in Nazi Germany and Jim Crow America. She will employ gender analysis to compare these women in addition to exploring the history surrounding these violent women. She intends to center the perceptions that victims and bystanders had of these female perpetrators.

Over the summer months, Bradford embarked on preliminary research at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston. Among her findings was a Tuskegee newspaper collection at the Alabama Department of History and Archives containing thousands of newspaper articles and photographs documenting lynchings that ranged from the period of reconstruction to the 1950s/60s. Oral testimony and memory videos at the Equal Justice Initiative at the Montgomery Legacy Museum capture survivors and their descendants discussing racial terror and lynchings during Jim Crow.

For her next research trip, Bradford will focus on the Nazi portion of her dissertation. She will visit Munich and Berlin, with additional visits to archives at the concentration camps Ravensbrück and

Buchenwald. Already adept at reading German documents, she began studying Yiddish remotely through the Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Program through Tel-Aviv University.

Bradford is the recipient of the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year.