

I woke up on Tuesday, February 11th to the news that President Trump had frozen all federally funded grants. As I was currently working on an NEH grant, I had no idea if I would be paid that Friday. Fortunately, after a 24-hour whirlwind of anxiety that saw an injunction and then withdrawal of the executive order, that particular crisis was averted. I got paid and was allowed to continue researching what I would consider a particularly banal topic – women in the early decades of the electrical engineering profession. Later that week, “women” appeared on a potential list of banned words for NSF funding. Suddenly I was in the crossfire for a second time in a week.

Who else has experienced such whiplash? How are you coping? Are you altering your research? Are you protesting?

Perhaps by the time we meet in Luxembourg politics will have settled down and none of this will matter. Or perhaps we will find ourselves in even more turbulence and looking for ways to organize a resistance. Right now we don’t know, but I would like to put together a roundtable of concerned historians to discuss how the current political climate is affecting our work and to brainstorm ways to continue to do work that we value when it is under attack. Any perspectives are welcome from anyone at any stage in their career along any part of the political spectrum.