

Department of History

Summer 2015



**Outgoing Department
Chair (2014-2015)**
Daniel Smail



**Incoming Department
Chair (2015-2016)**
David Armitage

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From the 2014-2015 Department Chair, Daniel Smail

As I write this in the heat of a July afternoon, the snows of yesteryear have receded from memory and the Yard is filled instead with summer-school students and great drifts of tourists. Most of our faculty and students are off teaching or pursuing research projects or internships in places all over the world. For those who remain, Widener is now at its best, for the summer brings with it time to read and to explore at leisure, and the dreaded words “Checked out: due 02/10/16” are few and far between as you browse the catalog. In September, the department will become its animated self again as faculty and students return with energies renewed and new things to learn and teach, but for now, all is quiet, apart from the occasional noise drifting up from the renovation of the first floor seminar rooms.

The year just past was as busy and active as ever, even for those who weren't shoveling snow in the depths of January and February. If there were moments of sadness and loss there were also many shining moments for the department as a whole and for the individuals among us, students, staff, and faculty alike. Members of the faculty were invited to give distinguished lectures all over the globe. They garnered awards and fellowships, sparked vigorous debates, ran seminars, launched new research projects, published books, articles, opinion pieces, digital archive projects, and writings of many different kinds, and spent countless hours teaching and working with undergraduate and graduate students or consulting with

deans about paths to take. Our students were equally successful in completing dissertations and honors theses and garnering awards, jobs, positions, and many grants and fellowships. To survey the titles of our dissertations and theses is to be amazed not only by the diversity of themes, spanning time and place, also by the restless ambition and energy of the authors.

In the fall of 2014, we welcomed two new colleagues to the ranks of the junior faculty. [Elizabeth Hinton](#) (History and AAAS), a scholar of U.S. African-American and urban history, joined us after two years at the Michigan Society of Fellows. [Genevieve Clutario](#) (History and History & Literature) did not officially begin her appointment as a historian of gender and culture until July of 2015, but we were delighted that she could join us as a College Fellow for the year and teach two courses in the spring. In a few weeks, the department will be enriched by the arrival of three new ladder faculty: [Sidney Chalhouh](#), who will take up a senior position in Brazilian history; [Arunabh Ghosh](#) (PhD Columbia, 2014), our new junior colleague in Chinese history; and [Jane Kamensky](#), who will be the Faculty Director of the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe as well as a senior historian of U.S. Women and Gender. Distinguished visitors for the coming year will include [Khaled Fahmy](#) (American University in Cairo) in Middle Eastern history, [Brett Walker](#) (Montana State) in Japanese history, and [Christopher Loveluck](#) (Nottingham) in medieval European history and archaeology. [Elizabeth More](#) (PhD Harvard, 2012) has joined the Undergraduate Office as the Assistant Director of Undergraduate



Studies, and [Holger Droessler](#) (PhD Harvard, 2015) will be our College Fellow in U.S. history. [Catherine Warner](#) (PhD Univ. Washington, 2014), finally, will be coming as a College Fellow in South Asian history, joint with South Asian Studies. Please join me in welcoming our new colleagues and visitors this fall!

We also undertook a search in Modern Jewish History and a targeted search in Byzantine History and hope to have good news to report on the outcomes of those two searches very soon. We were delighted to add to our luster by welcoming several Harvard colleagues—[Sunil Amrith](#) (South Asian Studies) and [Tomiko Brown-Nagin](#) (Harvard Law School)—as jointly appointed members of the department, and several more appointments are currently in the works. As I think about the new dimensions in scholarship and teaching that will be added in this way, I am reminded of how history is at the core of the intellectual practices of many colleagues scattered all across Harvard's campus.

As David Armitage reported in this space last year, there was just as much continuity and change among the staff last year. Ann Kaufman has now been with us for a year and a half and has done wonders filling the shoes of Janet Hatch, our long-serving Department Administrator who retired at the beginning of 2014. Ann's latest triumph, among many, has been to oversee a complete renovation of the ground-floor seminar rooms in Robinson Hall. Kimberly O'Hagan, who joined us as Faculty Coordinator in May of 2014, managed the logistics of three complex searches with exemplary efficiency and attentiveness and did much else besides to make the

department hum along. Laura Christoffels, who came to us in April as our Web and Media Coordinator, implemented a redesign of our website that captures the department's dynamism and vibrancy. Our Graduate Coordinator, Dan Bertwell, started in June and is therefore the young kid on the block when it comes to the second floor of Robinson, but has now mastered the complex rhythms of our graduate program. Change is good. But change is not everything, and the department would not be what it is without the continuing presence of Mary McConnell, Laura Johnson, and Cory Paulsen. Whenever I contemplate the work of the staff, I am struck by the countless hours they put into making things happen. When the work is done well, the hours and dedication that go into it often become invisible, so let us take this occasion to remember how much our amazing staff contributed to the successes of the past year.

The new year will bring, once again, a wholesale change in departmental leadership, as David returns as chair and as Ann Blair and Alison Johnson take up the positions, respectively, of Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. In Ann's case, she is now returning for a second stint as DUS (thank you Ann!). We wish them the very best in these vital roles. In 2014-15, the undergraduate program was illuminated by Ian Miller's year of dedicated service as DUS, and Nancy Cott, similarly, poured her energy and vision into the graduate program as DGS. Many thanks to both Nancy and Ian for their service. After three years as our

Assistant DUS, Heidi Tworek will be moving on to a tenure-track position at the University of British Columbia. We will greatly miss her energy and enthusiasm.

Even as we change and grow, we are also diminished. The spring of 2015 saw the retirements of Robert Darnton (Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library), Patrice Higonnet (Robert Walton Goelet Professor of French History), and Steven Ozment (McLean Professor of Ancient & Modern History). Their departures will leave holes that can never quite be filled. Although we knew that Mark Kishlansky had not been in good health for some time, his death in May of 2015 was sudden and unexpected; even so, there was time in the last weeks for many of his students, friends, and admirers to have a chance to visit him. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and students both past and present. If you wish to celebrate a life in history, read Mark's recently published book [Charles I: An Abbreviated Life](#) (London, 2014). Finally, Edward Keenan, emeritus professor of medieval Russian history, died in March of 2015. Ned had retired in 2008 after a distinguished career of scholarship and service, including the directorship of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and College from 1998 to 2007. Our condolences to his wife Judy and their family.

In the fall, we celebrated the practice of history itself at our annual panel discussion "History is Everything/ Everything is History." Our February seminar, "How Are States Violent?", chaired by Mary Lewis, featured reflections on the politics of violence by Emmanuel Akyeampong,



Elizabeth Hinton, and David Howell. Our seminar series for the year closed with a panel discussion “Revisiting the State,” with remarks by William Kirby, Charles Maier, Lisa McGirr, and Tamar Herzog, chaired by Nancy Cott. In addition to these departmental events, faculty and students were involved in seminars, workshops, conferences, and symposia that take place on a weekly basis all over campus. The department’s reputation as one of the [leading centers for digital innovation](#) on campus continues to grow, thanks to the substantial grant we received last year from the Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching. Faculty and graduate students involved in the Digital Teaching Fellow program, History Lab, and other initiatives have dedicated much time and energy to the goal of bringing well-designed digital practices into the classroom. Many thanks are due to Gabriel Pizzorno, our Lecturer in Digital History, who joined us last fall and has provided the framework and know-how to make all this happen.

Although our undergraduate concentrators dropped again slightly we still had a healthy incoming class in the fall of 2014. In the spring, we offered six sections of our revised History 97 tutorial, which continues to offer students rigorous training in the research and writing of good history while giving them a chance to explore a diverse array of historical themes. Among our graduating seniors, seven were named to Phi Beta Kappa, and four of our students won distinguished fellowships and scholarships for the coming year. In addition to these awards, four of our thesis-writers were awarded the distinguished Hoopes Prize, and two concentrators received additional

college-wide prizes. *Tempus*, the Harvard College History Review, likewise had a busy and productive year. Warm congratulations are due to all of our fifty-three AB recipients.

Eleven of our graduate students completed their doctorates within the past year, and all have moved on to positions for the coming year. The dissertation prospectus conference, which took place in late January, once again put on display the extraordinary range of brilliant and innovative scholarship that is a hallmark of the program. The January prospectus conference and the undergraduate thesis conference in November are occasions that bring out the best in our students, and constitute key elements in our departmental culture of excellence.

Since the appearance of last year’s newsletter, members of the department published a remarkable range of monographs and edited volumes. These include Emmanuel Akyeampong (et al., eds.), [Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective](#) (New York, 2014); David Armitage (et al.), [The History Manifesto](#) (Cambridge, 2014); Sven Beckert, [Empire of Cotton: A Global History](#) (New York, 2014); Sugata Bose, [His Majesty’s Opponent](#) (Cambridge, Mass., 2015); Tomiko Brown-Nagin (et al., eds.), [Reconsidering the Insular Cases: The Past and Future of the American Empire](#) (Cambridge, Mass., 2015); Joyce E. Chaplin (et al., eds.) [Food in Time and Place: The American Historical Association Companion to Food History](#) (Oakland, 2014); Robert Darnton, [Censors at Work: How States Shaped Literature](#) (New

York, 2014); Peter Gordon (et al., eds.), [The Trace of God: Derrida and Religion](#) (New York, 2015); Tamar Herzog, [Frontiers of Possession: Spain and Portugal in Europe and the Americas](#) (Cambridge, Mass., 2015); Patrice Higonnet, [Le Village des Fanatiques](#) (Paris, 2014); Mark Kishlansky, [Charles I: An Abbreviated Life](#) (London, 2014); Jill Lepore, [The Secret History of Wonder Woman](#) (New York, 2014); Erez Manela (et al., eds.) [Empires at War: 1911-1923](#) (Oxford, 2014); Samuel Moyn, [Human Rights and the Uses of History](#) (London, 2014); Serhii Plokhy, [The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union](#) (New York, 2014); Intisar Rabb, [Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2015); and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (et al.), [Tangible Things: Making History through Objects](#) (New York, 2015).

You can read more about these and other happenings in the newsletter, and check out our [website](#) from time to time during the coming year to keep up with all that is happening in the department. New research is now appearing increasingly often in the form of digital archives and repositories, and the best way to find these projects is through faculty webpages and other websites. Happy reading, and stay in touch!



Faculty News



David Armitage spent the past academic year on leave, during which time he held visiting positions at Queen Mary University of London and the University of Chicago. He published [*The History Manifesto*](#) (co-authored, 2014), Cambridge University Press's first open-access monograph, and completed *Civil War: A History in Ideas*, which will appear next year from Alfred A. Knopf. Among his major talks this year were the Keith Sinclair Lecture at the University of Auckland, the Tom Sealy Lecture at the University of Texas Law School and the Milton Klein Lecture at the University of Tennessee. He also lectured at the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Netherlands Academy, keynoted conferences at the London School of Economics and the University of London and gave other presentations in Amsterdam, Berlin, Brisbane, Florence, London, Sydney and across the United States. In May 2015, he received the Cambridge LittD, the University's highest research degree, awarded for "distinction by some original contribution to the advancement of science or of learning." He returns for his third (and positively final) year as Department chair in 2015-16.

Gandhi's Last Stand, 1945-1948" in New Delhi on December 19, 2014. He gave lectures on Indian Ocean and Asian history in India, Saudi Arabia, NYU Abu Dhabi and the Asia Research Institute Singapore.



Tomiko Brown-Nagin published three articles this past year: "[Rethinking Diversity and Proxies for Economic Disadvantage: A First Generation Students' Project](#)," *University of Chicago Legal Forum* (2014), a discussion of access to higher education; "[The Civil Rights Canon: Above and Below](#)," *Yale Law Journal* 123 (2014), a review of Bruce Ackerman's book, *We the People: The Civil Rights Revolution*; and "Two Americas in Healthcare: Federalism and Wars Over Poverty from the New Deal-Great Society to Obamacare," *Drake Law Review* 62 (2014), a socio-legal analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Affordable Care Act case. The Organization of American Historians chose her as a Distinguished Lecturer and she consulted with the City of Atlanta on a public history project to commemorate the role of the city and its residents in the civil rights movement.



Sven Beckert published [*Empire of Cotton: A Global History*](#) (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014), which won the Bancroft Prize, the Philip Taft Prize and was a finalist for this year's Pulitzer Prize. The book is also forthcoming in Korea, China, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United

Kingdom, Russia and India.



Nancy F. Cott stepped down from her position as director of the Schlesinger Library on June 30, 2014, to return fully to the Department of History, where she served as Director of Graduate Studies for 2014-15. In late June, 2015, she was delighted to see the U.S.

Supreme Court's constitutional resolution of the question of marriage for same-sex couples, since she had served as an expert witness on the history of marriage in several cases (both at the state level and in federal court) and had been the lead author of numerous *amicus* briefs on the subject over the past dozen years. The Court's majority opinion cited her book, [*Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*](#), several times in developing the historical background to its constitutional reasoning, and also cited the [amicus brief](#) she led in creating—a brief that was signed by the American Historical Association and 26 historians in the fields of U.S. family history and legal history. Her short analysis of the different readings of



Sugata Bose was awarded the Rabindra Puraskar, the highest literary award in the state of West Bengal, named after the Nobel Prize winning poet Rabindranath Tagore. The prize is for the entire corpus of his works with a special mention of his book [*His Majesty's Opponent*](#) (Harvard

University Press, 2015). He gave the B.R. Nanda Memorial Lecture on "To Work for Unity: Mahatma



history by the Court's majority and the dissenters, [“Which History in *Obergefell v. Hodges*?”](#), appears in the Summer 2015 issue of AHA Perspectives. She is currently president-elect of the Organization of American Historians and will be president as of April 2016.



Robert Darnton completed work on a large website, www.robertdarnton.org, and went into retirement on July 1.



Mark Elliott was one of three keynote speakers at a June 2014 conference marking the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the first European chair in Chinese studies at the Collège de France. The paper he gave—on the scholar who filled that chair,

Jean Pierre Abel-Rémusat, a contemporary of Champollion—was presented at the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres and is forthcoming in the *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie*. At the end of September, Elliott was in Guangzhou to promote his new book on the Qianlong emperor (r. 1736-1795), which appeared in Chinese translation in May. The event drew a standing-room-only crowd of 150 readers interested to hear him talk about the “New Qing History.” Six months later, Elliott was singled out in [a vitriolic attack on American scholarship](#) published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences that was widely interpreted as indicating increasing limits on free intellectual inquiry in China.



Andrew Gordon spent the 2014-15 academic year on sabbatical leave in Japan, working on a topic in contemporary Japanese history: the social and political transformations of the past thirty or so years, including the era often described as Japan’s “lost decades” of the 1990s and 2000s.

A first product of the studied appeared in April 2015, “Making Sense of the Lost Decades: Workplaces and Schools, Men and Women, Young and Old, Rich and Poor” in Yoichi Funabashi and Barak Kushner, eds, *Examining Japan’s Lost Decades* (Routledge). He gave numerous talks on this project while in Japan, as well as at Chinese University in Hong Kong. He continued to direct the Japan Disaster Archive, a digital archive seeking to preserve and make accessible the record of the March 11 2011 disasters and their aftermath, speaking at various sessions of the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015. He helped author an [“Open Letter in Support of Historians in Japan”](#) signed by over 450 Japan scholars from around the world, expressing concern with the way the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is being discussed and commemorated in Japan.



Tamar Herzog published a monograph titled [Frontiers of Possession: Spain and Portugal in Europe and the Americas](#) (Harvard University Press, 2015) as well as various articles in several languages concerned with identity and processes of identification, colonial “public spheres,” treaties with native peoples, and the Americanness of colonial law. This year also saw the translation and subsequent publication of yet another of her books in France. She gave the Di Rosa Annual Lecture in Global History in Rome, Italy, as well as presented her work at meetings in Italy, Netherlands, France, Portugal, and the USA. She organized a Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar on “De-Nationalizing Colonial History: How Spanish was the Spanish Empire?”.



Walter Johnson spent most of the fall working on an [article](#) about the political economy of Ferguson, Missouri, which eventually appeared in *The Atlantic*. He is working on a book about the history of St. Louis from Lewis and Clark to Michael Brown.



Jim Kloppenberg was elected this year to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and completed two books; he is shown celebrating in the photograph. *Tragic Irony: The Rise of Democracy in European and American Thought*, will be published by Oxford University Press in time for the April, 2016, meeting of the Organization of American Historians, where a panel of historians will discuss the book. *The Worlds of American Intellectual History*, co-edited with Joel Isaac, Michael O'Brien, and Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, brings together work by seventeen scholars of US and European thought, including Peter Gordon, Andy Gordon, and Sam Moyn of our own department and Harvard PhDs Angus Burgin, Sophia Rosenfeld, and Nico Slate. The book, also to be published by OUP early in 2016, will be dedicated to Michael O'Brien, who died suddenly this year. Kloppenberg continued his efforts to locate our current president in the history of US politics and ideas. His essay "Barack Obama and the Traditions of Progressive Reform" appears in *The Progressives' Century: Democratic Reform and Constitutional Governance in the United States*, ed. Stephen Skowronek and Stephen Engel (Yale University Press, 2015). Kloppenberg gave lectures on his current work at Washington University, the University of Wisconsin, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and at an international conference on democracy at the Université de Rennes, France. In the fall semester he co-taught for the first time, with Mark Elliott, the required course "Writing History" for a very talented group of first-year PhD students. In the spring he taught a seminar in the department's revised sophomore tutorial devoted to intellectual history. He is happy to report that everyone seems to have survived. From 2015-2018, Kloppenberg will chair the interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Social Studies and co-teach, with Brandon Terry (African and African American Studies and Social Studies), the year-long course on modern European and American social theory. He will continue work on two book projects, "The American Democratic Tradition: Roger Williams to Barack Obama," under contract with Princeton University Press, and "The Long Shadow of William James: American Pragmatism in the World of Ideas."



Jill Lepore published an [essay](#) in *The New Yorker* about the long-lost longest book ever writer, Joe Gould's *Oral History of Our Time*, that emerged out of her teaching of History 97 (What is Biography?). Knopf will publish a longer version, as a book, this coming spring.



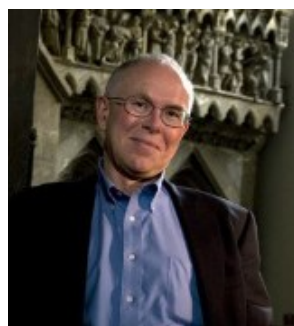
Mary Lewis received a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship and a Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship to launch her new project, "The First French Decolonization: A New History of Nineteenth-Century Empire," which examines the consequences of France's loss of

Saint-Domingue/Haiti on French commercial and imperial developments worldwide. Lewis was also honored by Harvard as one of the 2015 recipients of the Walter Channing Cabot Fellowship. She will spend the 2015-16 academic year on the Burkhardt Fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute.



Erez Manela spent 2014-2015 as an ACLS Burkhardt Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study working on an international history of smallpox eradication. An essay he wrote on this subject was included in the recently-published *The Cambridge World History*, Vol.

7. This year also saw the publication of Manela's co-edited book, [Empires at War: 1911-1923](#), as well as a related article, "[The Great War as a Global War](#)," that appeared in the Sept. 2014 special issue of *Diplomatic History*. Other recent publications include a revisionist essay on Franklin Roosevelt's Vision for China's Global Role in *The Significance and Impact of the Cairo Declaration* (Wu Sihua et al., eds.) and a chapter on "Global Anti-Imperialism in the Age of Wilson" in *Empire's Twin: U.S. Anti-imperialism from the Founding Era to the Age of Terrorism*, edited by Ian Tyrrell and Jay Sexton. In October he delivered the Endowed Alumni Lecture at the University of Delaware.



Michael McCormick spent much of his sabbatical in Cambridge working on the new [Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard \(SoHP\)](#). In addition to various public events and a little research and writing, he organized with the Reich Laboratory (Genetics, Harvard Medical School) a [workshop](#) on new ancient DNA implications for the genetics, linguistics and archaeology that identified the Indo-European migration into Europe ca 4500 BP/2500BC (cf. Haak et al. *Nature* 2015), participated in the SoHP J-term course “Programming for Humanists” organized by Welch Professor of Computer Science Stuart Shieber, and three workshops on the progress of the SoHP Historical Ice Core Project. His lectures this academic year included one at Yale in Classics and the Climate and Energy Institute, the Eitner Lecture in Classics at Stanford, and the G.E. Rickman Lecture at the British School in Rome. He was elected one of the 50 Corresponding Members of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. This summer he leads a team of Harvard students and codirects a Spanish-German-American team in the first application of advanced geomagnetic technology to the archaeological survey of a Visigothic palace territory in central Spain.



Lisa McGirr has finished a book, [The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State](#) to be published by W.W. Norton this November. The book charts the contribution of national Prohibition to the path of twentieth-century American state development, not least to establishing the ideological and institutional edifice for later wars on drugs and crime. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary publication of Michel Foucault’s influential book, *Discipline and Punish*, McGirr convened a large conference, “The History of Penal Regimes in Global Perspective.”



Afsaneh Najmabadi’s 2014 book, [Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran](#), Duke University Press, was a finalist in Lambda Literary Award; it received the 2014 Joan Kelly prize from the American Historical

Association for best book in women’s history and feminist theory, and was co-winner of 2015 John Boswell prize, American Historical Association, CLBG History. She was selected as a Walter Channing Cabot Fellow for 2014-15.



Intisar A. Rabb published a book, [Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2015), and an article, [“Reasonable Doubt in Islamic Law”](#) in the *Yale Journal of International Law* (2015). She also collaborated with colleagues

in History and at the Berkman Center on an online portal for historical and contemporary sources on Islamic law: SHARIAsource (scheduled to launch later this year). Next year, she will be a Radcliffe Fellow as a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.



Dan Smail had a productive year filling in for David Armitage as department chair; one of the great rewards of the position is having a chance to work with our amazing staff. His work on history and cognitive neuroscience was featured in a [special issue](#) of the journal *Tracés: Revue de Sciences*

Humaines, and another article of his, “The Rhythms of Vengeance in Late Medieval Marseille,” was recently published in a collection in France. Since his current book manuscript is very nearly complete, he has launched into his next major research project, “The Documentary Archaeology of Late Medieval Europe” (co-PI with Gabe



Pizzorno), which is being supported by an ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship. He will be working on DALME during his upcoming 2015-16 sabbatical, first at the University of Chicago, as a visiting fellow of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, and then as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Thanks to the support of the Radcliffe Institute, he and Andrew Shryock (Anthropology, University of Michigan) will be hosting a workshop on storing, collecting, and hoarding in January of 2016. He is also collaborating with social scientists and biologists on a long-term SSRC working group entitled “History, Networks and Evolution,” the goal of which is to understand the emergence of novelty in human societies and to contribute social science perspectives to the rapidly emerging field of evolutionary theory.

Spain, Chile, Cuba, Argentina, and Uruguay. Between research trips, she gave invited lectures at the Biblioteca Nacional Luis Cardoza y Aragón in Guatemala City, Queen’s University, the University of Guelph, the College of Charleston, and the Universidad de la República in Montevideo. Her article “Fighting Guatemala’s Archive Wars: Documentation, Mobilization, Justice” was published in Carlos Aguirre and Javier Villa-Flores, eds., *From the Ashes of History: Loss and Recovery in Archives and Libraries in Modern Latin America* (Editorial A Contracorriente, 2015); an earlier article, [“Dignifying the Guerrillero, Not the Assassin: Rewriting a History of Criminal Subversion in Postwar Guatemala”](#) (*Radical History Review* 113, 2012) was awarded the Best Article Prize by the Sección Historia Reciente y Memoria of the Latin American Studies Association.



Hue-Tam Ho Tai spent the month of January traveling through the Mekong Delta to visit shrines to Ho Chi Minh as part of her ongoing research on the emerging cult of Ho Chi Minh. She also visited temples associated with the cult of Guangong (the God of War) and Tianhou (The

Empress of Heaven and protector of sea-farers) as part of another project on Chinese popular religion in southern Vietnam. In April, she was co-organizer of a conference on “The State in Vietnam and the state of Vietnamese studies” together with two former Mahindra Humanities fellows, Haydon Cherry and Claire Edington, that was held at Harvard. In May, she organized a conference on “The Geo-body of Vietnam” at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Change in Gottingen, Germany and participated in a forum organized by the ejournal *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* at Berkeley, CA. Back in Cambridge for the rest of the summer, she is busy editing papers arising from previous conferences on Nguyen Vietnam, 1558-1885.



Kirsten Weld spent the 2014-2015 year on leave as a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. She used the year to research her new book project, tentatively titled *The Long Spanish Civil War in Latin America*, in archives and libraries in Mexico,



Undergraduate News



Letter from Ian Miller
Director of Undergraduate Studies
2014-2015

Summer is often welcomed by students and faculty, but rarely has it been so welcome as it was this year, when so much snow piled up in the Yard that the school closed no fewer than 3 times. The term “historic” was

applied to the slow disaster of the New England winter so often that one of our students—perhaps inspired by her befuddled professor’s assertion that “Harvard *never* closes”—chose to write her Sophomore Tutorial paper on the environmental history of blizzards in Boston. Officials tell us that the last of the snow in the largest snow farm in Boston only melted on July 13.

Winter may have been cold, but the year was a good one within the warm confines of Robinson Hall. The department welcomed 57 new concentrators this year, down slightly from a banner year last year, which brought 70 new students. We also had 28 seniors graduate with a secondary field in History.

These students appreciated the diverse classroom offerings from colleagues and the support of staff and faculty in the Undergraduate Office. Assistant DUS Dr. Heidi Tworek, Laura Johnson, Mary McConnell, and Laura Christoffels all contributed to organizing a series of events aimed at undergraduates in the College. In October, Vincent Brown, Emma Dench, Elizabeth Hinton, Cemal Kafadar, Mary Lewis, and Michael Szonyi joined Maya Jasanoff for a series of short, punchy presentations on the theme of “History is Everything, Everything is History.” The event has become a showcase for the department in recent years. It is open to the public and worth a visit if you are in the area for the next one, which will take place on Wednesday October 14, 2015, 5-6:30pm.

The spirit of “Everything is History” was carried forward in November by 27 History concentrators who offered papers at our annual Senior Thesis Conference. Emmanuel Akyeampong, Dimiter Angelov, Brett Flehinger, Andrew Jewett, Daniel Jütte, Elizabeth Hinton, and I each chaired multi-paper panels on topics ranging from the history of hunger to the aftermath of empire. Work on those papers continued in History 99, where

Heidi Tworek and Carla Heelan helped our concentrators (including five joint concentrators) transform their research into finished theses. That work yielded 4 Hoopes Prizes and 2 other College-wide awards, each recognized in the pages that follow.

Our recently revamped Sophomore Tutorial, History 97, demonstrated similar methodological diversity. Required of all concentrators, each section of the course is addressed to a different approach and is taught by a specialist in the area. This year’s sections asked (and answered): “What is Intellectual History?” (Jim Kloppenberg), “What is Environmental History?” (Ian Miller), “What is Material History?” (Dan Smail), “What is Legal History?” (Tamar Herzog), “What is Urban History?” (Elizabeth Hinton), and “What is Biography?” (Jill Lepore). Hannah Callaway served as Head Teaching Fellow for all of the 97 sections; she also helped students in her role as Departmental Writing Fellow.

Alumni and advanced students joined us for a series of panels on “History at Harvard and Beyond.” These events introduced current freshmen and sophomores to alums and advanced undergraduates who work in or have accepted jobs in architecture, business, international education, law, medicine, and other fields. This year we are especially grateful to students Daniel Barcia, Hunter Fortney, and Orme Thompson and recent alumnae Rekha Auguste-Nelson, Molly Brady, Wanxin Cheng, and Huma Farid for participating in these sessions. Tamar Herzog joined us to talk about the connections between legal history and the law. Students also regularly report that they enjoy visiting our growing [Alumni Voices page](#). Please visit the page and please let us know if you’d like to create a profile!

Our efforts to advise students at all stages and in all locales within the university extended to Peer Concentration Counselors (advanced students in the concentration who volunteer to help new students) and History House Advisors. House Advisors are graduate students who demonstrate active and sustained interest in undergraduate education and advising. They meet with students in each of the undergraduate houses, where they are available for discussions on classes, writing, thesis research, or informal conversation over a meal. This year’s PCCs comprised sophomores Michael Avi-Yonah, Dominique Luongo, Olivia Nichols, Wright Smith, and



Aubrey Stoddard; juniors Kendall Crawford, Isabelle Dowling, Bobby Duvnjak, Alice Han, Ben Harland, Katherine Hebb, Elena Hoffenberg, Alice Hyde, Chelsea Mullen, Santiago Pardo, and Gregory Russell; and seniors Katherine Aoki, Daniel Barcia, Forrest Brown, Breeanna Elliott, Aligail Feidler, Barbara Halla, Nick Mendez, Owen Senders, and Eileen Storey. Our History House Advisors comprised Marco Basile, William Chiriguayo, Chris Gilbert, Tina Groeger, Carla Heelan, Kuba Kabala, Shaun Nichols, Carolin Roeder, Heidi Tworek, Michael Tworek, Subo Wijeyeratne, and, Ryan Wilkinson. The department is grateful for their work.

Finally, a note of change and thanks. Heidi Tworek, our remarkable Assistant DUS, left Harvard for an assistant professorship at the University of British Columbia at the end of the school year. Heidi has been an incomparable representative of the department and a valuable resource

for all of our students. She will be sorely missed here in Cambridge; UBC is lucky to get her. The Undergraduate Office is buoyed in this moment of transition by the arrival of Heidi's terrifically capable colleague, Dr. Betsy More, who took over as ADUS on July 1. Betsy received her PhD in our own history department and she has worked for a number of years as a lecturer in Harvard's History and Literature Program. She is a historian of 20th-century America who specializes in the history of women, gender, and labor. Betsy is joined by my colleague, Ann Blair, Harvard College Professor and Henry Charles Lea Professor, who has returned to the DUS office as I take a year of research leave. It has been a pleasure to work with the department's staff and faculty, and especially with our students this year. I know that our program is in good hands. Welcome to Betsy and welcome back, Ann; to Heidi, best wishes and heartfelt thanks!

AB Recipients 2015

Alicia Megan Alvero Koski	Nicholas Maccoby Folger	Nicholas Mauro Mendez
Katherine Bennett Aoki	Hunter Scott Fortney	Madeline Josephine More
Nicolai Astrup Wiik	William Parker Grayson	Evan Bertrand Morris
Rose Catherine Bailey	Barbara Halla	Karina Adrienne Partovi
Juliet Rose Bailin	Eva Marie Harvey	Cory Duane Pletan
Daniel Barcia	Nathaniel Shaw Hay	Stefan Alexander Poltorzycki
Ali Nuri Bayar	Catherine Kistler	Emery Alice Poor
Alexander George Jay Bonorris	Gretchen Marie Krupp	Emma Wills Rausch
Caroline Rebecca Breinin	Owen Watson Laub	Richard Ray Rush
Forrest Stoddard Brown	Wade Alexander Laycook	Matthew Rolfe Shuham
Erica Lesia Byas-Smith	William Francis Looney	Stefan Michael Skalbania
Sabrina Margareta Castenfelt	Lindsay Angevine Mailer-Howat	Axel Kildegaard Snow
Ryan Edward Delisle	Peter Henry Manges	Eileen Patricia Storey
Benjamin Levi DeVore	Philip Alexander Mayopoulos	Orme Wilson Thompson
Breeanna Morgan Elliott	Joseph Ryan Mazur	John Randolph Bradham Thornton
Jacob Daniel Henkin Feldman	Molly Jean McFadden	Audrey Marie Vernick
Stephanie Morgan Ferrell	James Paul McGlone	Michael Kingsley Wales
Abigail Kate Fiedler	Claire Mullin McLaughlin	



Sophomores entering the History concentration, 2011-2014

2011: 51
2012: 45
2013: 70
2014: 57



Undergraduate Awards and Prizes

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY PRIZE

*for best total record as history concentrator
by the end of the senior year*

awarded to **Hunter Scott Fortney**
and **Emma Wills Rausch**

DAVID HERBERT DONALD PRIZE

for excellence in American history

awarded to **Daniel Barcia**

COLTON AWARD

*for excellence in the preparation of a senior
thesis in the Department of History*

awarded to **Breanna Morgan Elliott** for her thesis:
“A Precarious State: Slavery in Zanzibar, 1873-1909”
and **Nathaniel Shaw Hay** for his thesis:
“Punic Wars: Images of Carthage in
Eighteenth-Century France”

FERGUSON PRIZE

for best History 97 essay, 2013-2014

awarded to **Anne Harper Mathews** for her paper:
“Uniquely North American Identities in Boston”

PHILIP WASHBURN PRIZE

for best thesis on historical subject

awarded to **Forrest Stoddard Brown** for his thesis:
“Sudden War: The Yosemite Miwok Indians and the Cali-
fornia Gold Rush”

UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

*for best work of original historical scholarship produced
before the senior year in a history department course*

awarded to **Yutong Sun** for her paper:
“Money Doctor in China Or How China Almost Adopted
the Gold Standard”

Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize

Juliet Rose Bailin for her submission entitled
“Mother-Wit and Womanly Resource: Emily
Hobhouse, Millicent Fawcett, and the Reform of
the Boer War Concentration Camps,” nominated
by Mr. Mircea Raianu.

Daniel Barcia for his submission entitled “Restless
Liberty: The Fall of Florida's Maroon Haven and
the Largest Slave Rebellion in U.S. History, 1835-
1838,” nominated by Professor Vincent Brown.

Forrest Stoddard Brown for his submission
entitled “Sudden War: The Yosemite Miwok
Indians and the California Gold Rush,” nominated
by Ms. Rhae Lynn Barnes.

Nathaniel Shaw Hay for his submission entitled
“Punic Wars: Images of Carthage in Eighteenth-
Century France,” nominated by Professor Patrice
Higonnet and Ms. Elizabeth Cross.



College-Wide Prizes

PHILIPPE WAMBA PRIZE

for best senior thesis in African Studies

awarded to **Breanna Morgan Elliott** for her thesis:
“A Precarious State: Slavery in Zanzibar, 1873-1909”

THOMAS WOOD AWARD IN JOURNALISM

awarded annually to the student who shows the best promise in the field of journalism
awarded to **Jacob Daniel Henkin Feldman**

Fellowships & Scholarships

Gates Cambridge Scholarship
Daniel Barcia

Mitsubishi UFJ Trust Scholarship
Axel Kildegaard Snow

Williams-Lodge Fellowship
Nathaniel Shaw Hay

Yenching Scholarship
Joseph Ryan Mazur

Phi Beta Kappa

Class of 2015

Katherine Bennett Aoki

Juliet Rose Bailin

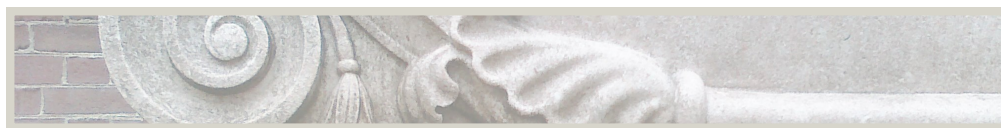
Forrest Stoddard Brown

Hunter Scott Fortney

Nathaniel Shaw Hay

Daniel Barcia

Emma Wills Rausch



Tempus Update

Tempus, the Harvard College History Review, continues to publish outstanding undergraduate research in history and its related disciplines. In 2014-15, under the direction of Editors Forrest Brown '15 and Sama Mammadova '17, the eight-member board selected excellent research papers in areas ranging from women's history to history of art. In spring '15, *Tempus* published a thought-provoking interview with Dr. Heidi Tworek, the former Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies in the History Department. In addition to traditional 12-25 page research papers, *Tempus* will also begin accepting shorter history essays (6 pages or more), historical fiction, and history-inspired art. In addition to encouraging a professional and creative approach towards history writing among Harvard undergraduates, the *Tempus* board also strives to bring together all Harvard affiliates interested in history by hosting a biannual reception in Robinson Hall. *Tempus* publishes in [print](#) and [online](#) twice a year.



Graduate News

PhD Recipients 2014-2015

Emmanuel Asiedu-Acquah

“‘And still the Youth are coming’: Youth and popular politics in Ghana, c. 1900-1979”

Sofiya Grachova

“Pathologies of Civility: Jews, Health, Race & Citizenship in the Russian Empire and the Bolshevik State, 1830-1930”

Jakub Jan Kabala

“Imagining Eastern Europe in the Early Middle Ages: Frankish, Roman and Byzantine Concepts of Space and Power in the Slavlands, c. 750-900”

Philipp Nicolas Lehmann

“Changing Climates: Deserts, Desiccation, and the Rise of Climate Engineering, 1870-1950”

Dan Orbach

“Culture of Disobedience: Rebellion and Defiance in the Japanese Army, 1860-1931”

Mira Leia Siegelberg

“The Question of Questions: The Problem of Statelessness in International History, 1921-1961”

Caroline Spence Creson

“Ameliorating Empire: Slavery and Protection in the British Colonies, 1783-1865”

Michael Tworek

“Learning Ennobles: Study Abroad, Renaissance Humanism, and the Transformation of the Polish Nation in the Republic of Letters, 1517-1605”

Stephen Anthony Walsh

“Between the Arctic & the Adriatic: Polar Exploration, Science & Empire in the Habsburg Monarchy”

Ryan Hayes Wilkinson

“The Last Horizons of Roman Gaul: Communication, Community, and Power at the End of Antiquity”

Graduate Placement

Emmanuel Asiedu-Acquah

International and Global Studies Program,
Sewanee: University of the South

Sofiya Grachova

European University Institute

Philippa Hetherington

Department of History,
University College London

Jakub Jan Kabala

History Department,
Davidson College

Philipp Nicolas Lehmann

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Dan Orbach

Program on U.S.-Japan Relations,
Harvard University

Dinyar Phiroze Patel

Department of History
University of South Carolina

Mira Leia Siegelberg

Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts,
Princeton University

Caroline Spence Creson

Harvard Business School

Heidi Tworek

History Department,
The University of British Columbia

Michael Tworek

Committee on Degrees in History and Literature,
Harvard University

Stephen Anthony Walsh

European University Institute

Ryan Hayes Wilkinson

Writing Program,
Harvard College



Graduate Prizes

HAROLD K. GROSS DISSERTATION PRIZE

awarded each year to the Ph.D. recipient whose dissertation, in the opinion of a committee of Department of History members, gave greatest promise of a distinguished career of historical research

awarded to **Mira Leia Siegelberg**
and **Philipp Nicolas Lehmann**

Dissertation Prospectus Conference

In January 2015, graduate students from the History Department and affiliated programs took an important step toward completing their dissertations by introducing their research topics at the Dissertation Prospectus Conference. The yearly conference is an opportunity for students who have recently completed their General Examination to formally present research plans to members of the faculty and to their peers. 2015's program included:

Session moderated by Professor Charles Maier

Barnaby Crowcroft, "Unraveling Empire: Protectorate Politics & Britain's Decolonization"

Lydia Walker, "Stillborn States: Nationalism, Internationalism and Decolonization, 1958-1966"

Safia Aidid, "Ethiopia, Greater Somalia, and the Somali Nationalist Imagination, 1943-1988"

Louis Gerdelan, "Epistemologies of Calamity in the British, French, and Spanish Atlantic Worlds, 1666-1755"

Session moderated by Professor Cemal Kafadar

Polina Ivanova, "Study of Medieval Asia Minor: The Iris River Valley in the Age of Romanos IV Diogenes, Ghiyath al-Din Kaykhusraw II, Kadi Burhaneddin and a Dozen other Rulers, 1071-1398"

Tarek Abu Hussein, "Ottoman-Islamic Education at the Core and the Periphery: A Study of the Instructional Material, Method, and Intellectual Integration"

Han Hsien Liew, "Tracing God's Rope: Caliphal Ideology and Political Discourse in the Late Abbasid Caliphate"

Session moderated by Professor Mark Elliott

David Porter, "Ethnic and Status Identity in Qing China: The Hanjun Eight Banners"

Hannah Shepherd, "Cities into Empire: Fukuoka, Pusan, and Japanese Imperial Urbanism, 1900-1947"

Nathanael Aschenbrenner, "Cultures of Empire in the 15th Century"

Session moderated by Professor Peter Gordon

Brandon Bloch, "Fractured Faith: Protestantism, Moral Conflict, and the Nation in Postwar West Germany"

Charles Clavey, "The Promise of Phenomenology: Philosophy, Politics, and Ethics in the 'School of Milan,' 1920-1980"

Megan Duncan Smith, "Taming the Rapids: The Cultural, Technological, and Environmental Transformation of the Dnieper River, 1837-1972"

Session moderated by Professor James Kloppenberg

John Gee, "Primitivism, Social Science, and Indigenous Politics in the US and Mexico, 1922-1973"

Irvin Ibarguen, "Breaking Waves: Empire, Nation and Resistance in the Making of "Transnational" US-Mexico Labor Regimes, 1942-1964"

Myciah Conner, "The Ordeal and Aftermath of "Contraband" Camps"

Liat Spiro, "Drawing Capital: The Politics of Industrial Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century"





Henry Adams Society

This past year, the Henry Adams Society held its second election under the new constitution, with each cohort electing representatives. The Society continued to host weekly social gatherings and approximately biweekly information sessions in the graduate student lounge—which is now a vital space for socializing, meeting, and studying. Information sessions brought together panels of graduate students to introduce their peers to graduate school, exam preparation, teaching, dissertating, etc. In addition, Henry Adams hosted some outside guests like Stephen Metcalf (culture critic at *Slate*), and partnered with the American Studies Junto to continue their joint event series, “Wine, Cheese, and Archive Stories.”

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Among the largest successes this year was the book sale, which brought in more than double what it had in previous years. We are very grateful to the students, faculty, and in some cases relatives who contributed their time and books.

In addition to running events for graduate students, Henry Adams continues to serve as a voice for history graduate students in the department and the university at large. Henry Adams joined other graduate students and departments in endorsing the [Harvard Teaching Campaign](#)’s drive for smaller section sizes. Representatives worked closely with interim department chair Daniel Smail, Harvard administrators, and the Harvard Teaching Campaign to develop strategies for achieving this goal.

Henry Adams continued to advocate for the use of the pre-term planning sheet, so that course heads’ and TFs’ responsibilities are clearly defined in each course at the beginning of the semester.

Graduate students served as liaisons for two job searches this year, continuing to increase involvement in departmental committees. These representatives led informal graduate student discussions with candidates on campus visits, and gathered graduate student input for the search committees.

Elections for representatives for the new academic year will take place in September. We thank the department both for its financial support, which enables us to have a regular schedule of events; and for its active engagement with graduate student concerns. We are grateful to interim chair Daniel Smail, to outgoing Director of Graduate Studies Nancy Cott, and to the department staff for their much-valued support. We look forward to working closely with incoming chair David Armitage, and incoming Director of Graduate Studies Alison Johnson, in 2015-2016.





Alumni News

Michael Cohen (PhD '08) has received the 2014 Linda Eisenmann Prize for his book, [*Reconstructing the Campus: Higher Education and the American Civil War*](#) (University of Virginia Press, 2012). He is Research Assistant Professor at the University of Texas, Knoxville.

Lawrence Duggan (PhD '71) recently published [*Armsbearing and the Clergy in the History and Canon Law of Western Christianity*](#) (Boydell and Brewer, 2013). He is Professor of History at the University of Delaware.

Tyler Goodspeed (PhD '14) was awarded the Alexander Gerschenkron Prize by the Economic History Association for his dissertation on shadow banking in 18th and 19th century Scotland and Ireland, entitled "Upon Daedalian Wings of Paper Money: Adam Smith, Free Banking, and the Financial Crisis of 1772." The Gerschenkron Prize is awarded annually for the best dissertation in the economic history of an area outside of the United States.

Halbert Jones (AB '99, PhD '06) recently published [*The War Has Brought Peace to Mexico: World War II and the Consolidation of the Post-Revolutionary State*](#) (University of Mexico Press, 2014). He is the director of the North American Studies Programme at St Antony's College, Oxford.

Ada Palmer (PhD '09) recently published her first book, [*Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance*](#) (Harvard University Press, 2014). She is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Chicago.

Jonathan Petropoulos (PhD '90) recently published his fourth book, [*Artists Under Hitler: Collaboration and Survival in Nazi Germany*](#) (Yale University Press, 2014). He is the John V. Croul Professor of European History at Claremont McKenna College.

Benjamin Schmidt (PhD '94,) recently published [*Inventing Exoticism: Geography, Globalism, and Europe's Early Modern World*](#) (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). He is Professor of History at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Benjamin Siegel (PhD '14) was awarded the 2014 Sardar Patel Award by the Center for India and South Asia at the University of California, Los Angeles for his dissertation entitled "Independent India of Plenty: Food, Hunger, and Nation-Building in Modern India." He is Assistant Professor of History at Boston University.



Thank you to all the alumni who have contributed to our newsletter and supported the History Department with gifts. Please use this form to keep in touch with us. We welcome your recent news for inclusion in our next newsletter, as well as contributions to the History Department for graduate student support and other uses. You may give to the Department directly, or you may also designate the History Department when giving to the Harvard Campaign or the Graduate School's Annual Fund.

Please make checks payable to Harvard University. All contributions are tax deductible.

☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐\$150 ☐\$200 ☐Other

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____ Degree & year _____

Address _____

News for future newsletter _____

Please mail to: Department of History Alumni Newsletter, Robinson Hall, 35 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

You may also email your updates to history@fas.harvard.edu