

## **Brooke Hindle Post-doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2018**

**Eduardo Escobar**, *Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, The University of Chicago*

**For: The Scribal Craft: Cuneiform Recipe Knowledge and the Language of Technology.**

The 2018 Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship is awarded to Dr. Eduardo Escobar (University of Chicago) for his project, “The Scribal Craft: Cuneiform Recipe Knowledge and the Language of Technology.” Escobar’s project focuses on ancient Akkadian technical manuals to provide an ambitious intellectual history of technology. His historical methodology creatively incorporates cuneiform philology and digital tools to examine the nature of technical practices in the ancient Middle East. His examination of lexical changes connected to technical instructions for producing colored glass, manufacturing perfumed oils, horse training, and dyeing wool shows that “rationality” has had a deeper history in the region than previously thought. His research also investigates the gendered attribution of technological expertise to men and women. Escobar plans to use the Hindle fellowship to study two corpora of cuneiform tablets located at the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin. These tablets contain Late Bronze Age Assyrian recipes for perfumed oils and the earliest written records for about training horses. He will use this data to develop new digital editions and translations of cuneiform tablets. These digital editions will provide the grounds for his future research on technical vocabulary in Assyriology, including a monograph and a research article on Babylonian mathematics and technological procedures from the 19th century BC to the 3rd century BC. In addition to providing a critique of established historical interpretations of ancient craft knowledge and technology in the ancient Middle East, Escobar’s publications promise to make ancient texts accessible to non-specialists.