

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CHAIR

Hello from Van Dyck hall!

The fall semester is in full swing.

In July, Alastair Bellany stepped down after four years as department chair. We owe Alastair and departing officers Johanna Schoen and Leah DeVun an enormous debt for their dedicated service during extremely trying times. They kept us together during the pandemic, helped us figure out how to teach online and worked to make sure our graduate students received an extra year of funding to compensate for closed archives and travel restrictions. We would never have made it through the past few years without them!

I am happy to welcome new Associate Chairs Jennifer Jones and Samantha Kelly and Undergraduate Vice Chair James Delbourgo. Paul Hanebrink graciously agreed to return for a final year as the Graduate Vice Chair; he will be replaced by Judith Surkis for the following two years. I'm fortunate to have such an excellent team to help me shepherd the department through the next three years.

This fall we are welcoming two new faculty members to campus. Leslie Alexander, a leading senior scholar in early African American and African diaspora history,

comes to join our #1 ranked program in African American history. We have a new NTT teaching professor, Mark Bray, a Rutgers Ph.D. with expertise in Spain and the Mediterranean, who will develop courses for us on terrorism, antifa and the Spanish Civil War.



In addition, we welcome Archisman Chaudhury, our first Hallgring Visiting Assistant Professor. This position was made possible with the generous gift of Prof. Louis Hallgring in honor of his Rutgers mentor Irving Kull. Archisman's research focuses on the climatic and epidemiological history of the Indian Ocean World in the early modern era.

(Continued from page 1)

There have also been some changes in the department office. After two years helping us weather the pandemic, our business manager Donna Ghilino went into a well-deserved retirement. Our dedicated staff, Candace, Anuja, Dawn, and Amanda, have heroically kept the department afloat as we search for her replacement.

In sadder news, we mourned the passing of our emeritus colleague Rudy Bell in April. Rudy was a Rutgers institution and it is hard to imagine campus without him. As a new chair, I know I will miss his deep knowledge of the university and his sharp political acumen.

In the fall of 2021, we gradually returned to teaching in person. We adjusted to lecturing in masks and tried to find ways to identify students when we could only see their eyes and foreheads. Even with these restrictions it was great to be back in the classroom and off the Zoom screen.

This year, we may not be fully back to "normal" or even know exactly what normal is any more, but we hope to further reinvigorate our life on campus and create more of an in-person community.

In September, Camilla Townsend started us off by organizing a major conference "1522: Exploring Indigenous Perspectives on Mexico's Post-Conquest Years" that brought together scholars of the conquest who use Indigenous sources with Indigenous academics who reflected on the conquest from an Indigenous perspective.

September also saw the start of a new RCHA project, "Repairing the Past," led by Jochen Hellbeck and Kristin O'Brassil-Kulfan, which examines debates over how to reckon with, revise or defend the past in different historical contexts and locations. The seminar is taking place in hybrid format, but lunch is once again available for those who attend in person.

I hope to see you all around campus sometime soon.

-- Melissa Feinberg

Professor of History
and
Chair of the History Department



HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Faculty

Dr. Leslie Alexander

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of History

Dr. Alexander joined the History department in Fall 2022. She received her M.A and Ph.D. from Cornell University and her BA at Stanford University.

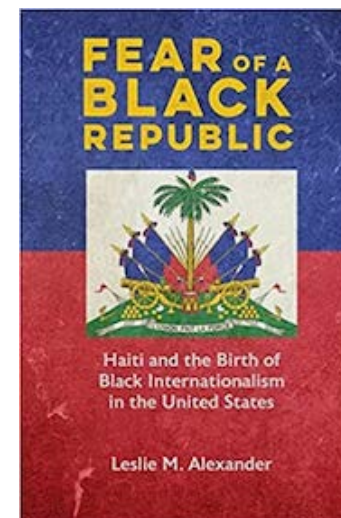
Before her arrival at Rutgers, she was an associate professor at Arizona State and the University of Oregon. She began her career as an assistant professor at Ohio State University. In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Alexander has served in numerous leadership positions, including president of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora and executive council member of the National Council for Black Studies.

Dr. Alexander specializes in early African American and African Diaspora history, especially the history of slavery, Black political and intellectual thought, and resistance movements. Her research is dedicated to excavating the social, political, and cultural history of slavery and the people who fought against it. Her past, current, and future projects are all driven by a common passionate intellectual curiosity; namely, how the legacy of slavery and Black activism have shaped the social, cultural, and political contours of the United States and the broader Atlantic World.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Alexander has published two major monographs, *African or American?: Black Identity and Political Activism in New York City, 1784-1861*, which explores Black culture, identity, and political activism during the early national and antebellum eras, and *Fear of a Black Republic: Haiti and the Birth of Black Internationalism in the United States*, which examines how Haiti's rise as the first Black sovereign nation in the western hemisphere inspired Black political activism in the United States during the nineteenth century, especially in the realm of foreign policy. She is also the co-editor of several collections of essays, including *"We Shall Independent Be": African American Place-Making and the Struggle to Claim Space in the United States*.

Her newest research project is tentatively titled "How We Got Here: Slavery and the Making of the Modern Police State." Intended for a general audience, this project argues that modern-day systems of policing, surveillance, and punitive control of Black communities are traceable to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when white people desperately sought to control a large unfree population who refused to submit to their enslavement.

To learn more about Dr. Alexander:
<https://drlesliealexander.com>



New Faculty

Dr. Mark Bray

Assistant Teaching Professor

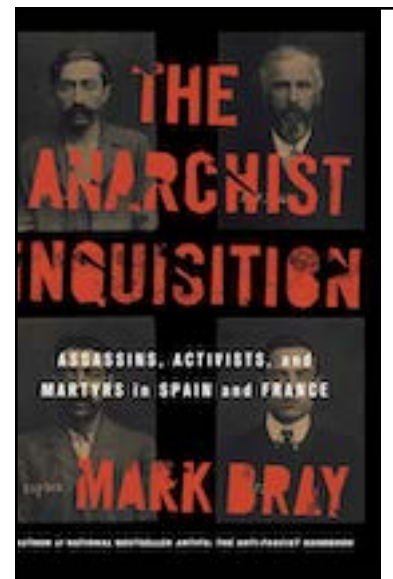
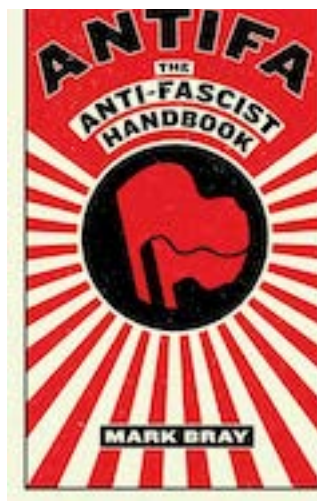
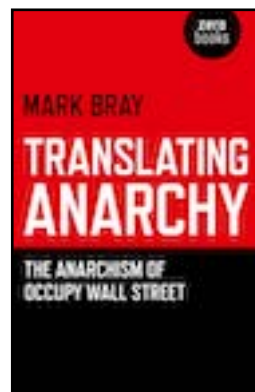
Dr. Bray is a historian of human rights, terrorism, and politics in Modern Europe. He earned his BA in Philosophy from Wesleyan University in 2005 and his PhD in History from Rutgers University in 2016.

Dr. Bray is a longstanding member of the Rutgers History Department and has been a member of our teaching faculty for several years. He teaches a variety of courses, ranging from seminars and workshops on communism, anarchism, and antifascism to courses on modern German, WWII, and Human Rights. The History Department is delighted to announce that In 2022 he was appointed Assistant Teaching Professor.

He is the author of the national best-seller ***Antifa: The Anti-Fascist Handbook*** (2017), ***The Anarchist Inquisition: Assassins, Activists, and Martyrs in Spain and France*** (2022), ***Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*** (2013), and the co-editor of ***Anarchist Education and the Modern School: A Francisco Ferrer Reader*** (2018).

Dr. Bray's work has appeared in Foreign Policy, The Washington Post, Salon, Boston Review, and numerous edited volumes, and has been translated into over a dozen languages.

Check out his article "Five Myths about Antifa" in the ***Washington Post***.



Hallgring Visiting Professorship in Premodern History

This new Visiting Professorship was made possible by a generous bequest by Louis Hallgring Jr. (1921-1995) in honor of his undergraduate faculty mentor, Dr. Irving Stoddard Kull, who taught History at Rutgers from 1918-1954.

Louis Hallgring graduated from Rutgers college in 1943 and served as an interpreter in the US army during WWII. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University in 1950, writing his dissertation on the German Reichstag elections of 1930.

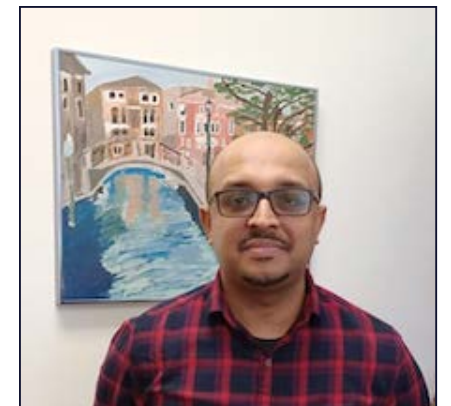
He also earned a divinity degree at General Theological Seminary in NYC and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1955. He served as the minister of several Episcopal parishes in the dioceses of Newark NJ and Brooklyn NY.

The Reverend Hallgring joined the faculty at Hunter College in NYC in 1955 as an assistant professor of history and went on to earn tenure and serve as academic dean at Hunter College.

I am an historian of early modern Indian Ocean. I earned my B.A. (Presidency College, Kolkata, 2010) and M.A. (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2012) degrees in History in India. In 2012 I moved to The Netherlands to study at the Leiden University, where I completed my PhD in 2019. In Leiden, I explored the archives of the Dutch East India Company (the VOC) to research histories of the Indian Ocean. My doctoral thesis, "From Camp to Port: Mughal Warfare and the Economy of Coromandel, 1682-1710," researched the relationship between warfare and economy in South Asia: the impact of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's (r.1657-1707) southern military campaigns (1682-1707) on the economy of Coromandel Coast, a major industrial hub of early modern Indian Ocean that specialized in producing textiles which were a crucial component in the VOC's intra-Asian trade.

I worked as a postdoctoral researcher (2019-2021) at McGill University's Indian Ocean World Centre, focusing on a comparative study of coeval climatic anomalies in the Indian Ocean during the Little Ice Age: the impact of El Nino-induced droughts and famines in South Asia and island South-East Asia. My recent publications, "The El Nino of 1685-1687 in Golconda and Northern Coromandel, South Asia: Drought, Famine, and Mughal Wars," in Philip Gooding ed. ***Droughts, Floods, and Global Climatic Anomalies in the Indian Ocean World*** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) explores the connections between warfare, economy, and environmental crises and trade in enslaved labour from South Asia to island South-East Asia.

At Rutgers University, I plan to further research the effects of climatic anomalies in South Asia, island South-East Asia, and the Cape Colony in southern Africa in the seventeenth and eighteenth century – using the VOC archives and drawing upon Richard Grove's methodology of coeval climatic anomalies in the Indian Ocean. I will study the impact of El Nino-and-Indian Ocean Dipole-induced droughts and famines in the aforementioned regions, as well as the connections that developed between these regions in the aftermath of climatic anomalies through movement of enslaved labour and outbreak of epidemic diseases, especially smallpox. In terms of relevance to global history, my research will bring into sharp contrast the impact of climatic anomalies on human-environment relationship in the Indian Ocean.



-- Archisman Chaudhuri

RCHA

REPAIRING
THE PAST

The Rutgers Center for
Historical Analysis,
2022-2024

OUR
GUIDING
QUESTIONS

Which possibilities
does the practice
of historical inquiry
afford within the
dynamics of the
current moment?

What forms of
action should calls
to "repair" the past
entail?

What does it mean
for scholars of
history and memory
to "step into the
past"?

What role should
historians play
in applying past
to present for
purposes of
redress?

In what ways is
history "at work in
the world"?

Reckonings with history are at the center of contemporary public debates in the US and the world. On multiple levels - communal, national, and transnational - political action overtly invokes the revision, defense, or recreation, of entrenched historical records, for the sake of alternatively empowering disenfranchised constituencies, or silencing them from exclusionary dominant narratives. Many of these debates have been argued over centuries and around the globe.

With the theme **"Repairing the Past,"** the RCHA seminar in 2022-24 invites an interdisciplinary group of historians, anthropologists, sociologists, philologists, and philosophers to consider these questions. Over the course of the seminar, we will be exploring comparative histories of repair work and redress across centuries and around the globe.

Many of our case studies begin with instances of erasure or other violence, chart the contours of resistance or resilience, and then calculate reparation or retribution. As we follow such outlines across very diverse contexts we hope to get to know our place-based community, and even dip our toes in repair activities of our own.

We hope you'll consider joining us on Tuesdays, 11am-1pm, followed by catered lunch, AB 6051 West.



Project Directors

Dr. Kristin O'Brassill-Kulan and Dr. Jochen Hellbeck

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES
IN EUROPEAN HISTORY



Dr. Jan Plamper
University of Limerick

Transgenerational Trauma?
The Uses and Abuses of a Concept
in Postwar Germany

Friday, December 3, 2021

Dr. Plamper explores the ways in which non-Jewish Germans born around 1968 increasingly see themselves as reliving the World War and traumas their grandparents were not allowed to mourn – Allied bombardments, forced migrations, and mass rapes. They turn to the concept of "transgenerational trauma."

Fall 2022
Bonnie G. Smith
Lecture in European
History

Dr. Penny Von Eschen,
University of Virginia

"Paradoxes of Nostalgia:
Memory Wars in Post-
Soviet Russia, Eastern
Europe and the United
States"

November 17, 2022

RUTGERS- UNIVERSITE PARIS 8
EXCHANGE

A Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Event: Rutgers-Paris 8 Exchange

IMAGINING
THE IRISH

Narratives of
Nationhood
1916-2020

Three Seminars led by Professor Tim Mc Inerney (Université Paris 8)
Rutgers Academic Building, West Wing, 6th Floor Rm 6051

Understanding Ireland's Ethno-Cultural divide | April 21 at 4:30pm
Despite common misconceptions, the political divide in Ireland is not about religion. Instead, the infamous labels of "Protestant" and "Catholic" function as a proxy for the complex ethno-cultural identities that have resulted from centuries of systemic segregation under colonial rule. In our first seminar, we will get to grips with the basics of identity on the island of Ireland. We will see how the Revolution of 1916-1922 transformed what the Irish nation represented in the world—and indeed, how this very transformation was seen as a profound threat to British global hegemony.
Reading: Extracts from John Mitchell, *The Land Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)* (1861); Eamonn De Valera, "Ireland and India" speech (1920); Arthur Mee's *Harmsworth's Children's Encyclopaedia* (1926).

The Troubles | April 25 at 4:30pm
In this session we examine the outbreak of civil conflict in Northern Ireland. We will see how the new entity of Northern Ireland was built on systematic discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, and voting, all in the aim of ensuring British dominance over the territory. Inescapable analogies with similar systems of discrimination around the world helped to fuel a massive civil rights movement in the 1960s, and shortly afterwards a violent uprising against Northern Ireland's "Orange State" would plunge the island of Ireland into chaos. We will see how the conflict transformed from a peaceful civil rights movement to a guerrilla war, transforming quiet neighbourhoods into veritable battle zones in the space of a year.
Reading: Extracts from Bernadette Devlin, *The Price of My Soul* (1969) and Bobby Sands' Diary.

Brexit and the Border | April 28 at 4:30pm
In our final session we will see how Britain's dark history in Ireland came back to haunt it during the Brexit referendum of 2016. We will examine why the Irish border, though hardly mentioned during the campaign itself, rendered the greatest ambitions of Brexit all but impossible. Over the next four years, the territory became a pawn in a largely cynical and disingenuous media war, creating a new sense of alienation among Irish unionists and bringing the question of a United Ireland firmly onto the table. We'll see how the awkward realities of Northern Ireland stymied Britain's Brexit dreams, and how the EU-exit may have accelerated the dissolution of the United Kingdom.
Reading: Extracts from media articles by Fintan O'Toole and Susan McKay.

Hybrid in-person/zoom event open to undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.
To register for the seminars and get copies of the readings, please contact Quiyana Butler at quiyana@history.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences



Professor
Tim
McInerney,
Universite
Paris 8
Exchange

SCHOLAR-TEACHER AWARD
BESTOWED ON LEAH DEVUN

The History Department is thrilled that Professor Leah DeVun was a recipient of the 2021-22 Faculty Teacher-Scholar Award.

The highly selective, university-wide award recognizes “those who make visible the vital link between teaching and scholarship.”

It fittingly came on the heels of her pathbreaking book, *The Shape of Sex: Nonbinary Gender from Genesis to the Renaissance*, published in Spring 2021, as well as during her final year as Undergraduate Vice Chair.

During her three-year term, Leah guided the undergraduate history program and its students through the unprecedented chaos of the pandemic.

To celebrate this recognition of her work and dedication, we hope you will enjoy this Q & A between Leah and current Ph.D. student **Alison Hight**.

Alison: What did it mean to you to be recognized with a Faculty Teacher-Scholar Award lasyear? What is it about your approach that makes teaching and scholarship so mutually constitutive for you, or “synergistic” as they call it?

Leah: I feel so honored by that award in particular because it’s a teaching award as well as a scholarly award. Teaching isn’t always given its full due, but I see it not just as important service to students but as such important intellectual work for us as well. The things I teach in classes have often been ways for me to think through my scholarship and to work through the accessibility of the arguments I wanted to make. Teaching requires you to think as much about audience as you do the material, which I think is so important. And we’re always learning from our students!

Plus, as one of my advisors told me, the number people we reach with our published scholarship is so limited – the bulk of the reach and impact we have as scholars will often be through teaching. I think about that a lot.

Alison: It’s clear that your approach is paying off at both ends, because your book manages to cover a huge scope while still coming off as highly accessible to non-specialists. Can you talk a bit about how you achieved that?

Leah: That’s nice of you to say. I really wanted to propose a new way of thinking about this history for historians, and to persuade them that topics that they might have considered to be peripheral should actually be centered. But I also wanted to make it useful for queer, trans, and non-binary folks for whom this work might be meaningful – and also something with credibility they could bring to other people in their lives. I’ve heard about people taking it to their parents or even their pastors. I’ve been really grateful to be invited to talk about the book at universities, but also churches, which shows the kind of interest that exists for this kind of research.

I also wanted to make an argument for the value of studying pre-modern history: that this long timeline of how we’ve talked about gender has something important to say to our current political and cultural moment. It’s sometimes easier to look to the distant past to recognize what looks familiar and also to see what has really changed. Broadening our vantage point can also help put our contemporary world into context so we can see that where we are now isn’t the end all be all that it’s often made out to be – things have changed so much over time and they’re likely to continue to change. So I wanted to produce something rigorous that would of course fulfill the needs of scholars, but also fulfill the personal needs of those who are not professional historians who are looking for a history that speaks to them.

Alison: What drew you to this project specifically? How would you place this book within your broader intellectual development?

Leah: Part of what I was hoping to do from the outset was intervene in the homophobic and transphobic systems that we’re seeing now, and on the very ground of where they’re purported to originate – early Christian tradition. That’s why the chronological scope is so broad.



ALISON HIGHT
INTERVIEWS LEAH DEVUN



Leah: I’ve always been interested in science and medicine. I was actually pre-med in undergrad until I realized I was more interested in ideas about science than the practice. I also volunteered at Northwest AIDS Foundation and a homeless youth shelter when I was in college. Many of the unhoused young people I worked with were trans or queer, so with both of those experiences I saw first-hand how ideas about sexuality and gender and religion impacted if and how a community could access healthcare, and that could determine more or less who would live or die. My partner is also trans, so their experience made me think even more about what it meant to be embodied – legally, medically, culturally – and why these systems have often been so binary. So I conceived of the project because it was intellectually interesting to me and personally significant to me. It wasn’t clear at all at that time that it would garner any interest in the field. It was certainly not in any way the hot topic ten years ago, and I remember getting a very hostile review of an early iteration of the work.

Alison: What was the most surprising thing you found or learned working on this book? That could be a particular wpiece of evidence or anecdote, or something broader about method or process.

Leah: Given all the books on the pre-modern period that I’d read, I was under the impression that discussions about gender nonconformity were a relatively rare thing to run across. So when I began this project, I assumed it would be hard to find enough pieces of evidence to even support an article let alone a book. But once I started paying attention, I found so many mentions of gender nonconformity, gender binarity, gender inversion, etc., that I couldn’t fit them all in a 300 page book! Even now, people are constantly sending me primary sources that they’ve found that I didn’t know about. It just shows how much is out there if you look for it. It turns out that ideas about nonbinary sex or gender nonconformity intervene in some of our most important premodern histories – the crusades, the institutionalization of knowledge through the establishment of universities, the development of a European identity, etc., – with a fair amount of regularity. The field has so much potential and is already growing beyond what I was able to put in my book. It’s really exciting.

Alison: I heard you did some heavy structural revision on this work, can you discuss that process at all? How did you know the change needed to be made? What do you think it brought to the work?

Leah: I originally had the book structured thematically: male/female, human/nonhuman, and mortal/immortal. I had several readers in a row who didn’t love the thematic structure, and we know chronology is a powerful narrative thrust, but I was dreading what it would take to overhaul it. But in the end audience is king and you have to go with what will be easiest for readers to follow, so I went and re-wrote the whole book to put it in chronological order. And as painful as it was I do agree that the book is better for it.

Alison: While the book is obviously super historical, it’s also really topical. I’m sure you’re aware of this summer’s controversy over the AHA president’s piece on presentism in historical work. I wonder if you could speak at all about if or how a presentist perspective fit into your work? What about your teaching?

Leah: Sweet’s article represents a view that when we use modern critical lenses to talk about the distant past, we’re distorting history by being “presentist.” But, of course, we talk about history all the time using terms that our subjects wouldn’t have used to describe themselves or their world. I’m thinking, for instance, of some highly praised historical work that uses PTSD – not an ancient term – to talk about the Odyssey. As far as I know, this work didn’t get the same kinds of complaints that we tend to get when we use modern terms to talk about race, or gender, or sexuality in our research and teaching. Contemporary social issues prompt us to ask new questions of our sources – just like generations of historians before us, who asked questions that were appropriate to their own times. Asking new questions and using new vocabulary isn’t “presentist” or tampering with the historical record. We use the tools and methods at hand both to better understand the past and to reflect on how the past relates to the present. We do it in terms that make sense to our modern audiences, who live in the present and share our modern vocabulary, and this is a part of how the discipline of history continues to develop, and how it continues to stay relevant and engaging to our readers and students.



History faculty Yesenia Barragan, Nicole Burrowes and Seth Koven (photo, right front) organized “The Many Worlds of Mainland ‘British Latin America’” Symposium.

Categorical Questions

Caste, Color and Race-making

Belonging in Belize: Nationalism, Diaspora and Multi-Ethnic Identity Through Carnival and Digital Space

Repurposing Colonial Archives: Cultural Forms and Histories of Indenture

Fluid Ecologies, Economies, and Intimacies in British Guiana

Difference and Identity on the Anglophone Isthmus and Islands

Entanglements of Empire: Mobilities and Liminal Spaces in Early Modern “British Latin America”

British Latin America Symposium
May 2022

The Rutgers History Department and co-hosts the Rutgers British Studies Center and Rutgers Advanced Institute for Critical Caribbean Studies, organized this hybrid event that brought together a vibrant group of interdisciplinary scholars who work on the region and reckon with the British presence and legacy in the mainland Caribbean and Latin America.

From artistic production and cultural politics to systems of indenture and convict labor, sixteen scholars from across the country workshopped papers in a rigorous and supportive environment. Other subjects of note included forging identities, caste and color, empire, and the politics of water.

Our gathering generated important discussions on histories, meanings, material conditions, and the arts in the study of the region. The phrasing “British Latin America” may be unfamiliar to some, but the titling was meant to provoke conversation in academic fields where places like Guyana, Belize and San Andrés do not often occupy center stage.



Gaiutra Bahadur, author of *Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture*, and Associate Professor and Journalism Program Coordinator in the Faculty of Arts, Culture & Media at Rutgers University, Newark, gave the keynote address entitled “Tales of the Sea.” Her beautiful presentation captured the complicated transnational, racial, ecological, and historical themes at the heart of the symposium.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

1522:
EXPLORING
INDIGENOUS
PERSPECTIVES
OF MEXICO'S
POST-CONQUEST
YEARS
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2022

This conference brings together scholars who work with Indigenous-language sources and Indigenous academics who may not study the conquest per se, but who have spent years thinking about the results of the conquest from an Indigenous perspective.

This multidisciplinary conference includes a concert by Ricardo Gallardo, Artistic Director of Mexico's Percussionist Quartet Tambuco.

A new book will emerge from the conference.

JOIN THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, AND THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

1522: EXPLORING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON MEXICO'S POST-CONQUEST YEARS

We live in an era when indigenous scholars are coming into their own. Scores of young people are obtaining their doctorates and entering the scholarly conversation. This conference will bring together scholars who work with indigenous-language sources and indigenous academics who may not study the conquest per se, but who have spent years thinking about the results of the conquest from an indigenous perspective. A new book will emerge from the conference.

September 23 and 24, 2022

Friday 9/23	Saturday 9/24
9am - 5 pm Book Chapter Workshop (May only be of interest to those who study the conquest) Chapter Writers: Sandra Arenal, PhD, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico Josh Anthony, Doctoral Candidate in History, Rutgers Clio Isaacson, Doctoral Candidate in History, Rutgers Tara Malunga, Assistant Professor, Rutgers Writing Program Celia Mendosa, Doctoral Candidate in History, Rutgers Barbara Mundy, Roberson Chair in Latin American Art, Tulane University Justyna Olko, Professor of Humanities, University of Warsaw Peter Bjørndahl Sørensen, Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Wolf Humanities Center, U. Penn Camilla Townsend, Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers With comments by: Kasia Granicka, Lecturer, University of Warsaw Javier Molina, Doctoral Candidate in History, UNAM	10:30 am Welcome Raven Mangosets, Doctoral Candidate in History, Rutgers 10:45 Introductory Remarks Camilla Townsend, Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers 11:00 Keynote Address Tijana Agency and Resilience in the Nahua Past and Present Justyna Olko, prof. dr. hab., Professor of Humanities, University of Warsaw, Director, Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity Noon Luncheon 1 pm Modern Indigenous Scholars' Thoughts on the Spanish Conquest Yaremya Elmal Aguilera, Ed. Author, <i>As manifestos sobre la diversidad lingüística</i> Abelardo de la Cruz, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Utah Eduardo de la Cruz, Director, Instituto de Docencia e Investigaciones Etnológicas de Zacatecas Selene Yuridia Galindo C., MA documentary film student, Escuela Nacional de Artes Cinematográficas, UNAM Baruc Martínez, Doctoral Candidate in History, UNAM 4 pm Reception
6:30 pm Concert Zimmerli Art Museum, 71 Hamilton Street Ricardo Gallardo, Artistic Director of Mexico's Percussionist Quartet Tambuco All are welcome! There will be food available.	

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis,
Rutgers, New Brunswick
15 Seminary Place, Rutgers Academic Building, West Wing, 6th Floor

Questions? Contact Camilla Townsend (ctownsend@history.rutgers.edu)

“We live in an era when Indigenous scholars are coming into their own. Scores of young people are obtaining their doctorates and entering the scholarly conversation.”



Conference organizer Dr. Camilla Townsend, Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers University

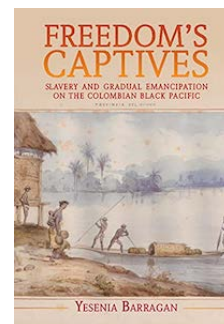
BOOK PRIZES

‘BRAVO, YESENIA, KENDRA,
MARISA, & DEBORAH’



The American Historical Society awards Professor Yesenia Barragan's book, *Freedom's Captives: Slavery and Gradual Emancipation on the Columbian Black Pacific* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) the Wesley-Logan Prize in African diaspora history.

This annual prize is given in recognition of outstanding scholarship in African diaspora history or some aspect of the history of the dispersion, settlement and adjustment, and/or return of peoples originally from Africa.



The Wesley-Logan Prize in African diaspora history is jointly sponsored by the American Historical Association and the Association for the Study of African American Life & History.

Scarlet and Black, Volume 2: Constructing Race and Gender at Rutgers, 1865-1945, won the 2022 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA) Author Award in the edited non-fiction category.

Congratulations to editors **Kendra Boyd, Marisa J. Fuentes**, and **Deborah Gray White**.

Shout out to chapter authors Beatrice J. Adams, Shaun Armstead, Miya Carey, Shari Cunningham, Tracey Johnson, Eri Kitada, Brenann Sutter, Pamela Walker, Meagan Wierda, Caitlin Wiesner, Joseph Williams!

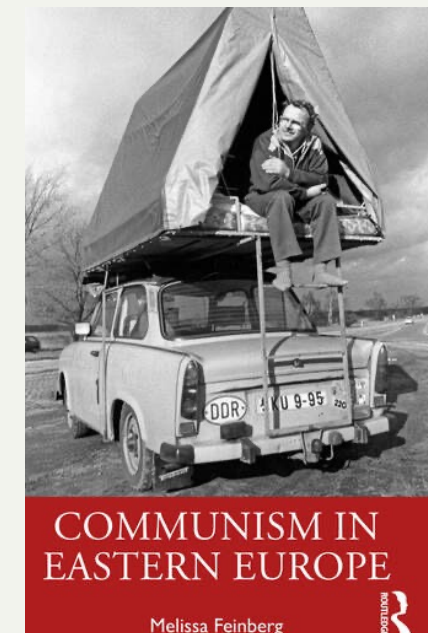
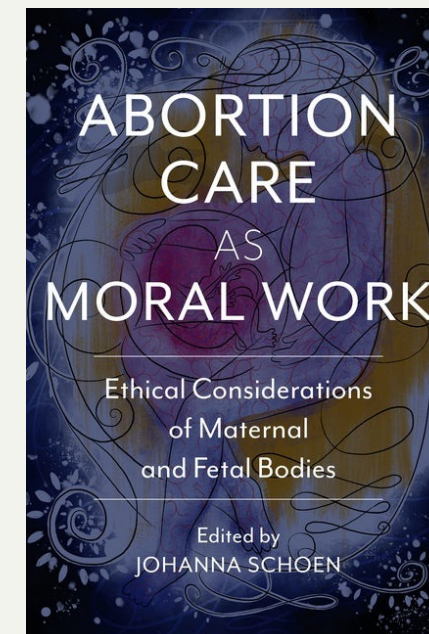


Dr. Deborah Gray White (above left) and Dr. Marisa Fuentes (above right) at the "Will's Way" sign at Old Queens, Rutgers.



Dr. Kendra Boyd, Assistant Professor of History, Rutgers-Camden.

NEW FACULTY BOOKS



IN MEMORIAM

Rudolph M. Bell (1942-2022)

Our beloved colleague, Rudy Bell, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, died on April 9, 2022. Rudy taught at Rutgers from 1968 until his retirement in 2020 and left an indelible mark on the department and on the university. By training a scholar of the Early US Republic, Rudy became a leading historian of medieval, early modern, and modern Italy, who published pathbreaking works on sanctity and gender. He was an inspiring and inventive teacher, who helped pioneer some of our first online courses. He served as department chair and as a longtime leader of the AAUP. He wasn't afraid of a political fight and always had a plan for how to work around the obstacles that deans and university presidents might throw in the way of departmental aspirations. He helped build the department we know today, and he will be missed.

The Rutgers community paid tribute to Rudy's legacy by lowering the flag at Old Queens at 3 pm on August 30, 2022. The Rutgers AAUP-AFT has renamed their union building at 11 Stone Street New Brunswick "Bell House" in honor of Rudy's tireless work on behalf of the union.

In the hours after learning that Rudy had passed away, his colleagues poured forth their memories and gratitude for all Rudy had done for our history department. Here is a small sample of what Rudy's colleagues shared.....

FROM ZIVA GALILI:

Rudy loved Rutgers, and he conveyed that love by being engaged and savvy. I learned some things from Rudy that I value more than I can really say:

- Never hold a grudge: every battle is a new battle and you can't predict who your allies will be.
- Play the long game. To do that you have to understand how academic political and bureaucratic structures work.
- Do your homework: get advice, seek out precedents, and ensure that you know the lay of the land.
- Structural amnesia is both a friend and an enemy. When you need a promise to be kept, make sure it is documented. When you need a raw "deal" to be forgotten, wait until someone new is in the office.
- Don't despair--what goes down must come up again.

I think that's why he had such an amazing smile. He was always looking to a new day down the road.

FROM JACKSON LEARS:

This is a huge loss, a big blow. Rudy was a true leader, a smart historian, an imaginative teacher, and a hell of a fine colleague. I will remember him with admiration and gratitude, and I will miss him very much.

FROM NORMAN MARKOWITZ:

I first met Rudy when I came here to Livingston in 1971 and the old guard was calling him "our computer man" I grew to both respect and revere him as a scholar-activist who made his way over the decades outside of all traditional approaches to everything, leaving U.S. colonial history for Europe and the going back centuries in time And he never ever was afraid to "make waves".

FROM JIM LIVINGSTON:

I always thought of Rudy as an irresistible, inextinguishable life force--so it seems impossible that he's gone. I admire his energy and his dedication to the department. A terrible loss.

FROM SAMANTHA KELLY:

It is hard to believe such a life force could be extinguished. He was a prolific scholar who ranged across the centuries and continents as he fearlessly pursued whatever subject caught his interest. The energy he devoted to his graduate students was astounding, and he kept up with and advised them informally long after they left Rutgers; they, in turn, showed up in force at his retirement symposium to honor him, as did his academic and union colleagues. He advised me too, as a junior faculty member, helping me to see the forest through the trees in my writing. His door was always open and he always made time, in the twenty years we were colleagues. May he rest In peace.

FROM DAVID GREENBERG:

Rudy was indispensable, a great friend to many of us, a terrific historian, a leader, a champion.

FROM JACK CARGILL:

Rudy was a good friend, a longtime lunch-table companion, my mentor in AAUP, and the best department chair I ever had; I was honored when he appointed me undergraduate chair to fill out an unexpired term. When I had utterly exhausted myself trying to finish the 800-page typescript of my longest scholarly book, as chair he essentially saved my career and life by (unasked) "assigning me to research" during a spring semester, which enabled me to finish the book. He even allowed me to sublet his house for two years at a bargain rate, which enabled me to save enough to buy my first home. I will never forget him, and will always remember him with great affection.

FROM TOM FIGUEIRA:

To Rudy Bell, my friend, mentor, and midday messmate, in honor of his 52 years of distinguished humanism at Rutgers.

An age of RU has passed!

Flag lowering ceremony at Old Queens in honor of Rudolph M. Bell, August 30, 2022



Photos of assembled family, friend and colleagues, including, Laura Bell, Tara and Steve Giovannetti, Allesia Bell and Mark Proctor, President Holloway, President emeritus Richard L. McCormick, Paul Clemens, Jim Masschaele, Melissa Feinberg, Ann Gordon, Barbara Cooper, and Tom Glen, among others.

Photos taken by Candace Walcott-Shepherd.



THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS

University Year-Long Fellowships

Lindsey Dixon:
Dean's Fellowship in
The School of Graduate
Studies

Sam Hege:
Mellon Dissertation
Completion Fellowship in
SAS for his dissertation
"The Winds of Money':
Race, Work, and Water
in the Texas Panhandle,
1910-1985.

Sam Hege:
Center for the Critical
Analysis of Contemporary
Culture Fellowship

Timur Mukhamtulin:
Warren and Beatrice
Susman Dissertation
Fellowship

Shirley Paxton Fofang:
Dean's Fellowship in
The School of Graduate
Studies & Presidential
Graduate Fellowship

Emmet von Stackelberg:
Warren and Beatrice
Susman Dissertation
Fellowship

Brooke Thomas:
Mellon Dissertation Comp
letion Fellowship in SAS
for her dissertation, "'To
Capture a Vision Fair':
Black Clubwomen and the
shift from Respectability
Politics to Public Policy,
1935-1975."

Leo Valdes: Center for
the Critical Analysis of
Contemporary Culture
Fellowship

Ph.D. Degrees Conferred

Yarden Avital "The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee between Universal Being and Particular Suffering" under the direction of Jochen Hellbeck and Judith Surkis.

Brian Brown "'With Misery but Honor': Social Class Interaction in the Public Markets of Oaxaca, Mexico, 1870 to 1970" under the direction of Camilla Townsend.

Thomas Cossentino "'The Ones You Sent': American Veterans and Legacies of the Vietnam War" under the direction of David Foglesong and Donna Murch.

Marlene Gaynair "Islands in the North: (Re) Creating Jamaican Identities and Cultures in Toronto and New York City During the Long Twentieth Century" under the direction of Mia Bay and Walter Rucker.

Patrick Harris "Imperial Exiles: Emigration and Counterrevolution in the Colonial Atlantic" under the direction of Judith Surkis and Seth Koven.

Tracey Johnson "Carving Out a Space for Themselves: Black Artists in New York City, 1929-1989" under the direction of Donna Murch.
William Kelly "Revolucion es Reconstruir: Housing, Everyday Life, and Revolution in Cuba, 1959-1988" under the direction of Kathleen Lopez.

Laura Michel "Benevolent Republicans: Philanthropy and Identity in the Early United States" under the direction of Camilla Townsend and Andrew Shankman.

Alexander Petrussek "Real Existing Ideals: East Germany and The Socialist Imaginary 1945-1991" under the direction of Belinda Davis.

Jazmin Puicon "Creating Cali: The Rise of Popular Democracy in the Cauca Valley, Colombia during the 20th Century" under the direction of Aldo Lauria-Santiago.

Peter Sorensen "'I am a Singer, I Remember the Lords': History in the Sixteenth-Century Aztec Cantares" under the direction of Camilla Townsend.

Brenann Sutter "Consuming the Centerfold: Sexuality and the Fantasy of the American Good Life" under the direction of Rachel Devlin.

Meagan Wierda "To Count and Be Counted: Quantification in the Age of American Slavery" under the direction of Mia Bay.

Joseph Williams "Black Club Women, the Production of Religious Thought, and the Making of an Intellectual Movement, 1854-1933" under the direction of Mia Bay.

Master's Degrees Conferred

Marie Barnett

Janaleigh Olszyk

RECENT PH.D. PROPOSAL DEFENSES & WORKING TITLES

Jeffery Berryhill

"It's Hell Knowing You Might Die Tomorrow": A History of the AIDS Crisis in New York (1981-2001)

Anais Faurt

"Neither Safe nor Sound: Decolonizing France and the Global History of Child Protection, 1945-1989"

Clio Isaacson

"Women in the Nahuatl Annals"

Adam McNeil

"Would Not Go with Him: Black Women's Wartime Resistance in the Chesapeake during the American Revolution and War of 1812"

Nicholas Sprenger

"Outrage of Empire: Violence in the Making and Unmaking of the British Imperial World"

Adam Stone

"Women Citizen Activists and the End of the Cold War: Soviet Bloc and Western Transnational Connections, 1980-1989"

Leo Valdes

"It's War in Here: Trans Liberation during the era of Mass Incarceration"



Doris Brossard, Nawel Kahouaji, and Anais Faurt enjoying the Fall 2022 "Welcome Back" Party

Planning the 44th Annual Susman Conference

How do you make a successful Susman conference?

Combine:

8 panels
29 panelists
19 universities

Rutgers History students presenting:

Adam Stone,
Theoren Hyland,
Keiara Price,
Jeongeun Park

Rutgers faculty panel chairs:

Paul Clemens
Barbara Cooper
Suzy Kim
Jennifer Mittelstadt
Kristin O-Brassill-Kulfan
Julia Stephens
Judith Surkis
Joseph Williams



Elissa Branum, the Susman committee chair, **Mary Gently**, **Laura de Moya Guerra**, and **Jeongeun Park** worked together from September 2021 to April 2022 to organize the 44th Susman Conference.

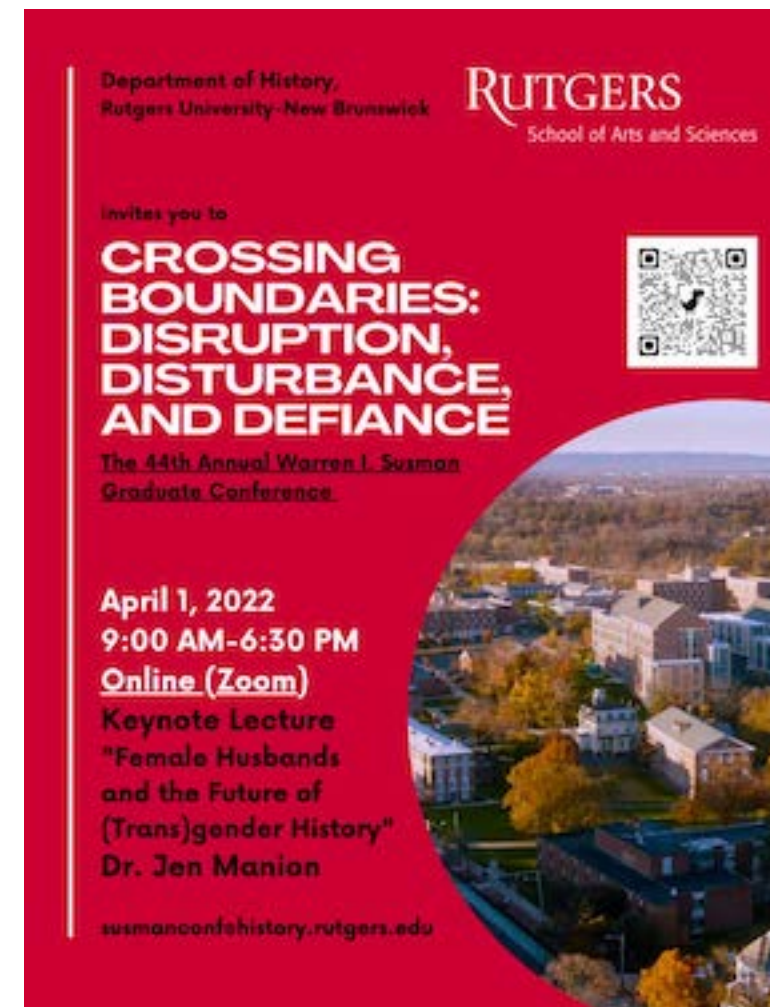
Looks like they enjoyed working together!

Crossing Boundaries: Disruption, Disturbance, and Defiance

The 44th Annual Warren I. Susman Graduate Conference
April 1, 2022

Keynote

"Female Husbands and the Future of (Trans)gender History"



DR. JEN MANION
Professor of History
and Sexuality, Women's
and Gender Studies at
Amherst College

Manion is author of *Liberty's Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America* (Penn, 2015) which received the inaugural Mary Kelley Best Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.

Their most recent book, *Female Husbands: A Trans History* (Cambridge, 2020) was a finalist for the OAH Lawrence Levine Award for the best book in U.S. cultural history and recipient of the best book prize by the British Association of Victorian Studies.

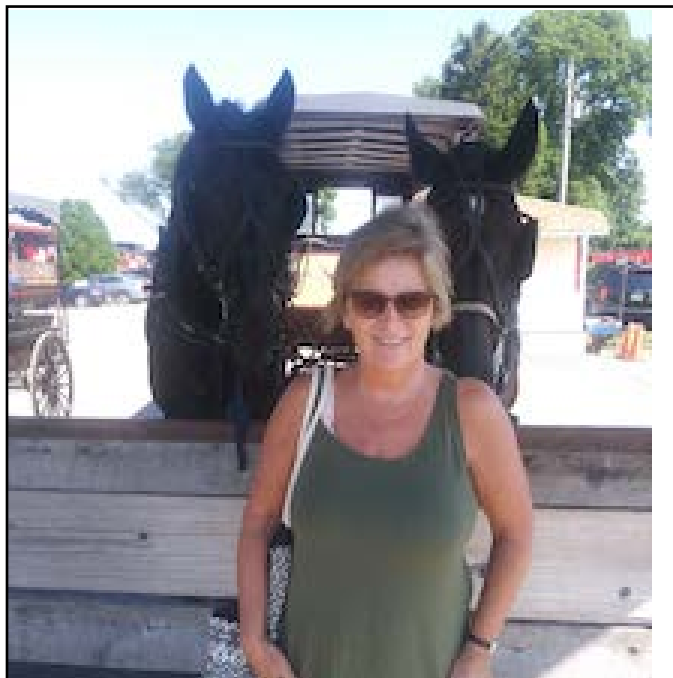
AN INTERVIEW WITH DAWN RUSKAI, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Alison Hight: How long have you worked in the History Department, and what are some of your earliest memories of the job?

Dawn Ruskai: I've worked with the Department for over 28 years now. I began part-time and remember feeling very intimidated about working at a university, since I didn't go to college myself. Early on I did some work for RCHA. I also remember photocopying and compiling Jackson Lears' promotion packet.

Then I moved to full-time and began working with the graduate program specifically. I enjoy the problem-solving element of the work – always putting out fires – as well as the collaborative work with the students, the faculty Grad Chair, Graduate School administrators, and sometimes my counterparts in other departments as well. I've liked mentoring the graduate admin in English, for example.

Alison: How has your work changed over the years?



Dawn: The job has mostly stayed the same regarding the students and the things that need to get done. But the processes and systems have constantly changed.

In the early days, graduate admissions involved printing out and compiling every applicant's file. Paper copies were located in a central location in the office that I would manage, and faculty would then come by to physically review files at their convenience. But of course now the graduate application process is now fully online, and they're always changing the management systems.

That's probably the biggest frustration of the job, because it usually requires extra work to put stuff into multiple systems at once each time we transition from one to another. But the students and faculty are counting on me to learn the tricks

and bypasses to navigate each new platform to get things done.

Alison: And you always deliver! What would you say is your favorite part of the job?

Dawn: Definitely talking to the graduate students. I love chatting with them and enjoy hearing about their academic and life updates as they move through the program. That's what I've missed the most during the pandemic.

I also enjoy working closely with the Graduate Chair position, and the fact that it changes every few years. It's fun getting to collaborate with different personalities and different styles of leadership. I find it so interesting to see what each new graduate director wants to bring to the position and what they want to focus on during their tenure. They tend to lean on me a bit more in their first year – I think they've valued my institutional knowledge when they're learning the ropes and trying to get things done.

Alison: You've worked in the History Department all these years. Do you like History?

Dawn: I actually didn't love history growing up. But I've become very fond of the Rutgers Oral History Archive. I love the personal stories. The first-hand oral accounts feel significant. I've always had a soft spot for the elderly so I especially love when older people share their stories. I think that's so important.

Alison: Beyond the History department, what do you like to do? What are your favorite pastimes?

Dawn: I love nature and being outdoors and try to get outside as much as I can. We do a lot of biking and camping in Cheesquake State Park, or spending time at the beach. I also really like doing weekend trips out to Pennsylvania Dutch Country in Lancaster, PA – I've been going for years.

And I love live music so outdoor summer concert series are perfect for me. My favorite musicians are probably Rod Stewart, the Allman Brothers, and the Rolling

Stones. I used to play softball (shortstop) and volleyball, and still enjoy throwing a frisbee on a nice day. I enjoy watching

sports too, especially the Green Bay Packers. I don't like the winter because I can't be outside as much as I'd like to be.

Alison: You've also got your plants and cats – you take care of more than just graduate students!

Dawn: Yes, I probably have 40 house plants at home. And I've been taking food to a cat colony near me for years. If there's an animal that needs to be fed, I'll do it – cats, birds, anything! I like to cook – meat and potatoes style cooking. I've even been told I should open a restaurant. But I'm not a huge leftovers person so the cats usually end up getting some. My cat Chief seems happy with it.

Each generation of new graduate students in our department quickly learn not only that Dawn Ruskai is an invaluable resource in the graduate program but also how enjoyable it is to chat with Dawn in her office. We hope that you enjoy this Q & A between Alison Hight, one of our current Ph.D. students, and Dawn Ruskai.

MAJOR
FELLOWSHIPS

External
Year-Long Fellowships

Shaun Armstead:

The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia pre-doctoral fellowship (yr. two)

Isaac Bershady:

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship in Hungary

Whitney Fields:

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (DCF) for her dissertation, "Captive in Promised Land: Black Lives, Confinement, and Incarceration in Nineteenth Century Urban America"

Harold Gabel:

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship in Poland

Eri Kitada:

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (DCF) for her dissertation, *Intimate and Intertwined Settler Colonialisms: Filipino Women in the U.S.-Japanese Imperial Formations, 1903-1956*

Jesse Siegel:

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship in the Czech Republic

Jobs & Postdoctoral
Fellowships

Alexander Petrusek:

Max Kade Postdoctoral Fellowship, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies at the Freie Universität in Berlin

Meagan Wierda:

Position at the Université de Montréal

Joseph Williams:

Tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Program in Africana Studies at Lehigh University, fall 2023

Joseph Williams:

Postdoctoral fellowship at the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center and the Africana Research Center at Penn State University



Dr. Jesse Bayker, RU Ph.D. and Digital Archivist for the Scarlet and Black Research Center enjoying the Fall 2022 "Welcome Back" party

GRADUATE
STUDENT
PUBLICATIONS

Eri Kitada:

"What We Forget When We Remember Pearl Harbor" has published an op-ed in the *Washington Post*.

You can read the article here.

Jian Ren:

"From Tradition to Modernity: Chinese Latin American and Chinese Caribbean Perspectives on Gambling and Sinophobia in the Twentieth Century" in the journal *Chinese America: History and Perspectives*—*The Journal of the Chinese Historical Society of America* (2021), Special issue "Chinese Latinx", 23-30.

Jerrad Pacatte:

Public history work on the Snowtown Neighborhood Research Project was recently profiled in *Smithsonian Magazine*.

The Snowtown Neighborhood Research Project is dedicated to recovering the lives and labors of the multiracial residents of a working-class neighborhood in antebellum Providence, RI. Located where the present-day State House sits, the neighborhood was home to a large number of formerly enslaved women and men who in 1831, were the victims of a racially-motivated mob attack.

You can read the article here.

Leo Valdes:

Antonia I. Castañeda prize from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies for their article, "In the Shadow of the Health-Care City: Historicizing Trans Latinx Immigrant Experiences during the Coronavirus Pandemic" published in *US Latina & Latino Oral History Journal*, vol. 5, 2021, pp. 32-65

GRADUATE
SHORT-TERM AWARDS

University
Short-Term Awards
& Grants:

Joshua Anthony: Rutgers Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award;

Irving Stoddard Kull Memorial Travel Grant in Pre-Modern Historical Studies

Kiran Baldeo: Rutgers Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award;

Interdisciplinary Pedagogy Grant created as part of the system-wide Global Asias Initiative

Elissa Branum: Graduate Public Humanities Internship;

Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Yulia Cherniavskaia: John Whiteclay Chambers II Oral History Graduate Student Fellowship;

Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Sarah Coffman: Graduate Public Humanities Internship

Rosa Cordero: Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award

Laura De Moya Guerra: John Whiteclay Chambers II Oral History Graduate Student Fellowship;

Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award

Whitney Fields: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Ian Gavigan: Edward Spauling Perzel Dissertation Research Travel Grant

Ian Gavigan: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Mary Gently: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Javier Gonzalez Cortes: Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award

Dalia Grinan: Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) research award

Sam Hege: Digital Humanities Initiative, DH graduate seed grant - Civil and Labor Rights in the Southwest: A Digital History of the United Packinghouse Workers of America

Alison Hight: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Clio Isaacson: Irving Stoddard Kull Memorial Travel Grant in

Pre-Modern Historical Studies

Eri Kitada: Institute for Research on Women fellowship for their 2022-2023 IRW Seminar on "Care";

Interdisciplinary Pedagogy Grant created as part of the system-wide Global Asias Initiative

Catherine Naeve: Irving Stoddard Kull Memorial Travel Grant in Pre-Modern Historical Studies

Jerrad Pacatte: Edward Spauling Perzel Dissertation Research Travel Grant

Jazmin Puicon: Excellence in Outreach and Service Award by the School of Graduate Studies

Anna Richey: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Nicholas Sprenger: Neal Ira Rosenthal History Travel Award

Emmet von Stackelberg: Edward Spauling Perzel Dissertation Research Travel Grant

Leo Valdes: Graduate Public Humanities Internship

Lisette Varon Carvajal: Digital Humanities Initiative, DH graduate seed grant -Colombia's Popular Healers: Past and Present

External Short-Term
Awards, Grants and Prizes:

Isaac Bershady: Visegrád Scholarship at the Open Society Archives in Budapest, Hungary

Danny Bottino: Samuel Victor Constant Fellowship from the Society of Colonial Wars at the MA Historical Society

Elissa Branum: Wardlaw Fellowship Fund for Texas Studies at the Baylor University Library

Laura De Moya-Guerra: "Doctorados en el Exterior 2020" scholarship sponsored by Minciencias, the Colombian government Ministry.

Mary Gently: Scholars of Sexology Fellowship at the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University

Michigan State University Libraries Visiting Scholars Fellowship

Alison Hight: British Politics Group's Stokes Dissertation Research Fellowship

Larkin Research Fellowship from the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS)

Eri Kitada: Philippine Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies conference award

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), Lawrence Gelfand-Armin Rappaport-Walter LaFeber Dissertation Fellowship

Ayelet Marron: Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), Stuart L. Bernath Dissertation Research Grant

Adam McNeil: Selected to take part in the University of Buffalo's Visiting Future Faculty (VITAL) program.

Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington Fellowship; one-month residency at the Library's DeVos Scholars' Residence

Jian Ren: Silas Palmer Research Fellowship from the Hoover Institution Library and Archives

Abba P. Schwartz Research Fellowship from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation for short-term archival research at the JFK Library

Henry Snow: Consortium on the Revolutionary Era's Aaslestad/Crouch Prize for best graduate student paper for their paper, "'The Demolition of your worthy Daddy's house & furniture': The People vs. Enslavers in Revolutionary Rhode Island"

Nick Sprenger: Charles Perry Graduate Student Paper Award from the North American Conference on British Studies for his paper, "Empire and its Outrages: Policing, Violence, and the Colonial Archive in Nineteenth Century Ireland"

Adam Stone: Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant

Leo Valdes: Black, Brown, and Queer Studies Fellowship from the Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies in Cambridge, MA

Undergraduate News

2022 UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY AWARDS

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Ceil Parker Lawson Memorial Prize

Mark Rahman – History Major, Class of 2022

Dr. Martin Siegel Prize in History

Isobel Ali – History, Ancient History, and Classics Joint Major, Class of 2022

Edward McNall Burns Award in History

Mark Rahman – History Major, Class of 2022

Edward Romano Memorial Award

Emily Gioberti – History-Political Joint Major, Class of 2022

Harold L. Poor Memorial Award

- 1st Place – **Samuel Kao** – “No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: The Struggle Over Public Universities in the Postwar Era”
- 2nd Place – **Daniel Allegro** – “Multi-Ethnic Interchange in Medieval Sicily: The Complexities of Cooperation at the Crossroads of the Medieval World”
- 3rd Place – **Mark Rahman** – “America’s Specter of Communism: Workers’ Organization and Leadership in the Great Railroad Strike of 1877”

Henry Rutgers Scholars Award

Samuel Kao – “No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: The Struggle Over Public Universities in the Postwar Era” – History Major, Class of 2022

James Reed Award

Neha Saju – “How a South Indian State captured the World’s Attention: Re-examining the Kerala Model of Development”

Mark Rahman – “America’s Specter of Communism: Workers’ Organization and Leadership in the Great Railroad Strike of 1877”

Lloyd Gardner Fund

- Julia Fuchs** – History Major, Class of 2022
- Reuven Weintraub** – History Major, Class of 2022

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Helen Prager Miller

Claire Apel, History Major, Class of 2023

Joseph B. Bradley Memorial Award

Daniel Allegro, “Multi-Ethnic Interchange in Medieval Sicily: The Complexities of Cooperation at the Crossroads of the Medieval World”

Margaret Atwood Judson

Julia Fuchs, Death is Only the Beginning: The Afterlife of Egyptian Artifacts at Rutgers University”

Maurice DuPont Lee Jr. Fellowship in History

Katharine Little, History Major, Class of 2022

HISTORY HONORS THESES

Daniel Allegro, “Multi-Ethnic Interchange in Medieval Sicily: The Complexities of Cooperation at the Crossroads of the Medieval World”
(Professor Anthony DiBattista)

Lavanya Attavane, “The Road Taken by K. Raghavendra Rao: The Path of an ‘Incorrigible Marxist’”
(Professor Julie Stephens)

Julia Fuchs, “Death is Only the Beginning: The Afterlife of Egyptian Artifacts at Rutgers University”
(Professor Gary Rendsburg)

Qifeng He, “Transitional Scientists at the End of the Cold War: A Crusade in Bridging Nations and Ending Conflicts”
(Professor David Foglesong)

Samuel Kao, “No Such Thing as a Free Lunch: The Struggle Over Public Universities in the Postwar Era”
(Professor Donna Murch)

Mark Rahman, “America’s Specter of Communism: Workers’ Organization and Leadership in the Great Railroad Strike of 1877”
(Professor Andy Urban)

Neha Saju, “How a South Indian State Captured the World’s Attention: Re-examining the Kerala Model of Development”
(Professor Julie Rajan)



GRADUATING SENIOR MARK RAHMAN'S SPEECH

AT HISTORY CELEBRATION, MAY 2022

Ceil Parker Lawson, the woman this award is named for, reminded me of my own mom, Gloria. She raised me and my brother as a single-mom and did everything within her power to encourage our success, whatever we understood that to be. My mom, like Ceil, also fostered an environment of learning. I recall reading Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* with her when I was far too young to understand it. But it definitely instilled an interest in reading and learning that really shaped me into who I am. So, I am honored to get this award. I would also especially like to thank Steven Lawson and Nancy Hewitt, the donors of this award, for their generosity.

Given that I'm generally not the same age as those I'm graduating with, I can't speak about "our generation," as a so-called millennial speaking to so-called Gen Z. But I can speak from a little bit more experience. When I enrolled at Rutgers, I was doing so roughly 12 years after many of my friends and had several years of political activity with the International Marxist Tendency under my belt. So, naturally, Rutgers' most celebrated alumnus, Paul Robeson, also wasn't new to me. Before I ever knew about Paul Robeson the outstanding student, the gifted athlete, or the talented singer, I knew him first and foremost as a fighter for the oppressed.

In his life, Robeson was rewarded for his political principles by being blacklisted, expunged from football records, disinvited to high profile events, and unable to perform at most venues in the US. Not only that, he had his passport revoked for the supposed crime of drawing international attention to the horrifying racist terror taking place in the United States. With this in mind, the idea that I was following, in some small ways, in the footsteps of someone like Paul Robeson by attending Rutgers felt pretty damned cool. My time at Rutgers fell during a pretty remarkable period in history. The COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest protest movement in US history with the rise of the Black

Lives Matter movement. All the wacky stuff around the 2020 election. Increasing anxiety about the climate. And renewed fears about nuclear weapons for the first time since the end of the Cold War. And today I woke up to hear that Pakistan hit a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit, in April and news from the Supreme Court.

While most of us here know that these events, with the exception of the climate issues, have their own precedent in one way or another, I don't think there is anyone here who hasn't routinely looked at the news over the past two years and thought with a feeling of complete exasperation: "what the hell is going on?!" For younger generations, there is a sense of urgency to change things, but it's in the face of what seems to be absolute inertia.

But things are percolating under the surface. Big changes aren't the norm, they are the exception. And they are prepared by a million and one tiny things that are barely discernible in day-to-day life. It's easy to throw up your hands, give up and say "this isn't my fight, I'm just one person, what can I do?" But as students of history, we know that history doesn't just happen. It isn't a wholly unconscious, forward march of just "one damned thing after another." But on the other side, we know that it's not subject to the whims and wants of the "Great men and women." That said, history is made by living forces—living, breathing, flesh and blood human beings.

Those of us who are graduating can feel proud of what we accomplished with our academic work, much like Paul Robeson is celebrated for his. This will get plenty of us ahead in our respective careers. But if we really want to matter in the grand scheme of history, we should carry on the other legacy of Paul Robeson: the legacy that he established as a principled fighter for a better world. So I'll close by paraphrasing one of my favorites: The scholars have studied and interpreted history in various ways, the point is to make it.

"Scholars have studied and interpreted history in various ways, the point is to make it."



Mark Rahman and his Mother
at
President Holloway's Home
May 2022

2022 Public History Certificate Recipients

- Layla Ahmed
- Krisha Balar
- Ilana Berkman
- Joseph Caggiano
- Cedric Derecho
- Emily Gioberti
- Daniel Hawkins
- Taline Janikian
- Louis Lanza
- Sebastian LeVergne
- Katharine Little
- Mark Rahman
- Naomi Sanabria Aldana
- Charlene White

2022 Law and History Certificate Recipient

- Sydney Williams

PHI ALPHA THETA
INDUCTEES
2022

TAREK AHMED	ENYA LAUMBACH	LIAM SMITH
MAHEEN AMAN	SHENGHUI LI	TRISTAN SMITH
CLAIRE APEL	SAMUEL LURIE	JUSTINE SOLTYS
SUMIT BEDI	JOSEPH MARRA	IMAM SYED
JONATHON BEER	NICOLLE MCHUGH	KEVIN TITKOV
ILANA BERKMAN	RYAN MCLAUGHLIN	ISABELLA TYSZKA
NICHOLAS CUNNINGHAM	JOSEPH MEZZA	ADITHYA VENKATESWARAN
BRIAN DAN-DING	DAVID MLOT	ZELDA WAGNER
ALEXANDRA DEVIVO	JOSEPH MULHOLLAND	REUVEN WEINTRAUB
JACK FINNERTY	MARIANA NAVA	MINA WILLIAM
EMILY GIOBERTI	ISABEL NUNEZ	STUART WOODY
ELIJAH HANEBURY	BRYANT PACHECO	
BRIGID HEATH	MONISHA PARIKH	
NICHOLAS HUTCHISON	PREM PATEL	
HANI HUZHEN	ROBERT PROKO	
TALINE JANIKIAN	PRIYA RAMAN-BOGAN	
JOHN JEAN	MIGUEL RIBAU	
THOMAS TEE JONES	SYDNEY SANTOS	
JAMES KELLY	ADEN SAVETT	
JENS KNUTSEN	KAYLA SCHLEICH	
HATICE KOROGU CAM	GEORGE SCHMIDLING	

FACULTY NEWS

Yesenia Barragan

I'm happy to share that my recently published book, *Freedom's Captives: Slavery and Gradual Emancipation on the Colombian Black Pacific* (Cambridge UP, 2021), won the 2022 Best Book Prize for the 19th Century Section of the Latin American Association (LASA) and Honorable Mention for the 2022 Michael Jiménez Prize for the Colombia Section of LASA. I am also happy to share that *Freedom's Captives* has been translated into Spanish and will be published by Ediciones Uniandes in Bogotá, Colombia. For the next two academic years, I will be working on my new book project, A Country of Their Own: African Americans and the Promise of Antebellum Latin America, which examines Latin America as a beacon of freedom and immigration destination for free and fugitive African Americans during the antebellum period. For this project, I will be a Visiting Associate Research Scholar at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University and will be supported by a fellowship from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Four-year-old Xavi and almost two-year-old Omar continue to endlessly, ruthlessly, rule my world.

Barbara Cooper

I am delighted to be able to report on our successful launch of our short-term study abroad trip to Benin, made possible because of the energy, enthusiasm, and generosity of History alum, Neal Rosenthal. The program, entitled "History, Culture and Memory in Benin" is held in collaboration with the School of African Heritage in Porto Novo. We had four undergraduates, one of whom had taken my global history course, "Europe, Africa and the Americas" (in which I use Haiti, Benin and France as case studies of the history of connections between the continents). Three were Africana studies majors. One was affiliated with the Art History program in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies. The other was working on a degree in Global history. It was a terrific group-- feel really fortunate. I was also delighted that political scientist Hyacinth Miller, who heads up study abroad at the Newark campus and teaches Africana and Caribbean studies, agreed to take the trip with me. She has had experience in taking students to Dominican Republic, so her skills in leading study abroad and her knowledge of the

Caribbean world were incredibly helpful. What a treat to be able to collaborate with a scholar in another discipline, who specializes in another region.

In Porto Nove we stayed on the grounds of the Songhai integrated development project. It is an oasis of green and seemingly rural life right in the middle of a bustling city. The students were amazed by how the entire farming scheme captured and reused water literally from top to bottom. They could see the industry and optimism of the many young people working there, but they also saw at first hand the tremendously hard work farming entails.

My Beninese counterpart, Franck Ogou, who is the director of the School of African Heritage, arranged for talks by local experts on topics ranging from the slave trade in relationship to Benin, the history of Afro-Brazilians, Voodoo, principles of heritage preservation, and the challenges of tourism in Benin. All were Beninese scholars, so there was none of that "imported from the US" approach so many programs resort to. I felt like I learned so much! Most of the lectures were held at the school, some were on the road. We traveled around the southern part of the country to visit the palaces at Abomey, the "water-city" of Ganvie, and the UNESCO Slave Routes sites at Ouidah. (Continued next page.)



Photo above
Barbara Cooper with
Franck Ogou,
Director of the School of African Heritage, Benin

FACULTY NEWS

Barbara Cooper continued

The students had to keep a carnet de voyage as part of their “homework” in which they kept detailed notes of the talks, along with little mementos like drink labels and pressed flowers. It was clear that each student got something unique out of the trip. Two devoutly Christian students were unsettled by the elements of voodoo, known locally as, vodun we inevitably encountered, but found the experience of the Slave Route moving. Others were fascinated to learn about contemporary vodun and focused much more reflection and appreciation on those experiences. The MA students recognized the wealth of specialist knowledge provided by the school and wrote about the challenges of commemoration.

As luck would have it we were able to go to the fabulous exhibit of contemporary Beninese art that accompanied the celebration of the return of objects (including several thrones) from the French museums. It was beyond crowded—the students commented that it felt more like a massive concert than an exhibit, with only slight exaggeration. But the art was simply mind blowing. We also managed to visit a contemporary studio/gallery called Unik while we were in Abomey. Everyone found something to love in all that art.

Traveling during Covid-19 proved to be stressful—nothing to be done about that. Between getting the right tests to come and go between the U.S. and Benin (with rules changing capriciously minute by minute) and understanding the progression of the disease when one of the students came down with it, I definitely needed a rest once I got home. Fortunately, they all got home safely and on schedule with Hyacinth while I stayed in Benin with my one unfortunate Covid sufferer. There were plenty of bumps along that way that I need to smooth out for the next cohort that I hope to take this coming summer. I look forward to working with the study abroad team to make an exceptional experience even better.

James Delbourgo

James is serving as Vice Chair for Undergraduate Studies in the History Department.



Barbara Cooper with students and colleagues in Benin, summer 2022. From left to right: Zhanina Cooper, Hyacinth Miller, Samantha Moss, Bella Ruiter, Hyacinthe Adote, Sabrina Artice, Gwen Allen, Ana Monteiro, and Barbara Cooper.

Melissa Feinberg

This past year saw a number of significant developments. My book, *Communism in Eastern Europe*, was published at the end of December and was already being used in at least one course in January. After so long away, it was wonderful to return to teaching in person and to be able to interact with students and colleagues on campus. In June, I was able to travel to Europe for the first time in several years and attended a conference in Oxford, another in Germany and helped lead a seminar on “Belonging” in Romania with graduate students from Rutgers, Germany, Hungary and Romania. Finally, I found myself agreeing to become the next department chair and started my term in July. While this was not a job I had imagined for myself, I look forward to leading the department as we (hopefully) emerge from the isolation of the pandemic years.

FACULTY NEWS

Tom Figueira

Tom notes that two RU alum ancient historians/classicists have received their MAs, Molly Kuchler at Bryn Mawr College and Matthew Tocco at SUNY Buffalo, and have decided to take breaks from graduate study while job prospects clarify.

Tom gave two papers in 2021/22: “Greek Ethnicity in Xenophon and His Contemporaries,” Xenophon 2021, University of Liverpool and the International Xenophon Society, July 7, 2021; “The Balance Sheet of Empire: Athenian Colonization in Light of the Demographic/Productive Calculus,” Ancient Colonialism in a Comparative Perspective, University of Groningen, December 16-17, 2021.

He published “Thucydides, Ethnic Solidarity, and Messenian Ethnogenesis,” in *Thucydides and Sparta*, P. Debnar & A. Powell, eds. (Swansea 2021), 119-61 and “Salamis as Inflection Point: Militarization, Politicization, and Democratization,” in *Democracy and Salamis 2500 Years After the Battle That Saved Greece and the Western World*, N. Kyriazis, E.M.L. Oikonomou, & A. Platias, eds. (Berlin 2022) 75-96.

His reviews were of D.M. Lewis, Greek Slave Systems in their Eastern Mediterranean Context, c.800–146, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 141 (2021) 274-75; P. Cartledge, & Powell, A. (eds.) The Greek Superpower; Sparta in the Self-Definitions of Athenians, *Classical Philology*, 117 (2022) 575-80.

Seth Koven

I was on leave this past academic year thanks to a Guggenheim Fellowship and Rutgers’ unflagging support for research and scholarship. I devoted most of my time to writing, “Born White: Race, Religion and the Conscientious Objector to Smallpox Vaccination in Britain and Natal.” This analyzes the surprising entanglement of freedom of conscience with the biopolitics of vaccination in South Africa and Britain from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries. It’s part of my larger book project, *Conscience Wars: Christianity and Coercion in Britain and the Empire*.

I published one part of that project this spring as “Brahman Wives and Pedagogies of Conscience in

Mid-Nineteenth Century British India,” in *Modern Asian Studies* (May 2022). As part of that book project, I also did research this Summer in local and national archives in Wales, Scotland and London.

As the current director of the Rutgers British Studies Center, I have enjoyed collaborating with and learning from so many colleagues in different fields at Rutgers and in the broader community of scholars.



Seth Koven in Wales, Summer 2022

FACULTY NEWS

Aldo Lauria Santiago

I spent a good part of the summer developing a collaboration with two major archival institutions in Puerto Rico. I paid for local students and our own Rosa Cordero to work organizing collections in the Archivo General (National) de Puerto Rico and scanning periodicals and pamphlets at the University of Puerto Rico Library. Colleagues from Yale supported three of their own students as well. The collaboration has expanded to include many different aspects and collaborations including a full survey of the AGPR's enormous collections. (Clas. Rutgers.edu)

I also finished editing an interdisciplinary book on Latinos in New Jersey and my own chapter on the early history of Puerto Ricans in the state. I managed to produce fifty too-many pages for my chapter, but these will be useful in the book's web site. Colleagues Leo Valdes, Lilia Fernandez, Ulla Berg, and Kathleen Lopez (and many others) contributed chapters for this book. The book will be accompanied by a multimedia website that will include documents, blogs, graphics, and recordings from all book authors plus others who will round out the content. This project is funded by the New Jersey Historical Commission. I've also been preparing to complete cuts and edits for my forthcoming book (*From Colonial Migrants to New Yorkers: Puerto Rican Workers in a City of Industry, 1916-1950*) for UNC Press and will try to finish a second volume on the 1950-1970 decades during my fall sabbatical.

Jackson Lears

It's been a big year for finishing long-term projects and starting new ones. I'm delighted to report that my book, *Animal Spirits: the American Pursuit of Vitality from Camp Meeting to Wall Street*, will be published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux in Spring 2023--followed in the Fall by my "literary remains," *The Off-Modern Temper: Essays in History and Criticism*, edited by my former student and Rutgers Ph.D., Charlie Riggs, and published by Yale University Press. At Raritan, we are launching a Raritan imprint in collaboration with Rutgers University Press. We plan to publish "little books" (45,000 words or so) that intervene in contemporary

political and cultural debate, either original work by independent thinkers or anthologies of essays previously published in the magazine. But the biggest news, finally, is that my grandson Max has turned six and is learning to swim!

Sukhee Lee

As usual for the past five years, I spent my summer in Korea with my son, who is now a high school student. Unable to visit libraries or historical sites in China or in Japan, I took time to take field trips to historical sites related to the Hideyoshi invasions in 1592 and the second Manchu invasion in 1637. Before flying to Korea in June, I was delighted to be informed that my book would be translated into Chinese by a publisher in Wuhan (!), China. Around the same time, I was also invited to join a multi-year research project on "the Public Good in Medieval Afro-Eurasia" led by two researchers in England supported by AHRC Research Network Grant. I plan to present a paper in next April drawing on my recent translation of a 13th century handbook for local magistrates.

Kathy López

Last fall I participated in the virtual symposium "Afro-Asian Lives and Cultures in Latin America" hosted by Princeton University and joined the new UCLA Pacific World Research Network. I also worked on two projects related to U.S. immigration and ethnic history. I submitted a chapter for a book on Latino New Jersey, edited by my colleagues Ulla Berg and Aldo Lauria Santiago and under consideration by Rutgers University Press. The chapter examines the origins and development of the Puerto Rican student movement at Rutgers University within the context of civil rights and anti-poverty campaigns and protests in New Jersey and is a continuation of the Rutgers Latino Memory Project begun in 2016.

(Continued next page)

FACULTY NEWS

Kathy López continued

I also developed a public webinar and supplemental materials on the theme "Movement of People" for the New Jersey Historical Commission project on the American Revolution *A Bundle of Silences: Reimagining Interpretive Approaches to the Past* (<https://nj.gov/state/historical/revolution-nj-opportunities.shtml>). Finally, I continue to research a book project on locally born Chinese in the Caribbean, with an emphasis on Jamaica and other Anglophone countries from the 1930s through the 1970s. Personally, I celebrated my 25th wedding anniversary with a short trip to Ireland for the Doolin Folk Festival.

Norman Markowitz

I made a presentation to the fifth Annual Conference, "Marxism in the 21st Century," on the School of Marxism, Wuhan University, which was read in English with a simultaneous translation in Chinese in November 2021. The presentation was an overview of the achievements of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on what was the 100th anniversary of its founding.

I wrote an article recently, "The Trumpist Supreme Court: Of the Rails of Democracy" which was posted on the CPUSA website on August 5, and can also be found on Academia (by googling my name). The article looks at the history of the Supreme Court and the background to the recent decisions on abortion rights, gun control, the regulation of industry, and environmental protection.

Matt Matsuda

It seems strange to say but being away in administration for some years I'm just coming home and relearning the History Department all over again. I literally moved out a long time ago when I became a Campus Dean, and then SAS Honors Dean, and then Honors College Dean. Upon returning, I found the available Van Dyck office was the one I started in almost 30 years ago--002F in the basement. With a great new generation of colleagues as neighbors! Admittedly, I've now moved to a new space upstairs, but it was literally a full circle.

My last role away was chartering, helping build, and then run the new RU Honors College-New Brunswick, creating the academic, curricular, and student support elements for a scholarly community of 500 incoming students each year. It was university wide in plan and in fact: students and academic alliances from across SAS, Engineering, Pharmacy, Mason Gross, SEBS, and the Business School.

Having the privilege to do something like this and work with a young, ambitious, and endlessly creative start-up team was an unforgettable experience. I also lived for seven years in an apartment onsite as Dean in Residence, hosting students for open kitchens, music nights, and study and professional sessions.

I stepped away from that work last year and have now taken on the directorship of the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellows (named after our esteemed colleague), a small group of talented, interdisciplinary students who meet in seminars, do research, travel to the United Nations and Washington, D.C., and hold their own policy conference.

But most of all, I'm a professor again. I'll be teaching in the department and I'm finishing up a new book on genealogies, genomics, and histories in the Pacific for Palgrave, and a number of edited projects that have been going on too long. After two years of COVID delays, this summer I fulfilled an invitation to lecture at universities in Japan and do some field research. I also have had a chance to spend time with my elderly mom in Los Angeles. Yes, a lot of coming home this year.

Jim Niessen

In addition to serving as the World History Librarian at Rutgers, Jim continued his research on Hungary and Hungarians in the 1950s. In April he presented a paper at the annual conference of American Hungarian Educators Association, The World Council of Churches in Hungary, 1956: Catalyst of Revolution and Flight? and later in the summer his article appeared in the journal Hungarian Cultural Studies: "The Meaning of Jewish-Catholic Encounter in the Austrian Refugee Camps." *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, 15, 133-145. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5195/ahca.2022.467>.

FACULTY NEWS

Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan

It’s been a busy year for public history and public humanities: I supervised my 200th Public History Intern, and signed on my 100th student to the Public History Certificate. And in Spring 2022, Public History students and I co-curated an exhibition on the history of the population incarcerated at the Mount Holly Jail for the Burlington County Prison Museum, in partnership with the Burlington County Parks Department and Lyceum. Public History students also participated in the Shelter Project, on which I collaborated with the CCA, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and coLAB Arts, funded by the Luce Foundation from 2020-2022. We’ve released our final product, “Shelter,” a podcast exploring housing insecurity in a time of pandemic and the role academic institutions can play in partnering with the community to find solutions. You can listen to it on most major podcast platforms. A mural that the Shelter Project helped install in Highland Park this Spring also became the center of a community dialogue about diversity, inclusion, and belonging and led to several protest actions. Read more here.

There are also major happenings in public humanities at the graduate level: our certificate proposal for public humanities was approved this Spring and will launch in Fall 2022. I’ll be acting as coordinator for the first year. We’ve also now successfully completed two years of a graduate public humanities internship program, which has sponsored several History graduate students. Associate Humanities Dean Jorge Marcone and I have received an ACLS Sustaining Public Engagement Grant to fund an expansion of the internship program for 2023, which I’ll coordinate.

In my own scholarship news, I had the great privilege, this summer, of being invited to represent the United States in a workshop on the global history of vagrancy, “Making the Vagrant: Controlling Labour Mobility,” at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies in Germany. I also co-organized and contributed an essay for a forum for the *Journal of the Early Republic* to argue for the significance of local governance in historiographies of early American state formation, which will come out next year. And a new article on public histories of poverty and commemorative practices around histories of class, which features a fascinating interview with the founders of the Museum of Homelessness in London, is forthcoming from The Public Historian next year.

On the state level, I continue to work with the NJ Historical Commission as co-chair of the Advisory Council for Revolution NJ, their initiative to commemorate the semi quincentennial, and the NJ Council for the Humanities, as lead scholar and facilitator for their Community History Program.

Now, for this academic year, I’m so grateful to be looking forward to co-directing the RCHA beginning this fall alongside Jochen Hellbeck, exploring historical reparations. I’m eager to see what new challenges and opportunities will face us this coming year.

Stephen Reinert

I think most of us would readily agree that life in the pandemic years was challenging and at times very difficult. That, in any case, was my experience. Never before had I been bombarded with so many medical issues and scares, and I came to regard “disease” rather much as the goddess Gloria Gaynor depicted a seriously unwanted boyfriend in her 1978 classic:

Go on now, go, walk out the door / Just turn around now / ‘Cause you’re not welcome anymore / Weren’t you the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye? / You think I’d crumble? / You think I’d lay down and die?” But the stanza that follows is how I made it through those years (thanks Gloria): “Oh no, not I, I will survive / Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I’ll stay alive / I’ve got all my life to live / And I’ve got all my love to give and I’ll survive / I will survive, hey, hey.”

I think many of us rediscovered and reaffirmed the power and joy of love and kindness during that difficult time. Or at least I did. So, so far I’m surviving just fine.

Teaching remotely was not a problem for me since I had developed two async remote courses years before the pandemic hit (Dracula: Facts & Fictions, The Crusades) which were running well when most colleagues were running for cover trying to get the hang of Canvas.

(Continued on next page)

FACULTY NEWS

Stephen Reinert continued

People think that once you write up courses like this all you do, thereafter, is just turn them on like a remote TV set and then go and mix up a few martinis. It really doesn’t work that way, and you end up spending a very significant amount of time on updating, revising, editing, and adding new and interesting features to your compositions. I look at my online course creations as a kind of Hessian Glasperlenspiel, and I am charmed when the brighter and more engaged students follow and appreciate the games I’ve contrived for them. I also have come to realize and appreciate that online teaching is so desperately needed for our many students who are working almost full time, scattered overseas (e.g. in military roles), or are parents pressed with family demands and having the freedom of accessing a course online is a major help to their lives. I also have a following of nursing students from Camden in the Dracula course ... I guess they have an innate tolerance for blood.

My new courses have been connected with my life as Director of the Modern Greek Studies Program. I took this on, years back, carrying out a promise I made to the founding Byzantinist at Rutgers – Peter Charanis – who asked me, before he died, “Stephen, please do what you can to help with Modern Greek. It’s part of what we do.” He was the most amazing person and the kind of character one dreams of having as a colleague. He was born on the island of Lemnos when it was still part of the Ottoman Empire, and (a famous story of his) when Greek soldiers came to “liberate” the island from the “Ottoman yoke,” children gathered in the main town square mesmerized by the creatures from outer space which they saw. When the soldiers said to them (Charanis said) “Haven’t you ever seen Greeks [Hellenes] before?,” the kids replied “No, we are Rhomaioi.” That is what the Byzantines called themselves.

I devoted myself to two key projects with the MGSP (Modern Greek Studies Program). We set up a visiting professorship with a wonderful literature scholar from Cyprus, Marinos Pourgouris, and I co-taught a course with him on “Odysseus the Hero,” from antiquity to modern literature. I also scripted out a new course on “Greek Food, From Antiquity to Today,” and am co-teaching that now with a very gifted advanced grad student in Classics, Emmanuel Pourgouris. He is covering the ancient part, and I am doing the five modules on Byzantine food, before he returns with modern Greek cooking which he knows personally. In doing so, this has been a case of “fools rush in, where scholarly angels fear to tread.” So

much of Byzantium is fragmentology, with hardly ever enough real material (as my colleagues

in modern history have in abundance) to work out a satisfying narrative plot line. As I discovered, it’s exactly the same with culinary history. And this is mystifyingly odd. In the medieval Arab tradition, there are at least twelve surviving full length cookbooks, the first coming from the tenth century. And they are enchantingly detailed. Byzantium has left behind NOT A SINGLE cookbook. So describing its culinary history is the usual routine of gathering up scattered and often incoherent evidence and trying to make some sense of it. But I confess, it’s been fun, even though I admit I’m not anxious to try cooking any Byzantine recipes to the extent you can work them out. I remain constitutionally loyal to French and Italian, and of course the glories of the middle east are Turkish and Persian.

The last paper I gave was in June, on a Zoom conference at Royal Holloway College in London. I was asked to give a testimonial comparing two of the key scholars in late Byzantine and Turkic history – my doctoral advisor Speros Vryonis, and Elizabeth Zachariadou. Working up a comparative profile of their lives and careers turned out to be very time consuming and often agonizingly puzzling, but it came off OK. And I realized anew how really privileged I was to know them both, and have their respect, but they both died giants in the field, and I shall never have that stature. Consistent, intense focus is everything for achieving that, and I’ve had and have too many and diverse interests.

My real scholarly passion right now is researching and writing the history of a house my beloved friend Joe and I own in southern Burgundy. It dates back to the 14th century, and has a continuous documentary array of evidence running through the Rambuteau acquisition in the 18th century. When I discovered that the Rambuteau archives are all digitized and online, I immediately gutted it for whatever I could find on our house, and there are around sixty largely notarial documents relevant. It has been hugely fun working through a collection of evidence like this, but I have to admit my palaeographic skills with early modern notarial French are still in the developing stage. But there is clearly enough material here for a short monograph on the seigneuries of the Brionnais.

So ... that’s me.

FACULTY NEWS

Gary Rendsburg

During the period of April-May-June 2022, I served as visiting fellow at the Getty Villa (Los Angeles), conducting research on “The Spread of Phoenician Writing Culture to Ancient Greece.” In academic year 2022-2023, I am on sabbatical, with travels to Israel, Provence, and Italy. I am teaching a course entitled “Egypt and the Bible” at Bar-Ilan University (Ramat-Gan, Israel) (Fall 2022), and then a mini-course entitled “How the Bible Reached Us” at the Pontifical Biblical Institute (Rome) (February-March 2023). In between these two teaching assignments, I will visit Provence to explore the rich medieval Jewish history in Aix, Arles, Avignon, and other cities.

Tatiana Seijas

Tatiana Seijas gave a keynote lecture at the World History Association annual meeting in Bilbao, Spain this past June titled “Words Matter: Rethinking Our Terms to Write New Histories about Global Migrations.”

Her new monograph is under contract with Oxford University Press.

Nancy Sinkoff

I continue to serve as the Academic Director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish life, and we are gearing up for our 25th anniversary celebration year. Programming that includes the annual Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, public lectures, online mini-courses, workshops on the Holocaust and genocide pedagogy for NJ educators, and support for student and faculty research, will showcase the centrality of the Bildner Center in making visible the complexity and diversity of the history, culture, and language(s) of the Jews for the Rutgers community and beyond.

In May 2020, I was able to reboot lectures cancelled by COVID and gave the following talks: “Writing a Life in History: Lucy S. Dawidowicz (1915-1990)” at the Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London and “Dubnow’s

Julia Stephens with Johan Matthew and Lily in Abu Dhabi, Fall 2022

Other Daughter: Lucy S. Dawidowicz and the Beginnings of Khurbn Forshung (Holocaust Research) in the United States,” The David Patterson Lectures, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford: <https://t.co/HMxtQWtPpw>.

My book *From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History* (Wayne State University Press) will be reissued in paperback in February 2023 and my co-edited volume (with Halina Goldberg, Indiana University), *Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery*, inspired by the fifth annual Polish Jewish Studies Workshop that included a conference and a concert held at Rutgers in 2018, is in production with Rutgers University Press, forthcoming in fall 2023. A website with the concert’s instrumental and choral music will accompany the book’s print launch. A second edited volume, “A Man on the Street and a Jew at Home”: New Views on East European Jewish Culture and Politics (with Jonathan Karp, Howard Lupovitch, and James Loeffler) is under review with Wayne State University Press. I published a review of *Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians Before the Holocaust* (2021) by Natalia Aleksun, in *Sources 2* (Fall 2021): 107-112. <https://www.sourcesjournal.org/articles/home-and-history>.

When not indoors editing, writing, and reading, I spent as much time as possible on Adirondack ponds, rivers, and trails, discovering ever glorious new vistas and conquering a slide up to Lower Wolf Jaws, a High Peak. Yes, at moments it was terrifying.

Julia Stephens

Julia Stephens is a Senior Humanities Research Fellow for the Study of the Arab World at NYU Abu Dhabi.



Paola Tartakoff

A highlight of the past year was leading a trip to Spain for twelve Rutgers Honors students as the culmination of a semester-long seminar on “Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain.” We visited Madrid, Segovia, Córdoba, Granada, and Toledo, learning about past and present and forging friendships that will last a lifetime.

Additional highlights included presenting the following talks: “Conversion in Medieval Spain” (University of Bern, Switzerland, 2022), “Churchmen Converts to Judaism in 12th- to 14th-century Europe” (Ben Gurion University, Israel, 2022), and “Body and Baptism in an Embedded Miracle Tale” (Rutgers University, Global Medieval Studies, 2022).

I served as the plenary respondent for a conference on “Citizenship and Civic Identity in Medieval Europe” (the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2021) and as the respondent to a paper by David Freidenreich titled “Muslims Killed Christ?” (Colby College, 2021).

I spoke at a book launch at Ben Gurion University for Ephraim Kanarfogel’s new monograph, *Brothers from Afar* (2021), and on the following public-facing webinars: “Anti-Semitism, Past and Present” (Weill Cornell Medicine, 2022); “Antisemitism Today: How Did We Get Here?” (Mount Holyoke College, 2022); “Where Past Meets Present: A Conversation on the Roots of Antisemitism” (Mount Holyoke College, 2022); “Facing Hate: Antisemitism, Race, and White Supremacy” (in conversation with Anthony Appiah, *Facing History and Ourselves*, 2021).



Paola Tartakoff and her 10-year-old son Eli on far left with honors students in Spain, summer 2022.

I published reviews of Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, *Jews and Crime in Medieval Europe* (Wayne State University Press, 2020), in the *Journal of Jewish Studies* and *Magda Teter, Blood Libel: On the Trail of an Antisemitic Myth* (Harvard, 2020), in *Antisemitism Studies*.

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS

Jack Cargill

No true “professional” life to report, having been re-tired and “research inactive” now for 15 years. But I am still reading and learning and visiting places that have a scholarly connection for me.

I recently returned from a trip to Western Canada, where I visited several places I had earlier seen for scholarly conferences (Vancouver, Banff, and Calgary).

In October I finally hope to see Egypt and Jordan, both for the first time after decades of interest in them, having lacked the time and resources to visit them while teaching and writing on ancient history (including a historical novel, much of which was set in 26th-dynasty Egypt). I look forward to seeing with my own eyes some of the places and artifacts and inscriptions I wrote about based on research.

Donald Kelley & Bonnie G. Smith

This is a joint update written by Bonnie because Don has lost his eyesight. We lament the loss of two Rutgers titans—Rudy Bell (who brought us to the Promised Land aka Van Dyck Hall) and John Gillis, our “greasy spoon” companion. We remain, however, rooted in New Brunswick, a short walk away from the library and history department.

Don’s blindness has made it impossible for him to do research for additional books or articles or write for the newsletter—all of this a difficult change in his lifelong routine. However, he gets notices pretty often that one of his books or an essay is being translated. He is happy when former students who since the pandemic quarantine has lifted visit us in New Brunswick or New York—a real boost. Thanks to them for their sparkling conversations.

Since retirement Bonnie has published Modern Empires: A Reader, Gender History: Critical Readings, 4 vols., *World in the Making. A Global History, Women in World History 1450 to the Present*, and with Nova Robinson, *The Routledge Global History of Feminism*. There will be panels on the *Routledge Global History of Feminism* at the AHA in January 2023 and two panels at the Berks in June 2023. Actually that collection with its forty chapters and c. fifty authors could have been written entirely by the fantastic historians of women and gender at Rutgers.

Instead we were encouraged to go global in our author team too—and we did. But there is a handful of Rutgers luminaries included.

Also since retirement, there are new and updated editions of *Europe in the Contemporary World since 1900*, *Women’s Studies the Basics*, *Making of the West: Peoples and Cultures*, and *World in the Making. A Global History*.

For our household, the history department’s many online lectures, seminars, and conferences during the pandemic kept our spirits up and our aging brains ticking. Sincere thanks for making that effort!!! We miss meeting the new colleagues hired since the pandemic but we follow their work. Most of all Bonnie is grateful for the invigorating updates from former colleagues (students, faculty, and staff—you know who you are) who help us feel younger again and not a joint 173 years old).

Virginia Yans

What follows is perhaps an unusual response to the request to write something for the newsletter telling colleagues, department staff, and former students “what I am up to.” Instead, my answer emerged on this page as a kind of internal account of what retirement means to me which I found interesting to write, so I continued writing it. Of course, I miss my colleagues and Rutgers students and the unique intellectual stimulation which the university environment provides.

I have been enjoying the benefits of retirement including not having to get that lecture ready by 9 a.m. and not having to drive to New Brunswick from Manhattan. I have renovated a summer cottage, engage twice weekly in what is popularly called “dancer’s yoga” a blend of eastern and western modalities including yoga, tai chi, pilates and western concepts of the body’s functioning. Working for a balance between mind and body is possible now and it energizes me significantly. I studied ballet and modern dance from childhood and for years afterwards but did not have the time for that once I began teaching at Rutgers. Finally, I continue to dabble in public history projects, the latest a pod cast series on Margaret Mead, and I continue historical research and writing.

(Continued p. 41)

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS

Ginny Yans continued

A major task of retirement, I am told, is figuring out what retirement means. Given the opportunity to restructure one’s time, how does one go about this task? The time allocation issue is perhaps the most interesting and most challenging question. At this point, the only sure answer I have to that question is a question: how did I do everything I still do now while working? But other internal battles are taking place. While working, most academics, myself included, crave opportunities for free time to research and write; teaching and academic responsibilities easily win that priority battle. When retired, the debate alters to an internal one. Who am I? What have I been doing with my life? What do I want to do from now on? Retirement poses different battles concerning priorities and different internal conversations about identity. These questions, which often demand my attention, are part of the “work” of being retired. A good example is when I finally initiated the uncomfortably awesome task of cleaning and thinning my files. What I learned by doing so provided a guiding metaphor for what I have done and want to do with my time and the realization that I will never stop being a historian. There I sat surrounded with boxes of files dating from graduate and even undergraduate study and email correspondence going back fifteen years. Which of these texts, now memories on paper and digital recording, were headed to the trash? Which would keep a place until some later date and, I interrogated myself skeptically, for what purpose? The historian’s training and approach to the written word is indelible; it assumed new power when during my search of the written fragments of my work life, I witnessed memory constructing itself before my eyes. And, I also found, the historian’s method serves useful purpose in distancing myself from sad, painful and even happy events. Sometimes during a file discard mission, I would question my criteria for inclusion or exclusion. Why would I decide to keep notes from one course or lecture and not from another? Attachment, not significance, is a likely explanation. How would I reorganize my files according to new subject matters now suggesting themselves? I don’t have the answers. I do know that one does not stop thinking as a historian.

I continue to use that skill as an intellectual and as a public actor. The choice to become a historian was one of the best I made in my life. I will always be grateful to my undergraduate and graduate mentors for taking me safely to that journey.

Mark Wasserman

During the past year Marlie and I traveled to Sicily, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Iceland abroad and to Voyageurs (Minnesota), Congaree (So. Carolina), Wrangell-St. Elias, Denali, and Kenai Fjords (all 3 in Alaska) in the U.S. This brings our total National Parks visited to forty-two of sixty-three.

Palgrave-Macmillan will publish my *MODERN LATIN AMERICA SINCE 1800: Everyday Life and Politics* in September 2022. It is an extensive revision of my earlier volume II of *Latin America and Its People* (Pearson, 3 editions).

I have also done two external reviews of Departments of History.

My writing continues on my history of the Mexican Revolution for Cambridge University Press’s *Essentials in History* series.

We moved permanently to Chapel Hill, North Carolina in August 2021. Marlie and I met down the road in Durham fifty-five years ago. It is a lovely place to live.

Marlie, too, is writing. Level Best published her novel *THE MURDERESS MUST DIE* last summer. It is the story of the first woman executed in the electric chair (1899). Her second novel will be out in the fall, *PATH OF PERIL*. Both are wonderful reads.

We are obviously enjoying retirement.

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Beatrice Adams (2021)

This academic year, I am a postdoctoral fellow at the James Weldon Johnson Institute. While at Emory, I will be working on my book manuscript.

Catherine Babikian (PhD 2021)

Catherine has won the American Association of the History of Nursing's 2021 Teresa E. Christy Award for Exemplary Historical Research and Writing for her dissertation, "Creating Welfare, Nursing Empire: Colonial Nursing and the National Health Service".

Jesse Bayker (Ph.D. 2019)

My recent article in *Gender & History*, "'Some Very Queer Couples': Gender Migrants and Intimacy in Nineteenth-Century America," received honorable mention for the 2022 Audre Lorde Prize from the Committee on LGBT History. In the fall of 2021, my job as the digital archivist and research project manager for the Scarlet and Black Project moved, albeit not very far: from the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis to the new Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice.

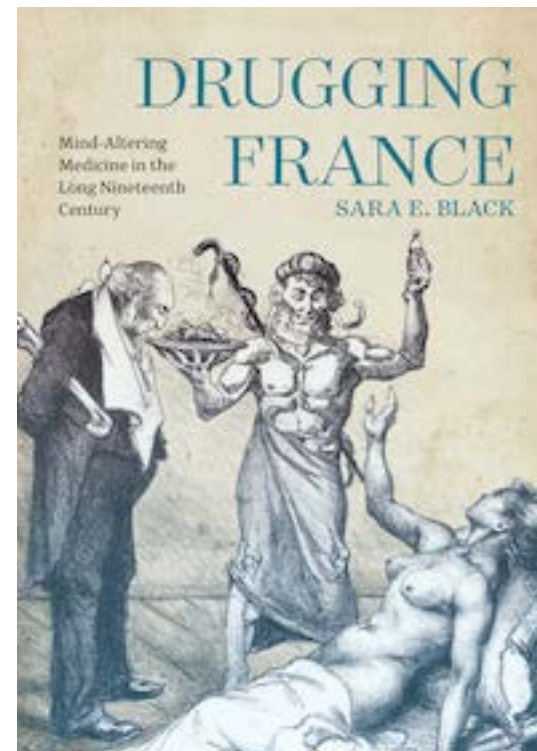
Zachary Bennett (2019)

Zachary has accepted a tenure track position in early American history at Norwich University in Vermont.

Sara Black (PhD 2016)

My first book *Drugging France: Mind-Altering Medicine in the Long Nineteenth Century* was published by McGill-Queen's University Press as part of their Intoxicating Histories Series. The book highlights the medical histories of six drugs--opium, morphine, cocaine, hashish, ether, and chloroform--chronicling how doctors transformed exotic botanicals and unpredictable chemicals into medicinal substances that reconfigured how people experienced their minds and bodies and contributed to the chemical enhancement of modern life. I am delighted that the book is finally out and looking forward to turning my attention to a new project on tuberculosis and public health in World War I. I have been teaching as an Assistant Professor of History at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia since 2017. On a personal note, my

husband Chris Bischof (PhD 2014) and I are excited to announce that we are expecting a baby in January 2023. We are looking forward to this new adventure!



GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Chris Blakley (PhD 2019)

I'm glad to say that this past year I was able to publish an article in *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* on calumba root, and I have a forthcoming article on ship fever, race, and confinement that will appear in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. My first book project is under contract and in the copy editing stage with Louisiana State University Press, and is tentatively titled *Empire of Brutality: Enslaved People and Animals in the British Atlantic World* (hopefully appearing in Fall 2023). This summer I was a fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library. I'm teaching at Occidental College, California State University Northridge, Chaffey College, and Porterville College.

Kendra Boyd (PhD 2017)

My article "A 'Body of Business Makers': The Detroit Housewives League, Black Women Entrepreneurs, and the Rise of Detroit's African American Business Community" (*Enterprise & Society*) won the 2021 Letitia Woods Brown Article Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians. Additionally, Jesse Bayker and I have started an oral history project on Black life in Camden, New Jersey. The university's alumni magazine did a write-up on it this summer: <https://ucmweb.rutgers.edu/magazine/ebook/spring2022/index-h5.html#page=61>.

Robin Chapdelaine (PhD 2014)

Robin has won the outstanding article prize from the Association for the Worldwide Study of the African Diaspora for her article, "Marriage Certificates and Walker Cards: Nigerian Migrant Labor, Wives, and Prostitutes in Colonial Pó," *African Economic History* 48(2) (2020): 1-36.

Gary Darden (Ph.D. 2005)

I won the following award last academic year: 2021 University Distinguished Teaching Award granted to one member of the faculty at Convocation. Additionally, I completed my 15th study abroad program in Summer 2022 (after a 3-year covid hiatus), which totals over 250 travelers to 15 countries on 3 Continents for both student and non-student programs.

Finis Dunaway (2001)

I'm happy to report that my recent book, *Defending the Arctic Refuge: A Photographer, an Indigenous Nation, and a Fight for Environmental Justice*, was selected as the winner of awards from three different organizations: the Western Writers of America (for best contemporary nonfiction), the Western History Association (for best western environmental history), and the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (for best book in the environmental humanities and/or creative writing). I have never cared more about a project than I did about this one, so I'm thrilled that the story resonated with these readers.

The other unexpected thing that happened this year is that I collaborated with Subhankar Banerjee (Lanman Professor of Art and Ecology at the University of New Mexico) on an exhibit for the Venice Biennale. We turned a selection of his photographs—taken in the transnational Arctic, India, and the American West—into a set of postcards titled "Beyond Fortress Conservation: Postcards of Biodiversity and Justice." The exhibit opened at the Palazzo Bembo in April and will run through November.

Gretchen Galbraith (PhD 1992)

I've got a new address and role: I've moved to Vermont to be dean of faculty at St Michael's College. I recently had the fun of serving on a history department review team with Mark Wasserman.

My new address: GGalbraith@smcvt.edu

Sarah Gordon (PhD 2004)

This will be my third year teaching in the CUNY School for Professional Studies program in Museum Studies. I teach the introductory course and an elective in Public History. Meanwhile, I'm pleased to be the curator at the Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History in Kingston, New York. The Reher Center is a historic bakery with a newly refurbished gallery. The museum's mission is to foster belonging by engagement through culture, community, work, and bread. I co-curated the current exhibition, *Sewing in Kingston*, and am working on our next exhibit based on oral histories with local immigrants.

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Atina Grossmann (PhD 1984)

I am looking forward to a year of research and writing leave as the Ina Levine Invitational Scholar at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Hopefully, I will (finally!) complete a draft of her ever morphing hybrid family/general history of "Trauma, Privilege, and Adventure: Jewish Refugees in the 'Orient'" which focuses on the story of her parents' experience in Iran and India during the 1930s and 1940s; in flight from racial persecution in Germany they encountered a new form of racialized hierarchy as Europeans in semi-colonial and colonial societies even as their lives continued to be shaped by the increasingly catastrophic news from friends and family left behind in Nazi Berlin. A brief version of my approach and arguments has just been published in an article on "Jewish Refugees in Iran and India" in ***Colonialism and the Jews in German History: From the Middle Ages to the 20th Century***, ed. Stefan Vogt (Bloomsbury, Academic, 2022).

I was also excited to finally see the exhibit for which I served as historical consultant and co-editor of the catalog, *Unter Mut/Our Courage: Juden in Europa 1945-48/Jews in Europe 1945-48*, on display at the DokumentationsZentrum für Flucht, Vertreibung und Versöhnung in Berlin where it had moved after its inauguration at the Frankfurt Jewish Museum.

Several smaller articles published, conference travel in the Age of COVID re-established, a leave in sight, I'm hoping for a productive if very busy year, most professionally and personally (family events seem to be multiplying!). And still on faculty at Cooper Union.

Kathleen Keller (PhD 2007)

I am beginning my eleventh year of teaching at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN where I also serve as the director of African/African Diaspora Studies. In spring 2022 I published an article in the ***Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*** titled "Policing, Surveillance, and Prisons in French Colonial West Africa," an essay in the ***Washington Post*** titled "William and Kate's Royal Tour put the offensive in charm offensive", and a book review in *H-France* on the book ***Marianne is Watching: Intelligence, Counterintelligence and the Origins of the French Surveillance State***. I look forward to going on sabbatical in spring 2023.

Michael L. Krenn (Ph D 1985)

Much of the past year or so seemed to revolve around a book I published nearly 25 years ago--***Black Diplomacy: African Americans and the State Department, 1945-1969***. Suddenly, the Department of State became interested in the topic (well, if a quarter of a century counts as "suddenly"), and that led to some interesting experiences. On February 1, 2022 I was one of 32 guests invited by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to attend a naming ceremony honoring the legacy of Ambassador Terence A. Todman. Ambassador Todman was one of the pioneering African American diplomats, served six times as a U.S. ambassador, and retired as a Career Ambassador. During his training at the Foreign Service Institute in Virginia in 1957, Terence Todman discovered that he could not eat lunch at the restaurant across the street due to Virginia's segregation laws. He fought against this and eventually the Department leased half of the restaurant so that Todman could have a hot meal with his white colleagues. I had the privilege of interviewing Ambassador Todman for ***Black Diplomacy***.

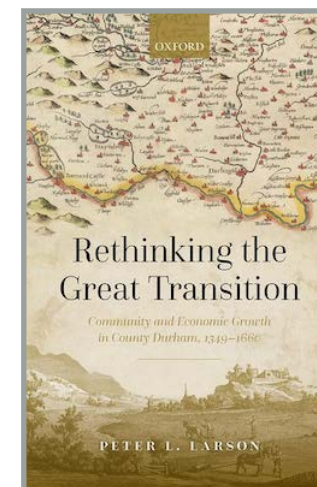
And, finally, I became a TV star. On February 15, 2022, the PBS series *American Experience* premiered a new documentary entitled *The American Diplomat*. This film was inspired by *Black Diplomacy* and I served as the chief historical advisor for the documentary, becoming one of the "talking heads" in the film. It focuses on three African American diplomats who were featured in the book: Edward R. Dudley, the first African American to be named a U.S. ambassador; Terence A. Todman; and Carl Rowan, who served in State and as Director of the USIA in the early-1960s. The film tells some inspiring, and sometimes disturbing, stories about the discrimination these men faced at State and their difficulties in trying to represent an America that often treated African Americans as second class citizens during the height of the Cold War. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/american-diplomat/>.

Peter Larson (PhD 2004)

This past year saw the publication of my second book, ***Rethinking the Great Transition: Community and Economic Growth in County Durham 1349-1660*** by Oxford University Press. In many ways, this book represents what I initially had in mind with my dissertation proposal (which changed as so many often do) so now there is a happy sense of closure.

I also am beginning my seventh year as chair of the UCF History Department.

Also here is the url for my new book: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/rethinking-the-great-transition-9780192849878?c=us&lang=en&>



Pat McDevitt (PhD 1999)

Pat McDevitt was named Academic Director of the University Honors College at the University at Buffalo SUNY in January 2022. He continues to serve at UB's Fulbright Program Advisor and is completing a new monograph on the Irish Famine in a global context for Oxford University Press. Read about the honors college at: <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2022/01/mcdevitt-honors-college.html>

Edward Muir (Ph.D. 1975)

Edward Muir is currently Clarence L. Ver Steeg Professor in the Arts and Science, Northwestern University). The past two years have drawn me back to Old Raritan, if not physically then spiritually and mentally. Rutgers joined the Big Ten, which now complicates my loyalties at games. The loss of Rutgers's Rudy Bell has stricken me with a powerful awareness of mortality. During my first year at Rutgers in 1969, I was in his graduate seminar and well remember when he announced that we students must all learn to program computers, which would allow us to solve all the historical problems. It was hard to know then how seriously to take him, but that comment was characteristic of his forceful commitment to history. When a personality such as Rudy leaves, we all suffer. Our former Northwestern Ph.D. Samantha Kelly is the Associate Department Chair in History at Rutgers (good luck to her), and last year Rutgers stole Northwestern's historian-Provost, Jonathan Holloway, for the impossible job of president.

After co-founding with my Northwestern colleague, Regina Schwartz, the Academy for Advanced Studies in the Renaissance, I have been engaged with watching our former fellows thrive. While the money lasted, the Academy brought together a remarkable group of advanced graduate students who are proving themselves as the future of the field by holding academic positions in Italy, France, the UK, Ireland, Canada, and the US.

For the past several years, I have been engaged in an overly large research project on the history of trust (pace Machiavelli) in Renaissance Italy and wonder if I shall live long enough to finish it. To that point, during 2023 I will serve as the President of the American Historical Association, a job that has become seriously political as some state legislatures and several foreign tyrants attempt to undermine the teaching of honest history.

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Amrita Chakrabarti Myers (PhD 2004)

Dear Friends, I am about to start my eighteenth year of teaching at Indiana University. It's shocking to think I've been here this long! This past July I began a four-year term as Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History, and I continue to hold a joint appointment with Gender Studies as well as affiliations with African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) and American Studies. I've had several doctoral students graduate recently, and I published two articles in the last few years. "Disorderly Communion: Julia Chinn, Richard Mentor Johnson, and Life in an Interracial, Antebellum, Southern Church," appeared in the *Journal of African American History* in Spring 2020, and my essay with Jessica Millward, "The Future Looks Bright: Black Women, Slavery, and Freedom, 1780-1865," is in the new edition of *An Oxford Companion to American Women's History*, Nancy Hewitt and Anne Valk, eds. I've done quite a bit of public-facing work the last few years around race and social justice, which delayed my new book, but I'm happy to say that it will be out next year with Ferris and Ferris Books. Look for *The Vice President's Black Wife: The Untold Life of Julia Chinn* in the fall of 2023. And, if you're ever in Bloomington, let me know. The door is always open!

Justina Parsons-Bernstein (PhD 2000)

Major current history projects include:

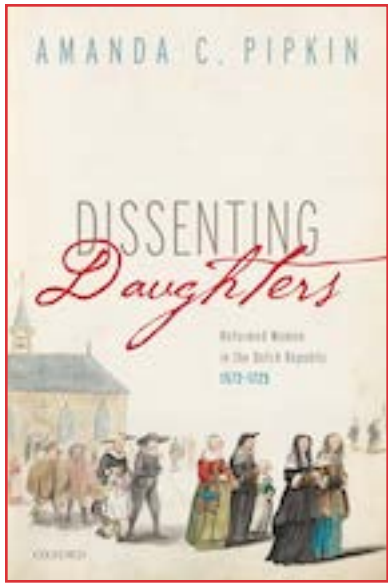
1. Coordinating the planning process for a new museum and surrounding interpretive grounds for Camp Floyd State Park. Camp Floyd, set up to put down the "Mormon Rebellion" that never happened, was the site of the largest military troops concentration in the country from 1858-1861.
2. Researching and developing all exhibits (in conjunction with two advisory committees) for the new Utahaptor State Park that contains some fascinating and complicated historic features within its boundaries. Site interpretation includes spotlighting the lives of corpsmen who lived at and worked around the Dalton Wells CCC Camp near Moab, Utah, and the lives of the prisoners and employees of the WWII Moab Isolation Camp. Exhibits will

also include interpretation of the amazingly rich and diverse dinosaur specimens that have been uncovered at the Dalton Wells Dinosaur Quarry.

On a personal note, Justina has continued to work full-time despite being in treatment for cancer for 18 months. She is curating an exhibition called, "Proof of Life: Art in the Face of Cancer," in which she is a participating artist. The exhibit will open October 1, 2022, and run through November 15, 2022. It features artists from Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, North Carolina, Vermont and Australia, who have been affected by, and inspired to create works because of, cancer.

Amanda Pipkin (PhD 2007)

2022 has been an unexpectedly exhilarating one in terms of professional news. I was appointed to a five-year term as department chair in the History Department at UNC Charlotte, was promoted to full professor, and my new book *Dissenting Daughters: Reformed Women in the Dutch Republic, 1572-1725*, was awarded the 2022 Best Book Award by the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender (SSEMWG).



Mars Plater (PhD 2021)

Mars has accepted a tenure-track position in US history, with a focus on environmental history, at the University of Connecticut-Stamford. Mars will begin there in Fall 2023 after a year as an ACLS Fellow.

Tammy Proctor (PhD 1995)

Greetings from northern Utah where I'm enjoying my new status as a faculty member and NOT a department head. It's been a real joy to get back into the classroom for more courses and to have time to finish some scholarship that had been languishing during Covid. Recent highlights for me include doing a panel to honor John Gillis's 50 years of publications at the North American British Studies conference in November 2021 along with fellow alums, Lia Paradis, Chuck Upchurch, and Pat McDevitt. I think all of us felt grateful that John was able to hear the recording of our tribute before his death last December. Of all the things I gained from my time at Rutgers, I think having John as an advisor was among the most valuable.

This summer I took students to the UK for a study abroad program, and I also finished a book manuscript, which is now in production with Oxford University Press. I'll report on that when it actually appears in print!

At Utah State University, I have been fortunate to be involved in some fun public-facing projects, including a short weekly radio segment on Utah Public Radio entitled Eating the Past (<https://www.upr.org/show/eating-the-past>) and a project with my sports history class to build archival records and oral histories on USU sport for the University Archives (https://youtu.be/XN8H2_CoTWY).

Kevin Reilly (1963, 1969, PhD 1988)

I have benefited from at least two generations of Rutgers historians who gave me the knowledge

and courage to learn and teach world history. I'm particularly indebted to my early mentors Warren Susman and Traian Stoianovich for tolerating my expansiveness and accepting my *The West and the World* in lieu of a dissertation. In addition to courses at Rutgers, Princeton and Columbia, I have just completed my 53rd year at Raritan Valley Community College, and retired. I recently finished (2020) the 7th edition of my reader, *Worlds of History*, and the second edition of my narrative history, *The Human Journey*. Future plans are open, but I expect to spend my retirement in Manhattan and Thailand. I can be reached happily at kreilly1@rcn.com.

Anthony R. Santoro (PhD 1978)

I am currently President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of History at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. I am pleased to announce that Theodore R. Reiff, M.D. has given Christopher Newport University a gift of one million dollar to create a new professorship dedicated to the study of the Holocaust and National Socialist Germany titled *The Reiff-Santoro Endowed Professorship in History*. This is the single largest endowed professorship at Christopher Newport University. Following Dr. Santoro's retirement, the university will conduct a national search for a senior scholar to continue studying the Holocaust.



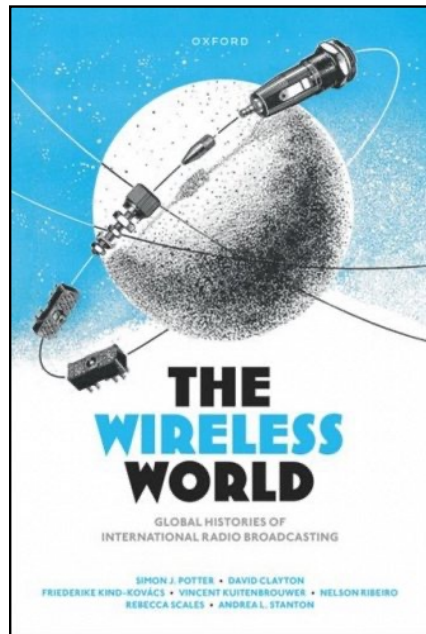
Anthony R. Santoro

GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

Rebecca Scales (PhD 2007)

Rebecca is an associate professor of history at the Rochester Institute of Technology.): Like many of you, I spent a good bit of the last two pandemic years trying to figure out new teaching modalities, which was rewarding if exhausting. In the summer of 2021, I co-directed an NEH Summer Seminar on Radio and Decolonization with my wonderful collaborators Andrea Stanton (U-Denver) and Alejandra Bronfman (SUNY-Albany). Although we had to run our seminar on zoom due to the pandemic, we had a terrific time discussing radio, sound studies, and decolonization with colleagues from across the U.S.

This fall I'm happy to see the final project of another collaborative project make into print: a co-authored volume entitled ***The Wireless World: Global Histories of International Broadcasting*** (Oxford University Press, 2022), which offers thematic chapters and historical case studies. We hope it will be useful for anyone interested in delving into radio studies. Now that I've finished working on these radio projects, I'm eager to devote all my time to finishing my second monograph, ***Polio and its Afterlives: Disability and Epidemic Disease in Twentieth Century France***.



Robert Weiner (PhD 1973)

Having retired as Jones Professor of History and Jewish Chaplain at Lafayette College, after a fifty year career, I am "enjoying" deep reading of current events and continued work on the Jewish community of Dijon, in collaboration with my Lafayette/Rutgers Ph.D. colleague, Richard Sharpless; I believe both of us are from the class of 1973.

I also recently reviewed Graydon (Jack) Tunstall's award winning study of the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I, and have been in contact with Larry Gurman, another wonderful colleague from that special Rutgers era. Must not forget Bartram Gordon, still a very active scholar/teacher from the Mills College/Berkeley area.

I am returning to France in September, following a two year covid hiatus, in order to see friends and update my French Jewish history collection. Having had a nice expense fund, associated with my Jones Teaching Chair and Chaplaincy, I believe I have one of the finest private collections of French Jewish History/Civilization in the US, if not globally. I would welcome useful suggestions with respect to the final disposition of these materials; feel free to contact me at weinerr@lafayette.edu, or 610-256-1266. Cheers to all!

Caitlin Wiesner (PhD 2021)

Caitlin has published an article, "'The first thing we cry about is violence': The National Black Women's Health Project and the Fight Against Rape and Battering" in the Spring 2022 issue of the ***Journal of Women's History***.

Carol Williams (PhD 1999)

This year COVID lingered in Alberta, a province in Western Canada notorious for the political influence of anti-vaxers. I taught a heavy course load in person in fall 2021 and then virtually, in Spring 2022.

And, for six weeks from mid February to late March 2022, our university's teaching staff went on strike. The strike vote was unanimous as we hoped to convince the University to renegotiate our contract that had expired 18 months earlier. One of the planks of our proposed contract was to increase per semester wages for temporary teaching staff (we won that!). Students joined us on the picket line including music students who performed in frigid temps that dropped to minus 21 Celsius. Ultimately, extreme cuts to post secondary public education introduced by a notably anti-intellectual provincial government triggered the crisis.

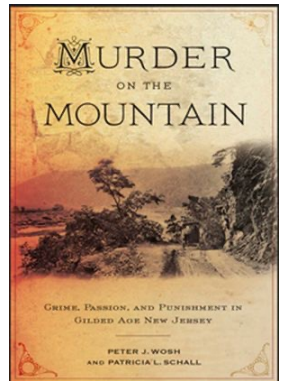
On June 30, after many months awaiting "elective" surgery, I received a full hip replacement which, much to my great fortune, is covered by Canada's public health system. I water-run and walk daily, the latter with the aid of hiking poles that I formerly employed when running long distance trail races before the fall on ice that caused my injury in 2020. My scholarly output has correspondingly diminished. However last year and this, I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Coordinating Council of Women's History's (CCWH) Carol Gold Article Prize.

A lively national debate among reproductive justice advocates and organizations erupted in the wake of the end of Roe v Wade leading to investigations of the divergent circumstances of access to abortion and reproductive autonomy across Canada. In July, I was invited to survey access to Alberta's reproductive health services. Here is a link to the post: <https://enoughforall.ca/articles/the-state-of-reproductive-health-in-alberta-a-qa>

Adjusting the Lens: Indigenous Activism, Colonial Legacies and Photographic Heritage (Nov 2021) an international collection of Indigenous and non-indigenous contributors, includes my essay "Reading a Regional Colonial Photographic Archive: Residential Schools in Southern Alberta, 1880-1974."

Peter J. Wosh (BA 1976; PHD NYU 1988)

I have a new book out, which I wrote with my late wife Patricia Schall, called ***Murder on the Mountain: Crime, Passion, and Punishment in Gilded Age New Jersey***, published by Rutgers University Press in 2022. Basically, it tells the story of Margaret Meierhofer, a Bavarian immigrant and the last woman to be executed by the State of New Jersey. She was hung in Newark in 1881, along with a hired hand on her West Orange farm, for allegedly murdering her husband in a sensational crime that made national news in 1879. The book tells the story of the murder, trial, prison time, and execution, embedding her tale in the culture of late nineteenth century America.



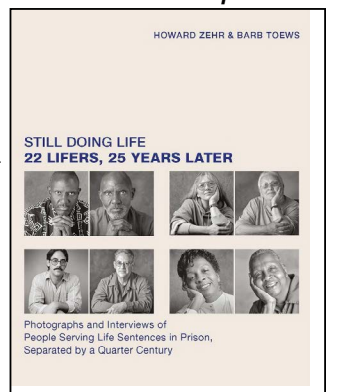
Howard Zehr (PhD 1974)

Professor of Restorative Justice in the Center for Justice and Peacekeeping at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA.

My latest book came, ***Still Doing Life: 22 Lifers, 25 Years Later***, out in March. An exhibit from the book is hanging at the Free Library in Philadelphia this summer and will be traveling from there.

Interestingly, my PhD dissertation, first published in 1976 from Croom Helm in the UK, was re-issued by Routledge in 2019: ***Crime and the Development of Modern Society: Patterns of Criminality in Nineteenth Century Germany and France***.

Fortunately, the new edition has a plain cover instead of the gruesome engraving of a woman strangling a child that was on the original!



GRADUATE ALUMNI NEWS

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AUGUST 2021-AUGUST 2022

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