



# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

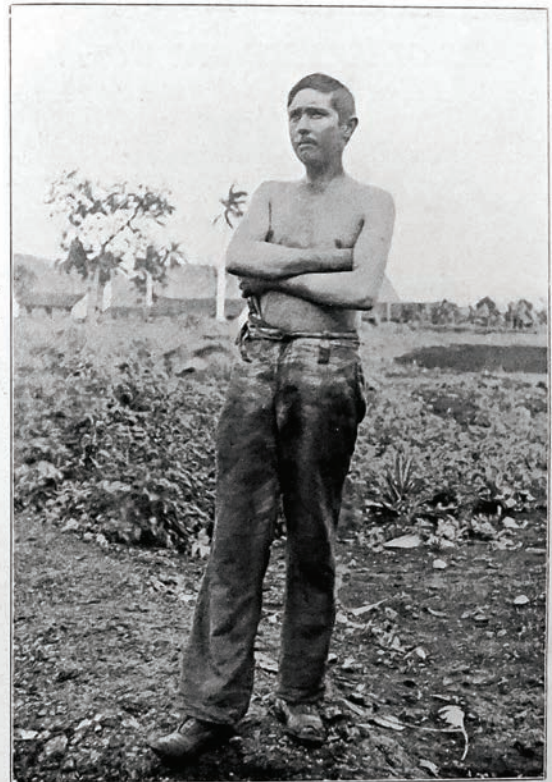
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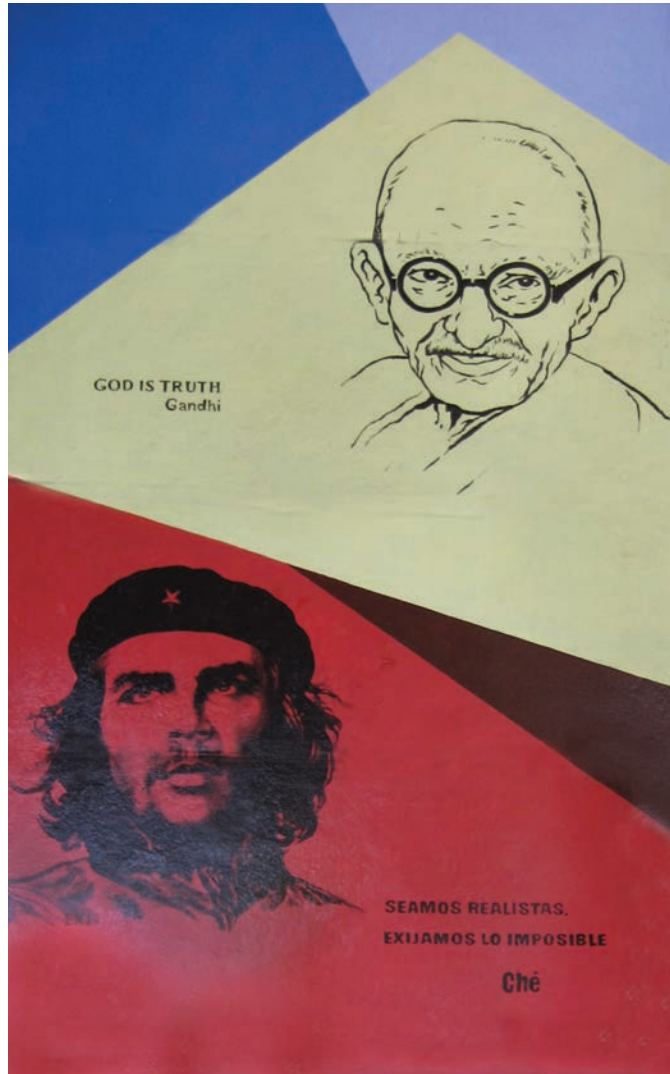
(Photographed September 7, 1899.)  
DAMOS ALFONSO AS HE WAS.

(See p. 5).



(Photographed January 18, 1900.)  
DAMOS ALFONSO AS HE IS.

(See p. 5).



You can also follow us on Twitter (@BrownHist) and Facebook.

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## A Word from the Chair

In 2014-2015, the Department of History continued both to build on faculty strength in established fields and to explore new directions for future growth. We welcomed two new assistant professors of Latin American and Caribbean history, Jennifer Lambe and Daniel Rodriguez. With the addition of these two exciting scholars, the department has significantly elevated its standing in the field; we now have one of the strongest cohorts of historians of Latin America in the country.

Two new hires will expand faculty expertise in African and Middle Eastern history. Jennifer Johnson (Brown B.A. 2004), now an assistant professor of modern African history at the City College of New York, earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2010. Her current work aims to expand the analysis of the process of decolonization in Africa by focusing on the role that propaganda, international politics, and health care—rather than armed conflict alone—played in Algeria. More specifically, she argues that the Algerian National Liberation Front, although it lost the military conflict to the French, ultimately succeeded in its political project by providing health care services to the Algerian population, creating the Algerian Red Crescent as a means of engaging the International Committee of the Red Cross in their struggle and negotiating broader international alliances through diplomacy at the United Nations. *The Battle for Algeria: Sovereignty, Health Care and Humanitarianism* will be published in Fall 2015 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. On a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship to begin research on a second book project in 2015-2016, Johnson will join the department in 2016-2017.

Sreemati Mitter, a historian of the modern Middle East, was hired through a joint search with the Watson Institute for International Affairs. Currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the School of Economics at the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France, she earned her Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 2014. Her dissertation, “A History of Money in Palestine: From the 1900s to the Present,” examines the economic challenges facing ordinary Palestinians through the rapid transitions of the twentieth century, from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire through the British Mandate, the creation of the state of Israel, and the 1967 War. Of central concern is the economic, financial, and legal challenges that statelessness posed for Palestinians and the strategies that

they developed to meet these challenges. At the core of the dissertation is an absorbing narrative of the struggles—ultimately successful—of Palestinians to win the right to reclaim their assets after their bank accounts were frozen and confiscated by the Israeli state in 1948. Mitter will, like Johnson, join the department in 2016-2017, after a second year in Toulouse.

Next year two postdoctoral fellows will enrich the intellectual life and curriculum of the department. We are excited to welcome Nicole Burrowes, who has been awarded a two-year Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship in History. Currently a pre-doctoral fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia, Burrowes will receive her Ph.D. from the Graduate School, CUNY, this month. Her dissertation, “The 1935 Rebellions and the Politics of African-Indian Solidarity in British Guiana,” examines a series of strikes by African and Indian plantation workers in the context of the rebellions that shook the Caribbean in the 1930s; she argues that these strikes demonstrate the possibility of Black and East Indian solidarity, contradicting the widely held assumption that racial conflict in Guyana is inevitable. The department is also very pleased to welcome German Vergara, the Cogut-Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental History, a position created in collaboration with the Institute at Brown for the Environment and Society (IBES). Vergara, who will receive his doctoral degree from the University of California at Berkeley also this month, researches the environmental history of Latin America. His dissertation, “Fueling Change: The Valley of Mexico and the Quest for Energy, 1860-1930,” examines the reasons for and the serious long-term ecological consequences of Mexico’s very early adoption of oil as the major source of fuel for local industries, transportation, and electricity generation.

There has also been movement within the ranks of our established faculty. We congratulate Linford Fisher on his promotion to associate professor with tenure and Caroline Castiglione on her promotion to full professor. We also congratulate—although with some sadness—Maud Mandel on her appointment as Dean of the College; we miss her presence in the department but wish her the best in her new position.

I regret that I also have to report the passing early in 2015 of Donald G. Rohr, who taught nineteenth-century German social and intellectual history in the department from 1959 until his retirement in 1986. In the course of his over twenty-five years at Brown, he also served as department chair and associate dean of the faculty.

We devoted much effort this year to planning future directions for the department. Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by Brown's current strategic plan, "Building on Distinction," the department explored the possibility of developing a cluster of strength in environmental history, one of the most rapidly expanding fields in the discipline of history—and one that provides opportunities for collaboration with several units at Brown, most notably the newly established IBES. A series of workshops and lectures on environmental history in the fall allowed us to survey the field; as a result we are working with IBES on a proposal for at least one joint position in environmental history. Many thanks to Kerry Smith and the committee (Nancy Jacobs, Lukas Rieppel) that organized the Environmental History Workshops; and to Tara Nummedal and Robert Self for their contributions to this initiative.

In order to explore ways in which the department might increase its diversity, the department has set up a lecture-workshop series, "New Directions in the Field of U.S. Slavery History," for Fall 2015. We are inviting young scholars to present their research and to discuss the state of the field to the History faculty. The department is grateful to Françoise Hamlin and her committee (Roquinaldo Ferreira, Seth Rockman, Robert Self) for organizing this series.

This year, as last year, the department has enjoyed the hard work and support of an outstanding group of officers, committee members, and administrative staff. As chair I owe special thanks to the chair, Robert Self, and members of the Priorities Planning Committee (Faiz Ahmed, Roquinaldo Ferreira, Françoise Hamlin, Tara Nummedal, Ethan Pollock) for their excellent counsel; I have benefited greatly from my participation in the thoughtful and thorough deliberations of this committee on many departmental issues. Tara

Nummedal, as Director of Graduate Studies, has worked constructively and carefully with both the Graduate School and our graduate students to advance stable plans for sixth-year funding; and she has led the Graduate Committee (Roquinaldo Ferreira, Kerry Smith, Michael Vorenberg) in developing new procedures for student assessment, field definition, and student participation in graduate program governance. Ethan Pollock, in his first year as Director of Undergraduate Studies, took on the herculean task of rationalizing the department's chaotic and confusing course-numbering system; next year the ordering of courses within the History curriculum will, for the first time in many years, make sense. The department's undergraduate group (DUG) has been very active this year; with Ethan's cooperation, they planned several events that succeeded in attracting a large crowd of both students and faculty members.

On behalf of the department I would also like to thank the committees who took on the time-consuming task of conducting our successful searches this year: Nancy Jacobs (chair), Jonathan Conant, and Roquinaldo Ferreira in African history; Beshara Doumani (chair) and Robert Self in modern Middle East history (in collaboration with the Watson Institute). Many faculty members—Omer Bartov, Hal Cook, Jim Green, Amy Remensnyder, Joan Richards, Seth Rockman, Naoko Shibusawa, Tracy Steffes, Mike Vorenberg, and Vazira Zamindar—worked on the multiple committees charged with faculty reviews. Seth Rockman and Sam Boss deserve special thanks for their efforts to keep the History website up to date and to manage the technological demands of the department.

Finally, I thank our superb staff—Academic Department Manager Cherrie Guerzon, Academic Program Manager Mary Beth Bryson, and Administrative Assistant Julissa Bautista—for their tireless work for History. The department—and certainly I—could not have survived the year without their unflagging support.

*Cynthia Brokaw*

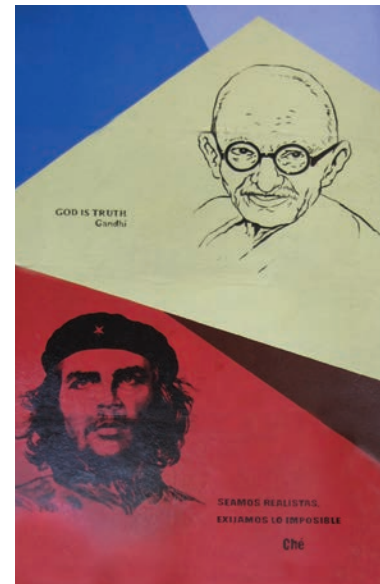
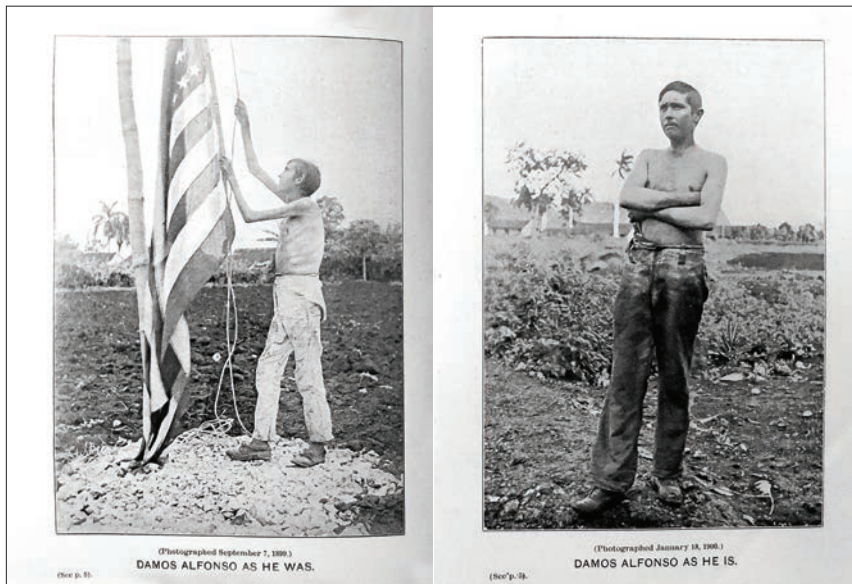


## Cover Image/Rodriguez, Lambe

The two images on the cover of this newsletter represent Cuba during times of rapid transition, and speak to the complex webs of transnational influence that have shaped, and continue to shape, Cuba's history.

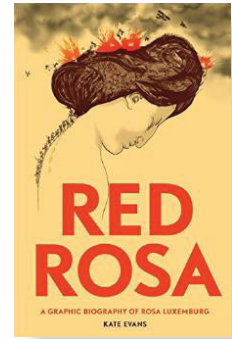
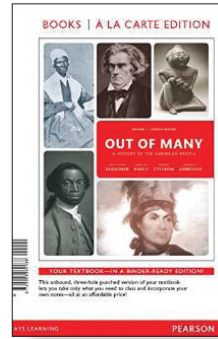
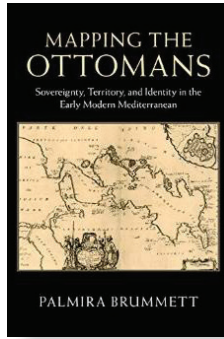
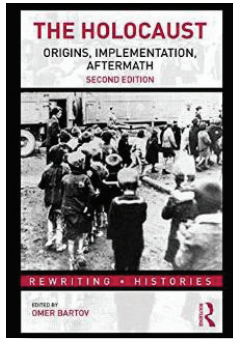
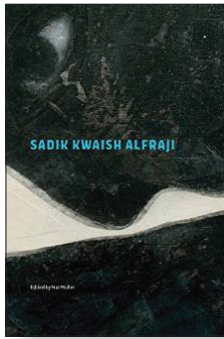
In 1899, Damos Alfonso was a sick, starving teenager orphaned during Cuba's final War of Independence (1895-1898), when he was taken in by the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund, a U.S.-based organization dedicated to helping Cuban small farmers get back on their lands after the war. As these images argue, Alfonso, under U.S. guidance and support, went from a sickly youth to an independent, strapping young farmer. Like many Americans on the island, the Cuban Industrial Relief Fund believed that under strict U.S. influence and guidance, the island itself could similarly be transformed into a healthy and productive land. Like other U.S.-based relief agencies that set up shop in Cuba during this period, they believed, as many Americans do today, that the United States was a progressive force for good in the world, and that greater U.S. influence in Cuba would certainly be in Cubans' best interests. The reality, however, was a great deal more complicated. *-D. Rodriguez*

The second image (inside front cover)—from Havana's new (and only) Iranian restaurant, **Topoly**—also speaks to the ambiguity of transnational engagement, this time in the present. Here, in a particularly unlikely pairing, Gandhi, proclaiming God's "truth," sits above the (atheist) revolutionary, Che Guevara, who urges Cubans to "be realistic and demand the impossible." Topoly is one of the many privately owned restaurants that have sprung up in response to the liberalizing reforms of Raúl Castro. The new age of "particulares" reflects and contributes to expanding stratification of wealth. Increasingly, Cubans serve as both owners and consumers in the non-state sector, though obstacles to broader participation remain. Meanwhile, the recent announcement of diplomatic rapprochement between the United States and Cuba has provoked doubts about the viability of this fragile market. Will new Cuban-owned businesses emerge, only to be swept away by an influx of U.S. capital? Is there any middle road here, a more inclusive third way? Once again, transnational flows of people, knowledge, and capital have raised difficult questions about Cuba's uncertain political future. *-J. Lambe*

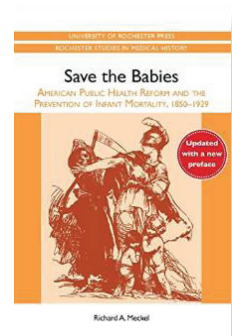
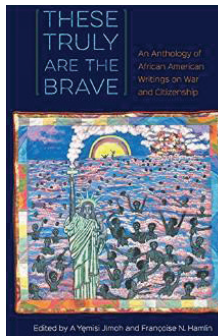
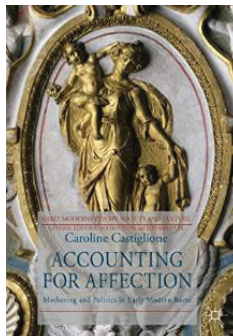
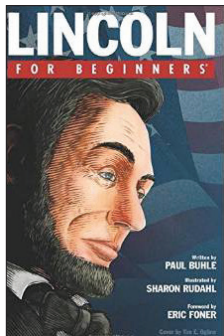




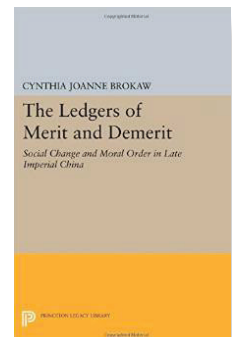
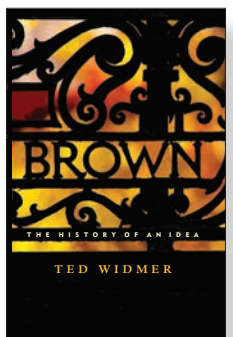
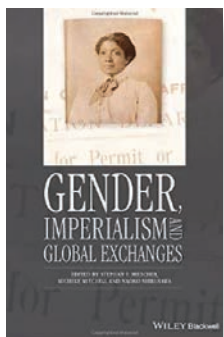
# Recent Faculty Books



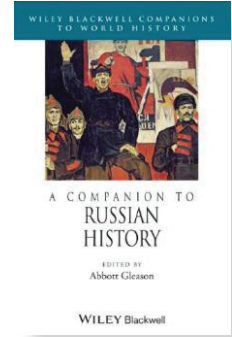
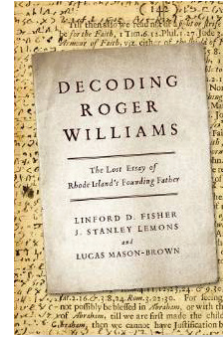
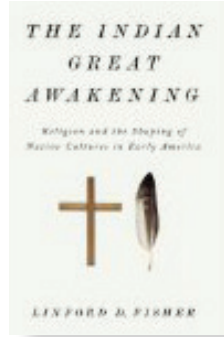
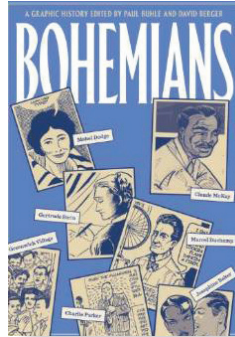
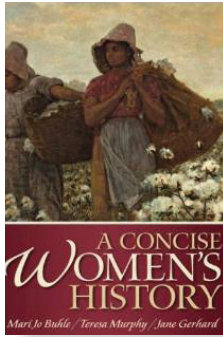
Shiva Balaghi, Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, Schilt Publishing (April 15, 2015); Omer Bartov, *The Holocaust: Origins, Implementation, Aftermath (Rewriting Histories)* pbk., Routledge; 2 edition (January 4, 2015); Palmira Brummett, *Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, Cambridge University Press (May 31, 2015); Mari Jo Buhle, John M. Faragher, Daniel Czitrom, *Out of Many: A History of the American People, Volume 2*, pbk., Pearson (May 3, 2015); Paul Buhle, Kate Evans, *Red Rosa: A Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*, pbk., Verso (November 3, 2015)



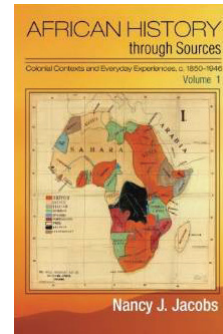
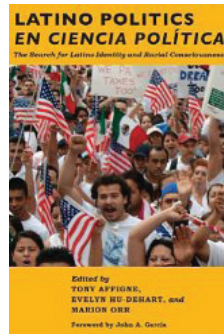
Paul Buhle, *Lincoln For Beginners*, pbk., For Beginners (January 13, 2015); Caroline Castiglione, *Accounting for Affection: Mothering and Politics in Early Modern Rome*, Palgrave Macmillan (March 13, 2015); Howard Chudacoff, *Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports*, University of Illinois Press (December 15, 2015); Françoise Hamlin, A. Yemisi Jimoh, *These Truly Are the Brave: An Anthology of African American Writings on War and Citizenship*, University Press of Florida (August 11, 2015); Richard A. Meckel, *Save the Babies: American Public Health Reform and the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 1850-1929*, pbk., University of Rochester Press (May 1, 2015);



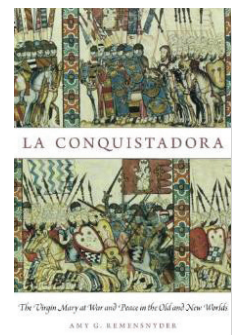
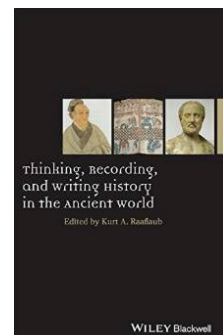
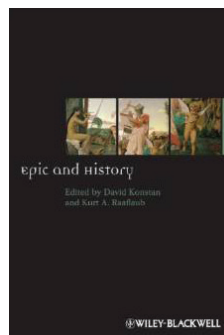
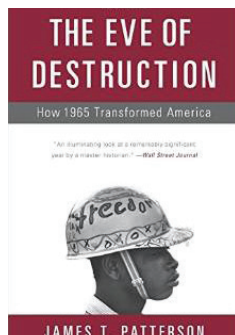
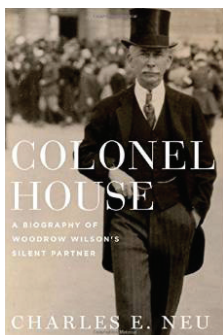
Naoko Shibusawa, *Gender, Imperialism and Global Exchanges*, pbk., Wiley-Blackwell (May 11, 2015); Edward Widmer, *Brown: The History of an Idea*, Thames and Hudson (May 1, 2015); Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution: Writings from the Pamphlet Debate 1773-1776*, Library of America (June 2, 2015); John Bodel, Nora Dimitrova, *Ancient Documents and Their Contexts: First North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy*, Brill Academic Publishers (November 28, 2014); Cynthia Brokaw, *The Ledgers of Merit and Demerit: Social Change and Moral Order in Late Imperial China*, pbk., Princeton University Press (July 14, 2014)



Mari Jo Buhle, Teresa Murphy, Jane Gerhard, *A Concise Women's History*, pbk., Pearson (April 20, 2014); Paul Buhle, David Berger, *Bohemians: A Graphic History*, pbk., Verso (April 15, 2014); Linford Fisher, *The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America*, pbk., Oxford University Press (April 7, 2014); Linford Fisher, Stanley Lemons, Lucas Mason-Brown, *Decoding Roger Williams: The Lost Essay of Rhode Island's Founding Father*, Baylor University Press (August 1, 2014); Abbott Gleason, *A Companion to Russian History*, pbk., Wiley-Blackwell (January 28, 2014)

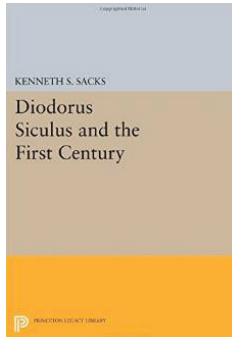
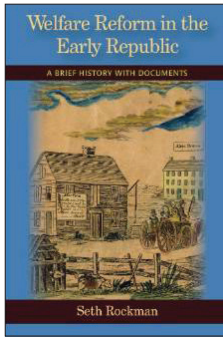


Jo Guldi, David Armitage, *The History Manifesto*, pbk., Cambridge University Press (October 3, 2014); Tim Harris, *Rebellion: Britain's First Stuart Kings, 1567-1642*, Oxford University Press (March 9, 2014); Evelyn Hu-DeHart, Marion Orr, *Latino Politics en Ciencia Política: The Search for Latino Identity and Racial Consciousness*, NYU Press (April 25, 2014); Nancy J. Jacobs, *African History through Sources: Volume 1, Colonial Contexts and Everyday Experiences, c. 1850-1946*, pbk., Cambridge University Press (June 16, 2014); Maud S. Mandel, *Muslims and Jews in France: History of Conflict*, Princeton University Press (January 5, 2014)



Charles E. Neu, *Colonel House: A Biography of Woodrow Wilson's Silent Partner*, Oxford University Press (December 31, 2014); James T. Patterson, *The Eve of Destruction: How 1965 Transformed America*, pbk., Basic Books (December 9, 2014); Kurt A. Raaflaub, David Konstan, *Epic and History*, pbk., Wiley-Blackwell (January 28, 2014); Kurt A. Raaflaub, *Thinking, Recording, and Writing History in the Ancient World*, Wiley-Blackwell (January 28, 2014); Amy G. Remensnyder, *La Conquistadora: The Virgin Mary at War and Peace in the Old and New Worlds*, pbk., Oxford University Press (January 24, 2014)





**Seth Rockman**, *Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: A Brief History with Documents*, pbk., Waveland Press, Inc. (May 23, 2014); **Kenneth S. Sacks**, *Diodorus Siculus and the First Century*, pbk., Princeton University Press (July 14, 2014)

## The 35th William F. Church Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

5:30pm, Smith-Buoanno, 106

*“Inventing Medieval Women: History, Memory, and Forgery in Early Modern Italy”*

### **Paula Findlen**

Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History; Chair, Department of History; Director of the Suppes Center for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology Director, SIMILE Program, Stanford University

Professor Findlen began her career digging in Italian archives in order to explore late medieval and Renaissance Italy. She has since examined the history of the peninsula from the age of Galileo to the Grand Tour, publishing widely in the history of science and medicine; the history of museums and material culture; and the relations between gender and knowledge.



## New Faculty



**Jennifer Johnson** joins the department as a historian of Africa, specifically nineteenth and twentieth-century North Africa. Her first book project, *The Battle for Algeria: Sovereignty, Health Care, and Humanitarianism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), offers a new interpretation of the Algerian War (1954-1962). It focuses on French and Algerian efforts to engage one another off the physical battlefield and highlights the social dimensions of the FLN's winning strategy, which targeted the local and international arenas. It foregrounds the centrality of health and humanitarianism to the nationalists' war effort and shows how the FLN leadership constructed national health care institutions that provided critical care for the population and functioned as a protostate. Moreover, it demonstrates how the FLN's representatives used postwar rhetoric about rights and national self-determination to legitimize their claims, which led to international recognition of Algerian sovereignty.

She received the Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship and will be on leave in 2015-2016. During this time, she will work on her second book, "Medicine and Public Health in French North Africa, 1900-1950." This project examines how and to what extent Africans' understanding of the body, disease, and public health influenced and shaped colonial health policy during the first half of the twentieth century. Her work also explores questions of nationalism, decolonization, human rights, medicine, and international organizations. Johnson comes to Brown after teaching at the City College of New York and Lehman College. She received her BA in History from Brown University in 2004 and her PhD in History from Princeton University in 2010.



**Sreemati Mitter** will join the history department in July 2016 as a historian of the modern Middle East in the 20th century. (The position is a joint hire with the Watson Institute). Sreemati's work examines the economic and monetary dimensions of statelessness. Her current book project, *A History of Money in Palestine: From the 1900s to the Present*, explores how the condition of statelessness affects the economic and monetary lives of ordinary people. It approaches this question by examining the economic behavior of a stateless people, the Palestinians, over a hundred year period, from the last decades of Ottoman rule in the early 1900s to the present. Through this historical narrative, it investigates what happened to the financial and economic assets of ordinary Palestinians when they were either rendered stateless overnight (as happened in 1948) or when they suffered a gradual loss of sovereignty and control over their economic lives and assets (as happened between the early 1900s to the 1930s, or again between 1967 and the present).

Sreemati's second book project, "From Private to Public: A History of Energy Sector Nationalizations in the Middle East in the 20th Century," will expand on the same questions she explores in her current work as to the relationship between political sovereignty and economic behavior while broadening the geographical scope of her work to include north Africa and Iran.

Sreemati is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Toulouse, at the Toulouse School of Economics in Toulouse, France. She received her Ph.D. in history from Harvard University's history department in May 2014.



# Faculty Activities

During his “sophomore” year at Brown, **Faiz Ahmed** continued to expand our Middle East course offerings, including a history of Islamic education from medieval to modern times, America and the Middle East since 1492, and Afghanistan from Alexander to America’s longest war.



In the spring he published an article on scholarly exchanges between the Ottoman Empire and Afghanistan, “Istanbul and Kabul in Courtly Contact,” in the *Journal of Ottoman Studies*. In addition to revising his forthcoming book manuscript, he presented papers at conferences of the American Historical Association in New York, Middle East Studies Association in Washington, and Institute for Global

Law and Policy at Harvard Law School. On campus, he presented at Brown’s Critical Conversations in Modern South Asia series, Religious Literacy Project, Fourth Aga Khan Symposium, and Choices Program on Modern Turkey. His second winter in Providence also schooled him in the advantages of snow boots over sneakers.

**Engin Akarlı** published “Punishment, Repression and Violence in the Marketplace, Istanbul, 1730-1840” in *Bread from the Lion’s Mouth: Artisans Struggling for a Livelihood in Ottoman Cities*, edited by S. Faroqhi (New York: Berghann Press, 2015).



**Professor Dr. Engin Deniz Akarlı has been granted the Presidential Grand Award in Culture and Arts.**

Another article on the notion of “public good” in legal practice appeared in Turkish. Furthermore, he received the Presidential Grand Award in Culture and Arts of Turkey for

his contributions to Historical Studies. This award led to several interviews with him published in various journals in Turkey about his views on uses and abuses of history. Meanwhile, Akarlı continued to serve as dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Istanbul Şehir University.

Neatly divided between teaching and writing, this year began for **Omer Bartov** with two courses on the horrors



**A view of Buczacz from Agnon Street, where the author lived until 1908, when he left for Palestine aged 20.**

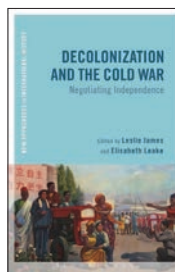
of the twentieth century: a freshmen seminar on the Holocaust and yet another attempt to encompass the history of modern genocide in a single lecture class. Presently at the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Bartov is enjoying lively debates on Jewish Galicia, close readings of Nobel laureate S. Y. Agnon’s extraordinary stories, and writing the final chapters of his book on this author’s hometown of Buczacz,

ensconced in a study overlooking the city in which he spent the bulk of his life. This is a good place to complete a 15-year journey into the life and death of an interethnic Eastern European community, and just as good to begin preparing a new multi-year project at the Watson Institute titled “Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples.”



**Anna Belogurova** offered four courses and continued to work on her book manuscript about Malayan nationalism of the Chinese organizations in British Malaya. She published an article in the *Journal of Global History* and a book chapter in Leslie James , Elisabeth Leake,

*Decolonization and the Cold War: Negotiating Independence* (New Approaches to International History) Bloomsbury



Academic Press, 2015. She presented in August 2014 at the Fourth World International Studies Conference at Goethe University, Frankfurt, participated in the symposium at the 2nd Chinese Documentary Film Festival and in the 10th Strait Talk Symposium in the fall at Brown. She

has also presented at Brown East Asia Colloquium and has been a second reader of an honor's thesis at the department of East Asian Studies. She enjoyed the year at Brown and is moving to Freie Universität Berlin where she will be a POINT Postdoctoral Fellow co-financed by the German Excellence Initiative and the Marie Curie Program of the European Commission.



**Cynthia Brokaw** continues to work on her book manuscript on intellectual life and book culture in southwestern China. One chapter of that manuscript, on the founding of an important classical academy in Chengdu in the late Qing, is forthcoming in *Imprimer autrement: Le livre non commercial dans la Chine imperial*, edited by Michela Bussotti and Jean-Pierre Drège. She completed another book chapter, "Empire of Texts: Book Production, Book Distribution, and Book Culture in Late Imperial China," for *Distant Relations: The Book Worlds of East and West, 1450-1850*, edited by Joseph McDermott and Peter Burke and in production now at the University of Hong Kong Press. In October she co-organized a workshop on the role of paratexts in Chinese woodblock texts, in preparation for the compilation of a comprehensive handbook of the Chinese book.



Visiting Professor of History, **Palmira Brummett**, delivered a paper entitled "The Ottoman Go-Between: A Typology and an Ottoman-French Encounter 1776," October 2014 in Budapest at the meeting of the Comité International des Études Pré-

Ottomanes et Ottomanes. This spring of 2015 she served as a discussant for the *Mediterranean Crossings Symposium* at Yale and a featured speaker for a workshop at the Freie Universität, Berlin, on "Western Travellers Sketching Topographies in the Ottoman Empire." Her presentation in Berlin was entitled "Mapping the Ottomans: Moving from Narrative to Image at the 'Limits' of Empire." Brummett's article, "Mapping Trans-Imperial Ottoman Space: Alterity and Attraction," appears in *Representing Imperial Rivalry in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, edited by Barbara Fuchs and Emily Weisbourd for the University of Toronto Press; and her new book "Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean", is due out from Cambridge University Press in June.



**Paul (and Mari Jo) Buhle**

continue to work for progressive change in the politically chilly environment of Wisconsin. Paul's latest book, *Lincoln For Beginners* (For Beginners Books) is a non-fiction graphic novel of his home-state hero, illustrated by artist Sharon Rudahl. He has worked hard on *Red Rosa*, the

graphic novel (nonfiction as well) of Rosa Luxemburg's life, with plans for more graphic novels on Johnny Appleseed and C.L.R.

**Caroline Castiglione** was Director of Graduate Studies for the department of Italian Studies, 2014-15. Her book *Accounting for Affection: Mothering and Politics in Rome, 1630-1730* was published in 2015 by Palgrave Macmillan Press in the series Early Modern History: Society and Culture. Her article, "Cultures of Peoples," is forthcoming 2015 in the *Oxford Handbook of Early Modern History, c. 1350-1750*, ed. Hamish Scott. She won this year a summer research grant from the Delmas Foundation, for a new project, "From Street Quarrels to Legal Battles: Goldoni and the Limits of the Law in Eighteenth-Century Venice." At the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies she gave a talk entitled, "Rethinking the Difference between Persons and Things: Cesare Beccaria and Legal Reform in (and beyond) Italy."



**Howard Chudacoff's** new book, *Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Changed College Sports*, will be published this fall in the *Sports in America* series by the University of Illinois Press.

**Kelly Ricciardi Colvin** has had a fabulous year back inside the Brown bubble. She taught courses on French



history, European women and gender history, sports history, and fashion history. Next year, she will introduce a new course on the history of modern anti-feminism. She is publishing

an article in September on beauty and conformity in postwar France in *French Historical Studies*, and she continues to edit her book manuscript about gender and citizenship in France after WWII. She is very much hoping

that the weather gods of New England will be kinder in 2015-2016.

This year, **Jonathan Conant's** research focused primarily on his second book project, "The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, c. 795-840." He published two articles



based on the same project, one on the emperor Louis the Pious' relations with Islamic Spain (published in *Early Medieval Europe*) and the other on Muslim-Christian

violence in Sicily, southern Italy, and North Africa (published in *Al-Masaq*). He also published two chapters in edited volumes, one on the fate of Roman identity in the post-imperial Mediterranean and the other on fifth- and sixth-century Vandal diplomatic relations with the Roman Empire. In addition, he has presented papers at Harvard, Princeton, the Austrian Academy in Vienna, and the German Historical Institute in Rome; he has edited a forthcoming book on the history and archaeology of Byzantine and early Islamic North Africa; and has two book chapters forthcoming in 2016, one on the cult of saints in sixth- and seventh-century North Africa, and the other on sectarian violence in late Roman North Africa.

In 2014-2015, **Douglas Cope** taught courses on the Aztecs and the Maya, Mexico's transition from colony to nation, and race, ethnicity, and identity in the Atlantic world. His research focuses on the informal economy in eighteenth-century Mexico City.



**Family visit to the Newberry Library, Chicago, where Lin was on leave in the fall of 2014.**

**Linford Fisher** was grateful for a productive and fun year on leave in 2014-2015. He was awarded two long-term fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities that enabled him to spend the fall semester at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois, and the spring semester at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. This year of leave was additionally made possible by a Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship from Brown

University. While on leave, Lin was able to make progress on his next book project, under contract with Oxford University Press and tentatively titled "Land of the Unfree: Indians, Africans, and the World of Atlantic Slavery." In

addition to conducting archival research, Lin enjoyed presenting his work at a variety of conferences and public venues, including the University of Chicago, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the John Carter Brown Library, and the Newberry Library. In August 2014 *Decoding Roger Williams: The Lost Essay of Rhode Island's Founding Father* (Baylor University Press) was released, co-authored with J. Stanley Lemons and Lucas Mason-Brown.

The past academic year has been an unusually productive and satisfying one, equally divided between teaching and writing. **Mary Gluck** was in Providence during the spring semester of 2014, teaching courses on 19th century European intellectuals and Parisian bohemians. Since this was also the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, commemorations of the event were plentiful.

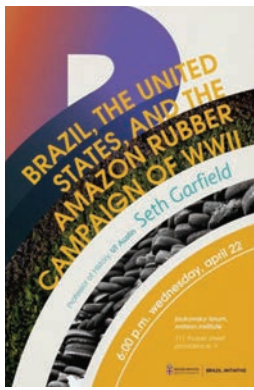
Gluck participated in a particularly lavish symposium, organized by the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York, where she gave a lecture on "The Cultural Significance of World War I in Central Europe." The second half of the academic year, spent in Budapest, was much more quiet and devoted exclusively to writing. As a consequence, she was able to finally complete her book manuscript on



"The Invisible Jewish Budapest," which explores the development of a Jewish-identified urban culture and commercial entertainment industry in fin-de-siecle Budapest. Trips to local archives and museums in search of illustrations for the book provided welcome distractions from writing. The one she is attaching comes from

the Theater Collection of the Szechenyi National Library and depicts a playbill of the major Jewish music hall in Budapest, the *Folies Caprice*, which was famous throughout Central Europe for its satiric Jewish skits and scandalous vaudeville routines. After the publication of "The Invisible Jewish Budapest" in 2015, Gluck will be returning to more conventional intellectual history, working on an extended synthetic essay on "Symbolism and Decadence at the Fin de Siecle," which she was commissioned to write for *The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought*.

Organized by **James N. Green**, the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Professor of Latin American History, the Brown Brazil Initiative and the History Department co-sponsored a Brazilian history lecture series during the spring 2015 semester that brought four leading scholars to campus. Jeffrey Lesser of Emory University presented research on



race, ethnicity, and politics in mid-twentieth-century Brazil. Bryan McCann of Georgetown University spoke about politics and favelas during the process of democratization in Rio de Janeiro. Marcelo Ridenti, a Visiting Professor at Columbia University and Professor of the State University of Campinas, Brazil, talked about famed Brazilian writer Jorge Amado

and other Brazilian intellectuals during the Cold War. Finally, Seth Garfield, University of Texas, ended the series with a lecture on Brazil, the United States, and the Amazon rubber campaign of World War II.

**Jo Guldi** published a co-authored essay, *The History Manifesto* (Cambridge 2014), which became the first open-access academic publication in history. It was the subject of a roundtable in *Annales* and a debate in the *American Historical Review*. She taught two new classes, including seminars on the Global History of Land Reform and Digital History. She married Zachary Gates, a civil engineer, in August 2014. She is a Cogut Fellow for 2015-6, working on a new book called “The Long Land War” and she will be taking a semester of maternity leave as well.



In the past year **Françoise Hamlin** earned tenure and promotion in her joint appointment in the Departments of History and Africana Studies. She also finished her co-edited anthology, *These Truly Are The Brave: African American Writings on War and*

*Patriotism*, due out this summer. She is currently working on her new monograph, going to conferences, and working with the extraordinary students here at Brown. As part of that work she took students to Tougaloo College (Mississippi) for her fifth annual Spring Break trip as part of the Brown-Tougaloo partnership and in conjunction with her courses and research. She serves as a Sheridan Center Faculty Liaison, an Advisory Board member for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, as both a First and Second Year Advisor, and on the Graduate Studies Committee for the Southern Association for Women Historians, among other things. She looks forward to her post-tenure leave in the next academic year to work full-time on her research. Away from campus and her

various desks, she is immensely proud of her other full-time passion: her seven year-old son, Elijah!



**Tim Harris** spent the academic year as the Fletcher Jones Foundation Distinguished Fellow at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. He published 5 articles: ‘The Restoration in Britain and Ireland’, in Michael Braddick, ed., *The Oxford*

*Handbook of the English Revolution*; ‘Sexual and Religious Libertinism in Restoration England’, in Matthew C. Augustine and Steven N. Zwicker, eds., *Lord Rochester in the Restoration World* (Cambridge University Press); ‘The Dissolute Court and Retribution’, *National Maritime Museum Pepys Exhibition Catalogue* (Thames and Hudson); ‘Did the English have a Script for Revolution in the Seventeenth Century’, in Keith Baker and Dan Edelstein, eds., *Scripting Revolution* (Stanford University Press); and ‘Francophobia in Late-Seventeenth-Century England’, in Tony Claydon and Charles-Edouard Levillain, eds., *The World of Louis XIV* (Ashgate) (the last two still in press at the time of writing). His books *Rebellion: Britain’s First Stuart Kings, 1567-1642* (Oxford University Press) and *The Final Crisis of the Stuart Monarchy: The Revolutions of 1688-91 in their British, Atlantic and European Contexts* (Boydell / University of Rochester Press) will appear in paperback later in 2015. He gave talks in London, San Marino, Minneapolis, Riverside, and Las Vegas, and appeared on the Colin McEnroe show (WNPR Hartford, Connecticut) discussing the regicides with Charles Spencer (the 9th Earl). Amongst the highlights of his year was catching up with former students Daria Cercek and Ben Kruger during his sojourn in soCal.

**Patricia Herlihy**, Professor Emerita and Adjunct Professor, Watson Institute for International Studies, took part in Making Sense of Events in Ukraine: A Teach In on March 5, 2014 at the Watson Institute for International Studies. She was on a panel discussing Russian-Ukrainian relations at the New England Historical Association meeting on April 26, 2014 in Springfield, MA. Her op-ed “Better Diplomacy Through Art,” appeared in the *Providence Journal* on December 25, 2014: <http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/commentary/20141225-patricia-herlihy-better-diplomatic-ties-through-art.ece> Her book review of Mark Lawrence Schrad, *Vodka and Politics* appeared in the *Slavic Review*, vol. 74, no.1, Spring 2015:187-88.

After happily settling into what was to be a year-long sabbatical at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, **Evelyn Hu-DeHart** was charged by the Dean to help mentor a new History Department with an international cohort of young faculty while she continued



**Climbing the Sierra Escambray with Brown students in an old Soviet military truck!**

her own research on Transpacific relationships between Asia and the Americas (especially Latin America and the Caribbean). She received an unexpected request from Brown's Dean of the College and our colleague Maud Mandel to proceed immediately to Havana, Cuba, to take charge of our

longstanding Study Abroad program in a moment of crisis. Hu-DeHart has been there since October 2014, and has stabilized the program, which has now expanded to be a Consortium of other Ivies and elite private universities. It has been an exciting time to be in Cuba, when our two countries after grappling with normalization of political and economic relations to end a Cold War-initiated U.S. blockade that did not succeed in isolating Cuba from the rest of the world. In June, she will return to Singapore to resume her interrupted sabbatical, and resume teaching a course with Prof. Bob Lee of our American Studies department that will use technology to link two classes *in real time* across the Pacific to examine transpacific Asia and Asia America from the Ming dynasty to the present. Hu-DeHart also has some good news to report on the research and publications front: Zhejiang U. Press in China is publishing a translation of her work in mid-May, and U. Wisconsin Press is planning to issue a 2nd and Revised edition, with a new Introduction, of her book on the Yaqui Nation of the U.S-Mexico border, "Resistance and Survival." In June and July, she will be keynoting two international conferences in Australia, in Cairns and in Sydney, on Chinese plantation workers in the Americas, highlighting her research on Chinese "coolies" on Cuban sugar plantations.

During this past academic year, **Nancy Jacobs** presented papers and served as a discussant at several environmental and southern African history conferences. For a workshop held at the University of Illinois on the subject of "World Histories from Below," she wrote on the period of recent climate change Anthropocene through the lens of social and environmental history. Her article, "Africa, Europe, and the Birds between Them," a reframing of knowledge



of intercontinental bird migration within the history of imperialism, appeared in an edited collection published by Bloomsbury Academic, *Eco-*

*Cultural Networks the the British Empire*. The year was most memorable for seeing the completion of her book "Birders of Africa: History of a Network" and its submission to Yale University Press. It is scheduled to appear late in 2015 or early in 2016.



**Pelin Kadercan**, a historian born and raised in Istanbul, joined the History Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 2014-15. Her research addresses the intersection of intellectual, cultural, political and social history in and between Europe and the Middle East

focusing on the relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims from the 19th century to the present. Her current book project "The Reconstruction of music, arts and humanities in exile: German-speaking émigrés in Turkey after 1933" sheds light on the transnational encounters in music, visual arts, and literature between Germany and Turkey and explores how the cross-territorial forces in the form of ideas and a real dialogue between multiple actors conditioned the nation-building processes as a dynamic space of decision-making in both countries. She is currently revising an essay manuscript that questions our tendency to globally assign exiles to the modernist camp and explores the stories of German émigrés in Turkey as evidence of the exiles' complex confrontation with the new identity imposed upon them. During the past academic year, she taught Europe Since 1945 and led a seminar on Fascism in Europe. In the spring semester, she was invited to give a speech at the University of Rhode Island on the musician émigrés from Nazi Germany in Turkey. She also presented an essay manuscript at the Modern European History Workshop at Brown and got constructive feedback on her paper. Kadercan is excited to be developing a new lecture course for fall 2015 entitled "Modern Turkey: Empire, Nation, Republic." This summer, she will be spending two months at the archives of the Orient Institute in Istanbul and the Republican Prime Ministry Archives in Ankara. She will also conduct further interviews for her book project.



**Jennifer Lambe** has greatly enjoyed returning to her alma mater as a new faculty member in the History department. This year, she introduced two new courses: “Modern Caribbean History” and “From Medieval Bedlam to Prozac Nation: Intimate Histories

of Psychiatry and Self.” In the fall, together with a Yale colleague, she organized an international symposium on “New Histories of the Cuban Revolution,” held in New Haven. She is currently coediting a volume of the same title. By her invitation, six Cuban scholars traveled to Brown in October for several events, including a lecture, a public roundtable, and the launch of a yearlong film series. Meanwhile, she has continued to revise her book manuscript, *Madhouse: Cuban History from the Margins*, and begun a new project, tentatively titled “(Post)colonial Confinement: Carceral Circuits of the Spanish Empire, 1840-1915,” for which she received a Salomon Award.



**Jane Lancaster** completed the manuscript of the history of Brown University, which is now in the editing stage. As it was commissioned in response to the Slavery and Justice Report, it was not intended to be part of Brown’s 250th celebrations, but should be

published in due course. Meanwhile she has started on a new research project which involves three women, a house and memories of George Washington, and gave a talk on the work in progress to an alumnae group in April.



This has been **Steven Lubar’s** first year since stepping down as director of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, and he has enjoyed the opportunity to do less administrative work and more

teaching and research. Lubar taught a course on the history of museums, and published an article on the history of Smithsonian collecting, and did some work toward his book manuscript, tentatively titled “Finding the Lost Museum.” In April Lubar learned he had been granted a Guggenheim fellowship for the book project, and so he is looking forward to making more progress next year.



On July 1, 2014 **Maud Mandel** was named Brown’s next Dean of the College, a position she will occupy until 2019. In addition to assuming her new administrative responsibilities, Professor Mandel gave several presentations related to the 2014 publication of her

book, *Muslims and Jews in France: History of a Conflict*, including at the Collège de France in Paris, the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism in London, and at Middlebury College in Vermont.



This past year, **Tony Molho** continued his shuttling between Florence (his home for the past fifteen years) and Athens, where he now spends about half of each year. He recently completed a small book,

“Discipline, Dissent, Dissimulation in Early Modern Europe. Reflections on a European Tradition” which is based on the Dimaras Lecture he delivered in December 2013 at the Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens. The book will be published this autumn by the Foundation in Greek and English. The special issue of *Jewish History*, devoted to the history of Jews of Salonica from the 16th to the 20th centuries, was published under his co-editorship and with his introduction. He also completed two articles: “Michael Baxandall’s *Episodes. A Memorybook*. Rhetoric, Remembering, and the Pleasure of Narration,” to be published in a volume in honour of Jacques Revel, and “*Besuch in Deutschland*. Paul Oskar Kristeller and Edward Lowinsky on Germany and the USA. An Epistolary Exchange in Winter 1982-1983,” to be published in a volume in honour of Riccardo Fubini. In the meantime, he has slowly begun writing his new book tentatively entitled “Exile and Interpretation” on the experience of a small number of German and Italian, mostly Jewish, historians who, because of the racial laws in the 1930s, fled Europe and settled in the U.S.A. Last year, he was elected to membership in the *Accademia Europaea*, has continued serving on the selection board of the European Research Council, and on the Council of the University of Crete, which to his great pleasure, was recently ranked as the best University in Greece. This spring (2015) his last doctoral student, of whom he has had more than thirty, will defend her dissertation, thus bringing to a close an important phase of his teacherly career.





During 2014-2015, **Rebecca W. S. More** has added “Historical Rescue” to her portfolio of academic activities. During her research for the 250th anniversary of the founding of Lancaster New Hampshire, the shire town north of Franconia Notch, she discovered the

town’s Colonial Charter from George II in desperate need of conservation. Over the course of the year, she worked with a team comprised of an expert paper conservator, a graphic designer, a photographer and a framer to conserve, digitize and frame the 1763 Charter for public view. The original was safely stored in proper archival condition. The townspeople are proud to be able to showcase one of the few Colonial Charters extant in New Hampshire. More also worked to save an unusual 1814 watercolor on silk Mourning Picture found deteriorating in a small historical society. It has now been given to the Museum of Fine Arts Boston to be properly conserved, while a digitized version will be framed for hanging in the historical society in its place. Those who visit the “Waterloo” exhibition at the John Hay Library will be amused to see a collection of More’s former teaching artifacts from History 2: hand-made bullets from the Waterloo battlefield used to illustrate pre-industrialization. They have now been permanently given to the Anne S. K. Brown Collection in the Hay for use by scholars and faculty. Working with students remains a serious commitment for More. In June, she retired after twenty years of teaching in the department of History, Philosophy & Social Studies in RISD’s division of Liberal Arts. However, she continues to work with Ethan Pollock to provide History Dept. Honors seniors with guidance in the oral presentation of their thesis. The issues that the department’s students choose are challenging in their complexity. More also has worked throughout the year with Plymouth State University faculty under a Community Outreach grant to develop a Township Legacy Project designed to raise public awareness of historic buildings and landscapes through the medium of tourism technology. She has supported two undergraduate students in learning to use local history source materials in the blog, which forms the basis for the tourism technology. The next phase of the Township Legacy project will involve designing an Inventory Form to be used by townspeople from elementary school to retirement. More continues to work on a variety of research projects, including the diary of a New Hampshire-born Anglican minister during the Revolutionary War and English church memorials that

reflect public service values. The articles she wrote on the early history of Lancaster NH for its Sestercentennial Celebrations are now being edited for local publication. She also had an article on pedagogy published in RISD Museum’s journal *Manual*.



**Jeremy Mumford** is co-director on an NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant for “Deep Mapping the *Reducción*: Building

a Platform for Spatial Humanities Collaboration on the *General Resettlement of Indians*”. The grant is for a collaborative project among Peruvian and North American historians, archaeologists, and data visualization experts to build a “deep map” of the Peruvian *reducciones*: planned towns, created by the Spanish in the 16th-century Andes, in which indigenous people were forcibly resettled. Many *reducciones* survive - some of the oldest rural towns in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia date from this campaign - while others were abandoned. This project will create the first digital map of the *reducciones*, overlaid with historical, archaeological and geographic information. The information will initially be collected by scholars, but will eventually be crowd-sourced by the towns’ residents and neighbors. Mumford’s other piece of news is that he is serving this year as Chair of the Andean Studies Committee for CLAH, the Council for Latin American History, at next year’s AHA.



**Rebecca Nedostup** spent most of the year at the Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton, where she participated in the seminar “In the Aftermath of

Catastrophe” and worked on her book on the displaced living and dead of China and Taiwan’s multiple mid-twentieth-century conflicts. She gave talks on that research in a variety of history and Chinese studies seminars in the US and Asia, and organized an interdisciplinary roundtable, “Networks of the Dead,” for the AHA. Continuing her research in Chongqing and Taipei, she connected with the several Brown alumni in the history department of National Taiwan University and spent time

as a visiting scholar at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. As the academic year wraps up she is engaging in new collaborative projects on resources for the study of the modern Chinese state and on Taiwan as a global nexus.



**Charles E. Neu's** *Colonel House: A Biography of Woodrow Wilson's Silent Partner* was published in early January by Oxford University Press. Since then he has been working closely with his editor at OUP to promote the book. In early February he led a Washington

History Seminar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and he also spoke about *Colonel House* at a variety of other gatherings. He continues to enjoy his appointment at the University of Miami, where he collaborates with several colleagues on Vietnam War projects. In August he and Sabina spent two weeks in Great Britain, first at a World War I conference at the University of London, and then at Oxford.

**Tara Nummedal** continues to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies in History, and is completing her 3-year term as Director of the Program in Science and Technology Studies, which runs a concentration in Science and Society and facilitates scholarly conversations on campus about the creation and operation of scientific knowledge. She continues to work on her book on the alchemist and prophet Anna Zieglerin, "The Lion's Blood: Alchemy, Gender, and Apocalypse in Reformation Germany," and enjoyed presenting work related to this project to audiences at Indiana University, UC San Diego, and more locally at Brown and RISD. She also published an essay on "The Alchemist in His Laboratory" in a collection of essays published in connection with an exhibition, Goldenes Wissen. Die Alchemie – Substanzen, Synthesen, Symbolik at the Herzog August Bibliothek, Germany, a leading research library in early modern European studies. Finally, she completed a state-of-the-field essay on global alchemy from antiquity to the present, which will appear in 2015 in the Blackwell *Companion to the History of Science*.

**James Patterson's** book, *The Eve of Destruction: How 1965 Transformed America* (Basic Books) appeared in paperback in late 2014. He has also given various talks--one concerning the Moynihan Report (of 1965) at a conference in Washington, others (concerning 20th century politics) at conferences in Houston and Austin sponsored by the Texas Humanities Center.

After a year of leave in Palo Alto, CA, **Ethan Pollock** returned to Brown in June 2014 and took up the job of Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department. Since



**The Port of Sevastopol, when the Crimea was part of Ukraine**

then he has worked with colleagues and staff to renumber the department's courses, update the concentration requirements, and reinvigorate the Department Undergraduate Group (DUG). He also had the

privilege of teaching the honors "workshop" – a seminar for juniors thinking about writing a thesis and for seniors who are in the process. He also taught a course on the "End of the USSR and the Rise of New Russia" (Vladimir Putin's policies aided with enrollment.)



**Justin Pope** was the Joint Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the John Carter Brown Library this year. He submitted three new articles and his new manuscript "Dangerous Spirit of Liberty: Slave Rebellion, Conspiracy, and the First Great Awakening, 1729-1746" for publication. He submitted a book chapter to a compilation on the history of the War of Jenkin's Ear and presented at seminars held at the University of Delaware, Yale University, and at Brown. Justin also taught a new course this spring, "Slave Rebellion and Conspiracy in Early America: Methods and Research."

**Kurt Raaflaub** emeritus has not much to report that is new but has been hard at work on the projects he listed last year. A year from now several of them probably will be published: the "Landmark Caesar, The Cambridge History of War," vol. I on ancient or early civilizations, "Peace in the



Ancient World: Concepts and Theories," and "The Adventure of the Human Intellect: Self, Society, and the Divine in Ancient World Cultures." One book has appeared, a volume of collected essays

by the late Raymond Westbrook, a historian of ancient law who argues for pervasive influences of ancient Near Eastern legal thinking on Hebrew, Greek, and Roman law: *Ex Oriente Lex: Near Eastern Influences on Ancient Greek and*

*Roman Law* edited by Deborah Lyons and Kurt Raaflaub (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press).



In the wake of the publication of her second book, *La Conquistadora: The Virgin Mary at War and Peace in the Old and New Worlds* (Oxford University Press, 2014), **Amy G. Remensnyder** was promoted to full professor and enjoyed a sabbatical semester,

which she divided between Providence, Spain, and France. She began research on two new projects, each of which focuses on relations between Muslims and Christians in the medieval and early modern Mediterranean. One of these projects takes her to an entirely new area of geographic focus – Italy, more particularly, Lampedusa, a tiny island off the coast of Sicily – while the other project returns her to Spain. As a faculty lecturer on a Brown Alumni trip to Normandy, Remensnyder revisited some of the monuments that years ago inspired her to become a medievalist, including Mont-Saint-Michel and the Bayeux Tapestry. In Europe, she also gave talks at conferences in Germany, Spain and Italy; back in the United States she gave lectures at the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC. Remensnyder continues her work as the director of Brown's prison education initiative, BELLS, and is looking for ways to expand the program. Her interest in incarceration led her to develop a new course called "Locked Up: A Global History of Prison and Captivity" which she taught in the fall of 2014. Covering a huge time span (from the ancient Greeks to *Orange is the New Black*) and an equally vast geography (the world), the class took Remensnyder well beyond the Middle Ages. But she of course still enjoys her medieval classes, of which she taught several this year.



**Joan Richards** chose to spread her one semester sabbatical over the two semesters of the 2014-2015 academic year. Teaching just one course per term has constructively structured her days while freeing time to concentrate on her own work. Richards has focused on

writing "Generations of Reason" the book about the Frend/De Morgan family that she has been working on for a long time. The strategy has proven successful; she has now written twenty-five of a projected twenty-eight chapters, with the intention of finishing the whole by the end of June. Richards will then be able to make a last run through

the English archives to finalize the material. Richards has been in conversation with the Chicago University Press about this project, and hopes to deliver the whole to them by the end of the summer. She has very much benefited from her reduced teaching load this year, but looks forward to returning to teaching full time in the fall.



The photo is of a field trip to Dinosaur State Park, where a group of Brown students met fellow history of science enthusiasts from Yale to cast several Hadrosaur footprints in plaster.

**Lukas Rieppel** had a great time in his second year at Brown, during which he enjoyed settling in and further getting to know his colleagues as well as his students. But it was a busy year too! In addition to working on his book manuscript, Lukas published two articles, one in *Social Studies of Science* and the other in *History of Science*. The first is about prospecting for dinosaurs on the mining frontier, whereas the second is on the use of plaster casts as mechanical reproductions

of specimens in 19th century natural history. In addition, he also co-organized an exciting conference on the theme of "Lost Museums" with Steven Lubar, which elicited an enthusiastic response and drew participants from several continents. Finally, he ended the year by spending part of the summer as a visiting scholar in Berlin, working at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

**Seth Rockman** was honored to receive the William G. McLoughlin Award for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences. His undergraduate lecture course "Capitalism" continues to draw new students to History



and to provide students with a powerful counterbalance to "Principles of Economics." Rockman organized the opening plenary session for the 2014 annual meeting of the Society

for Historians of the Early American Republic on the histories of science and technology, and he participated in a conference at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. In May 2015, Rockman gave the keynote address at the CUNY Graduate Center's conference in early republic history. He also learned how to weave. (see page 33)



**Daniel Rodriguez** hit the ground running during his first year at Brown University. On campus, he helped organize events on Cuban history, literature, and film, as well as a panel discussion on sex-worker organizing in the U.S., and gave talks on the

history of Guantanamo Bay, transnational relief work in U.S.-occupied Cuba, and infant mortality in early 20th-century Havana. Off-campus, he gave talks on medical nationalism in 20th century Cuba and presented his research at the Association of Caribbean Historians annual meeting in the Bahamas and the Cuban Research Institute Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies in Miami, FL. More recently, his article on medical labor in 1920s and 1930s Cuba was accepted for publication with the *Hispanic American Historical Review*. But beyond the talks, conferences, presentations, and (most importantly) the classes that he taught, he mostly spent his time trying to figure out how things are done at Brown University, endured a seemingly endless winter, and is now looking forward to picnics in the park with his two year old daughter, Lourdes.



**Ken Sacks** anticipates the appearance this year of articles in ancient history, classical reception, and Transcendentalism, and (at long last) there will appear his co-edited collection on cultural transmission in the ancient world, *Crossing the Mediterranean: A*

*Scholarly Periplos*, to which he also contributes, “Who Markets Ideas? Elite and Non-elite Transmission of Culture and Technology.” Sacks will be part of a panel on Emerson in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Over the past academic year, **Lindsay Schakenbach Regele** held research fellowships from American Antiquarian Society and the C.V. Starr Program in Business, Entrepreneurship and Organizations. Last July, she presented at the annual

meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Philadelphia, for which she organized a panel on the significance of Latin American commerce for early American diplomatic and economic development. This spring she’s teaching a seminar on

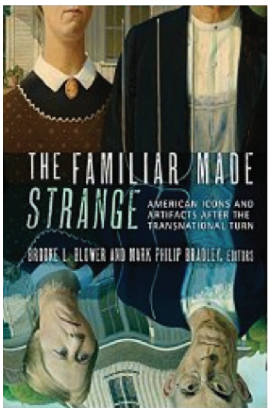
the American Revolution at Brown and will present a paper on the antebellum patent system at the Business History Conference in Miami in June. She just finished her dissertation, “Manufacturing Advantage: War, the State, and the Origins of American Industry, 1790-1840,” which is a geopolitical interpretation of the American Industrial Revolution. Next fall, Lindsay will join the faculty at Miami University as an Assistant Professor of History.



**Robert Self** returned from a sabbatical year, during which he began research on his new book project, “The Best Years of Our Lives: Houses, Cars, Children and a Century of American Consumer Economics.” On his return, he welcomed new duties

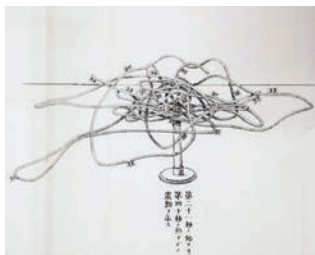
as chair of the department’s Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC), served a semester on the university’s Tenure, Promotions, and Appointments Committee (TPAC), developed and taught a new sophomore seminar on the welfare state, served on the department’s Middle East Studies search committee, and oversaw two PhD dissertations to completion. In addition to those activities, he organized a lecture series entitled “Carbon Nations: The Politics of Energy in the Twentieth Century,” for which six scholars of environmental and energy history visited campus over the course of the academic year. In a parallel undertaking, he co-sponsored with Leah Van Wey, Deputy Director of Research at the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES), a successful Mellon/Cogut Postdoctoral proposal, and based on that proposal participated in the hiring of a two-year postdoctoral fellow in Environmental History, who will join the Brown community in the fall. He continued work on a chapter for a volume on presidential history, to be published by Cornell University Press, about Ronald Reagan’s conservative critics, an essay on the 1960s for an online Oxford University Press compendium of modern U.S. history, and early chapters of “The Best Years of Our Lives.” He will serve as co-chair of the Program Committee for the 2017 Organization of American Historians annual conference in New Orleans, under incoming President Nancy Cott.

**Naoko Shibusawa** saw the publication of two side projects this academic year. First was the special issue of *Gender & History*, “Gender, Imperialism, and Global Exchanges” (November 2014). Co-edited with Michele Mitchell and Stephan Miescher, the special issue was culmination of a two-year process. Nearly 100 individuals responded to the call for papers at the end of October 2012, and slightly



under 20 scholars were invited to workshop their papers at Brown on May 16-17, 2013. In the end, 13 articles passed the peer review process to appear in this collection that addresses myriad gendered dimensions of empire between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, across a wide range of geographic locales. A separate, standalone volume with the same title

is now available through *Gender & History's* publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. The second publication was an article on the Kinsey Report in *The Familiar Made Strange: American Icons and Artifacts after the Transnational Turn*. Co-edited by Brooke Blower and Mark Bradley, the anthology was published by Cornell University Press in March 2015



This illustration comes from a work by Sekiya Seikei, one of Japan's earliest earth scientists, on "An explanation of a model showing the qualities of seismic motion," ("Jishindō no seishitsu o shimesu hinagata no setsumei,") *Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University* 1(1887).

**Kerry Smith** continues work on a book about earthquakes, science and the public in modern Japan, and is slowly amassing collections of Japanese disaster movies and disaster-preparedness handbooks as a result. He published an article on earthquake prediction in Occupied Japan in a recent special issue of *Historical Social Research*, and spoke at Amherst College on theories of earthquake periodicity and imagining the destruction of Tokyo.

He taught a new seminar on "The Nuclear Age" this spring and continues to work with local K-12 teachers through the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia.



**Luther Spoehr**, along with the Executive Directors of the RI Historical Society and the Newport Historical Society, had an op-ed published in the April 16 Providence Journal on the need for the study of history in Rhode Island's schools.

**Tracy Steffes** has been continuing to conduct research for two book projects. The first, a collaboration with philosopher Ken Howe, examines the history and



philosophy of school assessment and accountability policies. The second and larger project, "Shifting Fortunes: City Schools and Suburban Schools in Metropolitan

Chicago, 1945-2000" examines the role of state education policies in shaping educational, residential, and social inequalities. She finished two articles that will appear later this year in *Journal of Urban History* and an edited collection, *Boundaries of the State*.

On April 16, 2015, **Michael Steinberg** was pleased to give the fifth annual Carl E. Schorske Lecture at the Institute for Cultural Studies (IFK) in Vienna with the title



"Modernismus und die Politik des Spätstils" [Modernism and the Politics of Late Style]. Two weeks earlier they celebrated Carl's

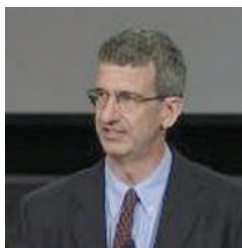
100th birthday in Princeton, with a chamber concert built around Arnold Schoenberg's iconic *Pierrot Lunaire*.



This has been an amazing year for **Adam Teller**. In October, the new POLIN Museum for the History of Polish Jews opened in Warsaw. Teller was the lead academic on the two galleries dealing with the early modern period. In February, the Polish government honored

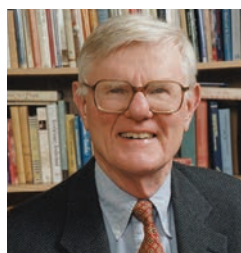
his work on the museum with a medal for his contribution to Polish culture. In addition, Teller led a group of 20 students from Brown on a study tour of Poland, with a focus on sites of Jewish heritage. It was an extra-ordinary experience for the students, so they said, and certainly for him, too. In addition to that, Teller had two articles published, one in the *AJS Review* and another in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Finally, he presented further fruits of his research on the Polish-Jewish refugee crisis of the seventeenth century at a number of venues, including the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, the University of Leipzig, Germany, and Princeton University.

In his 90th year, **Lea Williams** can only watch while a grandson plans his wedding, a grand daughter has successfully finished her first year at Brown, another has shown off her prize cow at a county fair in Pennsylvania, a great grandson and his mother will visit him in the summer. Activities are limited but his contribution to the family tree has been fruitful.



**Michael Vorenberg** was very involved in activities related to the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War. He is completing a book on the subject and gave a number of talks on it as well, including one shown on C-SPAN in Fall 2014. Essays that

he wrote on the end of the war appeared in many places, including a volume titled 1865. At Brown, he commemorated the anniversary by teaching his lecture on The Civil War as well as a first-year seminar on Abraham Lincoln.



During the academic year 2014-15 **Gordon Wood** gave several lectures in various places in the United States. Wood also lectured at the meeting of the European Association of Americanists at Oulu, Finland, and participated in a seminar on the Enlightenment at Turin, Italy.

He served on the search committee for the editorship of the Adams Papers, participated on the Kluge Scholarly Council at the Library of Congress, and served on the Board of Directors of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Wood participated in a conference on the American Revolution held at the Massachusetts Historical Society and took part on a panel in the Federal District Court Building in Providence in honor of the 225th anniversary of the creation federal court system in Rhode Island. He gave a lecture on Commencement weekend on the 250th anniversary of the founding of Brown. In May Wood was awarded the Centennial Medal by the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. In June a two volume edition, *The American Revolution: Writings from the Pamphlet Debate, 1764-1776*, was published by the Library of America.



# Undergraduate Program

In the 1970s, when the march towards Communism appeared to be losing momentum in the Soviet Union, Muscovites told the following anecdote or joke. One citizen asks a local party representative: “Is it possible to tell the future?” The party man answers: “Yes, that is no problem: we know exactly what the future will be like. Our problem is the past: it keeps on changing.” For those of you with degrees in history from Brown, you know that indeed the past keeps on changing, as we ask new questions, consider new problems, discover new materials, and even reread familiar materials in new ways.

Our undergraduate program keeps on changing too – to keep up with the field and reflect the interests and demands of a new generation of students. For instance, we’ve noticed that interest in traditional survey courses (“From Plato to NATO”) has waned. So, over the past few years, we’ve introduced a new type of lecture course, the “History 150s”. These are organized by theme, not by a single time or place. We have now taught four: The History of Capitalism; Locked-Up: A Global History of Prison and Captivity; The Philosophers Stone: Alchemy from Antiquity to Harry Potter; and Refugees: A Twentieth-Century History. Recent faculty hires have also allowed us to expand the parts of the globe that we cover in our course offerings. Our new numbering system and concentration requirements, both introduced this year, also make room for more “global” classes that recognize the degree to which history cannot always be neatly divided into national categories.

Not everything changes, of course. We still have wonderful, dedicated students. As the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), I’ve had a chance to get to know many of these students, both by working with Department Undergraduate Group (DUG) – which I’m happy to report has been very active in building up student support for the department around campus --- and by teaching the honors workshop. This year, again, we had a remarkable set of senior honors theses. As the following list of topics suggests, the range was impressive. Students worked on Rhode Island’s 1786 land bank, refugees in Europe after the Great War, the idea of Germani in Roman literature, child holocaust survivors, global revolutions of the 1960s, second wave feminism and the office of the First Lady, pan-Americanism in the early Cold War, economic nationalism in Argentina, Communist activity in Pakistan, sectarianism in 17th century Ireland, the portrayal of Mexicans in the LA Press, and national identity in the Continental Army. Needless to say, I learned a great deal from working with these exceptional students.

When I agreed to become the DUS my illustrious predecessors assured me that the undergraduate history concentrators would make all of the administrative responsibilities worthwhile. They were right. In this case at least, they knew exactly what the future would be like.

*Ethan Pollock*



## Honors Recipients

Meher S. Ali, *The Hidden Left: Communist Activity in Pakistan, 1947-1954*  
Advisor: Vazira Zamindar

Amelia E. Armitage, *'Solving' the Refugee 'Problem': The League of Nations, Russian Refugees, and International Refugee Relief*  
Advisor: Maud Mandel

Lee M. Bernstein, *My War Started in 1945: The Post-War Rehabilitation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors in Britain at the Children's Home Weir Courtney*  
Advisor: Maud Mandel

Nathaniel L. Huether, *From YPF to the Railways: The Emergence of Economic Nationalism in Twentieth-Century Argentina*  
Advisor: James Green

William S. Janover, *Reinventing the Nation: The Generation of the Centenary and the Rise of Nationalism in Argentina*  
Advisor: James Green

Luke N. Perez, *Strangers Within Our Gates: The Los Angeles Press and Their Portrayal of Mexicans from the Mexican Revolution to the Zoot Suit Riots*  
Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Jeremy G. Perlman, *Beyond Plantation: The Formation of Old English Identity and the Growth of Sectarianism in 17th C Ireland*  
Advisor: Jo Guldi

James B. Rattner, *The Founding of a National Identity in the United States: New England's Enlisted Soldiers in the Continental Army*  
Advisor: Seth Rockman

Anna Rotman, *Democratical Tyranny Rhode Island's 1786 Land Bank in the History of Atlantic World Monetary Reform*  
Advisor: Jo Guldi

Catherine Wallace, *The Office of the American First Lady and Second Wave Feminism in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century*  
Advisor: Robert Self

Adam N. Waters, *Discursive Resistance: Counter-Hegemonic Pan Americanisms in the Early Cold War*  
Advisor: James Green

William D. Watterson, *The Construction of the Germani in Roman Literature 58BC-150AD*  
Advisor: Jonathan Conant/John Bodel





# Award Recipients

**The Clarkson A. Collins, Jr., Prize in American History** for best paper on any approved topic dealing with the American Merchant Marine or Navy.

**James B. Rattner**

*The Founding of a National Identity in the United States: New England's Enlisted Soldiers in the Continental Army*

**The Samuel C. Lamport Prize in International Understanding** offered to undergraduate students for papers on international understanding, with emphasis on cooperation and tolerance.

**Meher S. Ali**

*The Hidden Left: Communist Activity in Pakistan, 1947-1954*

**Amelia E. Armitage**

*Solving the Refugee Problem: The League of Nations, Russian Refugees, and International Refugee Relief*

**Lee M. Bernstein**

*My War Started in 1945: The Post-War Rehabilitation of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors in Britain at the Children's Home Weir Courtney*

**The Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution** awarded annually to that woman student who presents the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course.

**Anna Rotman**

*Democratically Tyranny: Rhode Island's 1786 Land Bank in the History of Atlantic World Monetary Reform*

**Michelle Bailhe**

*We Hold These Hypocrisies to Be Self-Evident: Slaves and Abolitionists in the Creation of the United States of America*

**The Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History** awarded annually to the outstanding undergraduate woman student majoring in History.

**Meher S. Ali**

**Pell Medal Award** donated annually a medal to one student in this educational institution for excellence in United States history.

**Hannah Duncan**

**The Christian Yegen Thesis Prize** awarded for an outstanding thesis.

**William S. Janover**

*Reinventing the Nation: The Generation of the Centenary and the Rise of Nationalism in Argentina*

**Luke N. Perez**

*Strangers Within Our Gates: The Los Angeles Press and Their Portrayal of Mexicans from the Mexican Revolution to the Zoot Suit Riots*

**Jeremy G. Perlman**

*Beyond Plantation: The Formation of Old English Identity and the Growth of Sectarianism in 17th C Ireland*

**Catherine Wallace**

The Office of the American First Lady and Second Wave Feminism in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century

**The John Thomas Memorial Award** for best thesis in the History Department.

**Adam N. Waters**

*Discursive Resistance: Counter-Hegemonic Pan Americanism in the Early Cold War*

**The David Herlihy Prize** awarded to the best student in Medieval or Renaissance, or Ancient History.

**William D. Watterson**

**The Skidmore Family and Friends Thesis Prize** for best thesis in Latin American Studies.

**Adam N. Waters**

*Discursive Resistance: Counter-Hegemonic Pan Americanism in the Early Cold War*



## Graduate Program

This has been an eventful year for the funding landscape for PhD students at Brown generally, and for the History Department in particular. Since 2006, all PhD students have come to Brown with five years of guaranteed funding. This model transformed our PhD program by stabilizing funding and helping us attract the very best students to our PhD program. At the same time, it also presented a challenge for historians, for whom the rigors and challenges of archival research typically make it difficult to complete a strong dissertation in fewer than six years. I was very pleased, therefore, when Dean of the Graduate School Peter Weber worked with Provost Vicki Colvin and Dean of the Faculty Kevin McLaughlin to create over twenty new interdisciplinary research opportunities for students in the Humanities and Social Sciences who are entering the sixth year of their PhD programs. These competitive fellowships give advanced PhD students the opportunity to move beyond their home departments and work in the growing number of Centers and Institutes at Brown, including the John Carter Brown Library, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, the Pembroke Center, or the Watson Institute for International Studies. We were pleased that one of our History PhD students, Patrick Chung, was awarded one of these prestigious new fellowships and will be affiliated with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America as he completes his dissertation next year. Two of our other advanced PhD students were also awarded fellowships that incorporate teaching. Wanda Henry will teach a course at Wheaton College next year through the Wheaton/Brown Faculty Fellow Program, while Rachel Gostenhofer will teach her own seminar at Brown through the new Deans' Faculty

Fellows Program. We are pleased that our PhD students have been so successful with these competitive fellowships, which not only offer crucial support as students complete their degrees, but also allow them to develop new skills as scholars and teachers as they prepare to enter the job market.

While much of our attention this year was on finding innovative ways to fund our PhD students as they complete their degrees, we are also about to graduate our first cohort of students who have completed our revised MA program. Our new course for MA students, "Historical Crossings," explored global configurations of events as a *shared* history, training MA students to read and think on various scales of historical analysis—from the cross-cultural and trans-geographic to the granularity of social and cultural specificity. This course appears to be a successful new anchor for our MA program, and we look forward to seeing how it helps us create a distinctive program.

Finally, as always we focused on assembling an exciting cohort of new MA and PhD students to enroll in the fall. Our faculty has been transformed in recent years by new hires, sometimes in new fields, and our graduate programs are evolving as well. I am pleased at the growing size and diversity of our MA and PhD cohorts, and look forward to welcoming 8 new MA students and 10 PhD students planning to work in Latin American, US, Medieval European, Middle East, South Asian, and Atlantic World history in the Fall of 2015.

*Tara Nummedal*



# Master of Arts, 2014-2015

Daniel W. Blanchard

Yu Chi Chang

John B. Chalnoky

Henry A. Crouse

Ann M. Daly

Kristian J. Fabian

Christine M. Keating

Daniel L. McDonald

Heather A. Sanford

James D. Schuelke

James C. Travers



# Doctor of Philosophy, 2014-2015

**Sam Boss**

*Outsiders, Crisis, and the Remaking of Urban Community in Medieval France, 1348-1500*

Director: Amy Remensnyder

**Jonathan Gentry**

*Sound Bodies: Biopolitics in German Musical Culture, 1850-1910*

Director: Michael Steinberg

**Eunsun Celeste Han**

*All Roads Lead to San Francisco: Black Californian Networks of Community and the Struggle for Equality, 1849-1877*

Director: Michael Vorenberg

**Bryan V. Knapp**

*'The Biggest Business in the World': The Nestlé Boycott and the Global Development of Infants, Nations, and Economies, 1968-1988*

Director: Robert Self

**Michele J. Mericle**

*Expanding the Realm of the Possible: Gender and Crypto-Judaism in Seventeenth-Century New Spain*

Director: Robert Cope

**Laura Perille**

*'A Mirror to Turke': 'Turks' and the Making of Early Modern England*

Director: Tim Harris

**Lindsay Schakenbach Regele**

*Manufacturing Advantage: War, The State, and The Origins of American Industry, 1790-1840*

Director: Seth Rockman

**John Rosenberg**

*Spear Carriers for Empire: The Alliance for American Militarism after the Vietnam War, 1967-1988*

Director: Naoko Shibusawa

**Elizabeth Searcy**

*The Subconscious Mind in America, 1880-1917*

Director: Elliott Gorn



## Keeping Up . . .

### A Brown History Alumnus in Haiti

A few years after graduating from Brown with a BA in history, Conor Bohan ('91) taught high school in Haiti. When one of his best senior students, Isemonde Joseph, asked him for \$30 so that she could attend secretarial school, Conor turned



her down. He knew she had the talent and drive to succeed at her dream of becoming a doctor. So he offered to sponsor her to go to medical school instead. The \$1000 tuition was beyond her reach, but Conor knew that if she could go and graduate, her life and that of her family was bound to change forever. What began with Isemonde has now grown into the organization HELP, the Haitian Education & Leadership Program, which supports 170 students this year, making it the largest university scholarship program in Haiti. HELP's mission is to "create, through merit and needs based scholarships, a community of young professionals and leaders who

will promote a more just society in Haiti." HELP sees education as a way to break the cycle of poverty in the country. The results are impressive: in a country where only 50% of people are employed and the average annual salary is \$810, HELP graduates have a 98% employment rate with an average annual salary of \$15,000. Equally importantly, HELP does not exacerbate Haiti's historic brain drain – 90% of HELP graduates work in Haiti itself. In Haiti, giving one person like Isemonde a university degree raises a whole family out of poverty. This is why the organization has received recognition and praise from UN-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and from former President Bill Clinton, among many others. Conor did not know what he would end up doing with his degree when he graduated from Brown; but he soon found that he had acquired the skills and resources to solve pressing problems in a complex environment and (in doing so) make a real difference in the lives of others. You can learn more about HELP by visiting [uhelp.net](http://uhelp.net).

*Conor Bohan*

## A Graduate Student in Egypt

Coming up on two years in the archives and too many years pondering the questions that brought me here, it is jarring to think about how much the world around my project has changed even as the basic contours of the project itself have remained the same. My dissertation examines Egypt's role within the Ottoman Empire during a period of economic, administrative, and geopolitical reorganization in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. While living in Egypt in 2007, I visited the coastal city of Rosetta, today a sleepy and depressed fishing town 40 miles east of Alexandria that nevertheless acted as Egypt's wealthiest and most important Mediterranean port during the Ottoman period. Remarkably, we know practically nothing of the great Muslim merchants, officials, and religious leaders who built and inhabited the city during its heyday. Those seeds of curiosity drove me to ask larger questions about how Egypt's Mediterranean port cities—Rosetta, Damietta, and Alexandria—functioned within systems of Mediterranean trade and Ottoman imperial governance prior to Alexandria's emergence as a modern colonial port in the mid-nineteenth century.

The project was fundamentally conceived in an era that bears little resemblance to realities on the ground today. I arrived in Cairo to begin my dissertation research in early June, 2013. The military coup of July 3 forced me to relocate to Istanbul, which was in the final throes of its own Gezi Park movement against government repression and neoliberal interests. Besides the logistics of shifting research around periods of political unrest, living such seismic shifts in Egypt and Turkey—local iterations of structural crises coming to a head across the globe—has kept me keenly aware that my dissertation project, like any piece of scholarship, has political stakes. The twenty-first century is reminding us that global interconnectivity does not guarantee peace and prosperity; that there is no story about wealth that does not require a story about power. While it can be easy to forget such lessons in the archives, they apply just as much to the past as to today.

*Zoe Griffith*



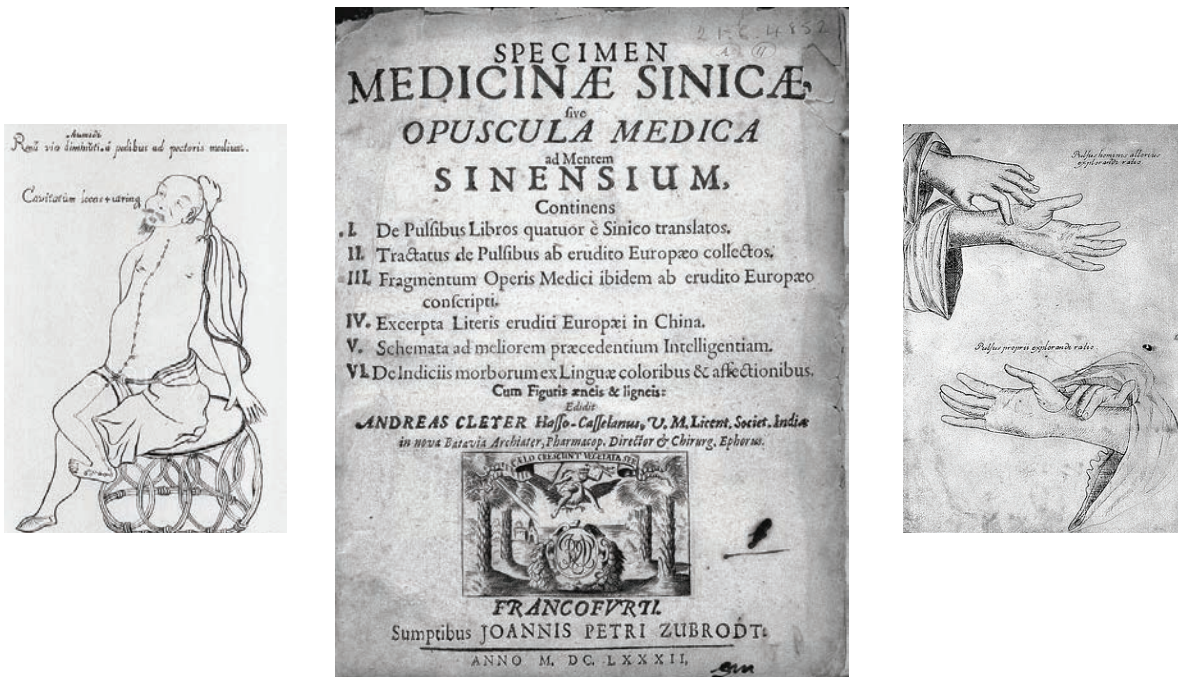
1. Wooden boats in Alexandria (Egypt)
2. Eighteenth-century merchant house in Rosetta (Egypt)
3. Gezi Park wall art (Istanbul summer 2013)
4. Sunset at the docks of Kadiköy (Istanbul)
5. Chateau d'eau at the Palais Longchamp, Marseille (France)
6. Me at the Cairo Date Festival (September)



## Chinese Medicine in Early Modern Europe

The international meeting on “Globalizing Chinese Medicine in the 17th Century: ‘Translation’ at Work” (supported through Brown’s Fund for the Humanities Initiative, with additional support from the History Department and Renaissance and Early Modern Studies) met on October 17 and 18, 2014. It set out to examine the means by which several aspects of medical knowledge that were present in continental East Asia – from materia medica to texts that explained relationships between the body and the larger world – were put into conversation with medical practitioners and scholars in other places. The speakers provided a number of case studies that helped to move the study of such interactions from the common view that holds that knowledge is diffused because it is true (a model often used in writings about the transmission of science) to more complex analyses of the interests and methods of intermediaries and recipients. The conference attracted scholars from the United States, China, Japan, and Germany; they presented papers on a great diversity of topics: the European reception of Chinese pulse theory and moxabustion, the cross-cultural publication of medical knowledge in East Asia, the use of chocolate as medicine in Qing China, and the epistemology of epidemic diseases in early modern China and Japan, to name just a few. A publication from the conference is in the works.

*Harold Cook*



The title page (center) of a late-seventeenth century edition of *Specimen Medicinæ Sinicæ*, a Latin translation of a Chinese medical text on pulses written by the third-century physician Wang Shuhe. The illustration on the left shows acupuncture points for the treatment of kidney disorders; the illustration on the right demonstrates the correct method for taking a pulse.



## The Historian as Weaver

Historical research can lead us to unanticipated places. My current book project on New England's relationship to Southern slavery necessitated learning how to weave. The more time I spent thinking about Rhode Island families weaving the textiles that clothed enslaved families in places like Mississippi, the clearer it became that I should know something about how looms worked, the skills required to operate them, and the qualities of the fabric produced on them in the 1810s and 1820s.

Last July, I spent a week at the Marshfield School of Weaving in Vermont. Using contracts signed between Rhode Island manufactures and local households in the 1820s, we were able to reproduce the wool-cotton “negro cloth” marketed in Charleston, Mobile, and New Orleans. With great patience, the experienced weavers at Marshfield led me through the process of winding a warp and dressing a loom— tasks that consumed more time than the weaving itself. Things that would have been obvious to a twelve year-old farm girl two hundred years ago had to be explained to me in the minutest detail. I had never worked with yarn before, I didn't know my warp from my weft, and I lack craft skills generally.

The six feet of “double plain” I wove at Marshfield provided me with new insight into the physicality of textile labor, as well as to the many instantaneous decisions that a weaver makes with each pass of the shuttle. The relationship of speed, output, and quality were especially pronounced in the production of what was widely understood to be a “disposable” fabric, meant to be worn to pieces and replaced every six months. Scholars of slavery are increasingly attentive to the material conditions of plantation life, but know very little about the textiles issued to field hands precisely because these fabrics did not survive and have not been preserved in museum collections.

Somewhat fortuitously, our department has developed a cluster of scholars interested in material culture. Linford Fisher, Vazira Zamindar, Lukas Rieppel, and Steven Lubar, among others, incorporate material culture in their research and teaching. Ann Daly, a first-year doctoral student, brought her significant historical weaving experience into our program and spent a separate part of last summer perfecting her skills at Marshfield as well.

*Seth Rockman*





## In Memoriam

### Donald Gerard Rohr, October 10, 1920 - January 26, 2015.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, to Lewis Walter and Marie Pilliod Rohr, Donald was the last surviving of seven siblings. After graduating from University of Toronto he fought in the field artillery during WWII and worked in the military government in Germany, travelling widely in Europe. Back in North America he pursued his studies in European history (MA, U. Toronto) and wrote a PhD thesis at Harvard on Germany between the world wars. At Williams College and Brown University he taught modern European history; at Brown he also served as chair of the history department and associate dean of the faculty. Author of *The Origins of Social Liberalism in Germany*, he was a long-standing member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, acting as president for some years. Pre-deceased by wife Joan Willis Michener, survived by daughters Karen Marie Michener Rohr Blaker of Lawton/Fort Sill OK, Kristin Marie Michener Rohr of North Saanich BC Canada, sons in law Gordon Blaker, Ken Jackman and grandchildren Kate and Christopher Blaker.

*Deeply saddened by this news. Donald was a wonderful man, somewhat shy and reserved, but, from the early 60s to the late 70s he was a real pillar of the Department. I knew him well and much admired him.*

*Tony Molho*

### Karl E. Westhauser

Karl E. Westhauser, a resident of Montgomery, died Friday after a 14 year battle with recurring tumors. He was 53. A native of New York City, he graduated from Cornell University, and earned a Ph.D. in History from Brown University. From 1994 until his retirement for disability in 2013, Dr. Westhauser taught World History at Alabama State University. He is survived by his mother, Margaret Westhauser, of Franklin Square, New York, and his sister, Lise Westhauser, of Sandersville, Georgia.

*Karl's abilities as a scholar, teacher and mentor (not to forget his capacity for caring friendship) were all related to his fundamental respect for other people. That respect allowed him to "hear" the voices of others, even buried in what might seem to be "souless" data. Certainly my life was better for having known and worked with Karl.*

*Lovely man. Very kind.*

*Becky More*

## History Department Alumni and Friends...

Please send in your stories, research, news and photographs. We all look forward to hearing about your life after Brown.

*Our newsletter is only as good  
as its contributors!*

