



# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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Volume 30 Spring 2016

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Word from the Chair	4
Cover Image/ Jennifer Johnson	6
Recent Faculty Books	7
New Faculty	10
Faculty Activities	12
Undergraduate Program	23
Honors Recipients	24
Award Recipients	25
Graduate Program	26
Master of Arts Recipients	27
Doctor of Philosophy Recipients	28
Keeping Up	29
Project Atalanta	29
The Intimate State	31
Listening to Silence	32
Dawn of the Atomic Age	34



SHARPE HOUSE  
130 Angell Street



PETER GREEN HOUSE  
79 Brown Street



## A Word from the Chair

The 2015-2016 academic year has been an extraordinarily busy—and an extraordinarily productive—one for the Department of History.

The hire of four impressive scholars both builds on existing faculty strength and moves us in exciting new intellectual directions. A historian of modern Europe, Holly Case (Stanford Ph.D. in History and Humanities, 2004), joins us from Cornell University in July 2017. Her scholarship ranges broadly over the different regions of Europe and two centuries of European history, focusing on the relationship between foreign and social policies, science, and literature in the state system of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Case is the author of *Between States: The Transylvanian Question and the European Idea during World War II* (Stanford University Press, 2009), which provides a new perspective on the struggle among Europe's Great Powers by examining the role that small states played in exacerbating and expanding that struggle. *Between States* was honored with no fewer than four prizes, an indication of its scope and significance. In 2016-2017, Case will be on leave at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, working on her current monograph, "The Age of Questions, 1820-1945," under contract with Princeton University Press.

A "New Directions" lecture series in Fall 2015 led to the appointment of Emily Owens (Harvard Ph.D. in African American Studies, 2015) as a Target-of-Opportunity hire. The department invited four young scholars working in the field of slavery in the United States to lecture and lead a roundtable discussion of the field. Owens impressed us enormously with her provocative, original, and closely reasoned study of the relationship between sexual violence and sexual consent in the context of chattel slavery in nineteenth-century New Orleans. Currently a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she is working on her book manuscript, "Fantasies of Consent: Sex, Affect, and Commerce in 19th Century New Orleans." Owens will join the department as an Assistant Professor and the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice as a Research Fellow in June 2016.

Finally, the department collaborated with the Institute at Brown for the Environment and Society (IBES) in a search in environmental history. We were able to make two

appointments from this search: Bathsheba Demuth and Brian Lander will be joining the faculty of History and IBES in July 2016 and July 2017, respectively. Demuth (University of California, Berkeley Ph.D. in History, 2016) studies the interactions among animals and humans in Beringia, focusing on the impact that the very different economic and social policies of Russia and the Soviet Union and the United States had on both animal populations and human societies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Lander (Columbia University Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Cultures, 2015), now a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard University Center for the Environment, examines the interaction between the environment, human societies, and state building in the Guanzhong basin, a region crucial to the development of Chinese and East Asian cultures from ca. 6000 to the late 3rd century BCE. These two impressive scholars, along with History faculty members currently working in the field, establish a strong foundation for the development of a leading program in environmental history at Brown.

This year we have welcomed two postdoctoral scholars to the department. Nicole Burrowes, a Presidential Diversity Fellow, is completing a book manuscript on the 1935 labor rebellions in British Guiana; and she taught a course on comparative black power movements for the department. Germán Vergara, a Cogut-Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, has been working on his manuscript, a history of the environment and energy in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Mexico City. Vergara taught two courses in the department: a global history of energy and a global history of extinctions. We welcome both Burrowes and Vergara back next year for the final year of their fellowships. At the same time, we look forward to the arrival of a new Cogut-Mellon postdoc, Ketaki Pant, a scholar of long-distance trade in the Indian Ocean; Pant focuses in particular on the famous Gujarati textile merchants, the networks they formed, and their "homes of capital."

There has also been movement within the established History faculty. Our junior colleague Jo Guldi has decided to return to Texas, her home state, to a position in the Department of History at Southern Methodist University. We wish her well. More happily, we congratulate Nancy Jacobs on her promotion to the rank of full professor.

The compilation of a self-study and preparation for an external review of the department took up much of the department's attention this year. The self-study traced the development of the department over the past decade, as it "moved from an insular concentration on Europe and the United States to project a historical vision that extends worldwide" (to quote the external review committee). The committee, in its generally positive report, praised in particular the department's recent success in hiring an impressive and diverse cluster of scholars and the "exceptional" dedication of the History faculty to teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level. It concluded, "The Department has now assembled the critical mass of talent and knowledge to become a key player in both its discipline and in the initiatives outlined in Building for Distinction," Brown's strategic plan.

Responding to a charge from the university, the department, led by the Priorities Planning Committee (PPC), also developed a diversity and inclusion action plan designed to ensure that we support as fully as possible diverse and socially representative scholarship, teaching, and programming. The plan sets forth a series of guidelines for faculty and graduate-student recruitment and development, curricular expansion, and inclusive pedagogy that will encourage us to realize fully our discipline's natural and necessary concern with issues of "social difference and power, race, class, and gender, and innumerable other forms of hierarchy and inequality across diverse societies, cultures, regions, institutions, empires, and states." This plan, together with the self-study and the report of the external review committee, provides the foundation for the strategic plan the department will develop next year.

Sadly, 2015-2016 has also been a year of loss as well as great achievement for the department. Abbott (Tom) Gleason taught Russian and Soviet history at Brown from his arrival in 1968 as an assistant professor, to his retirement in 2005 as Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Kenney Professor of History and Professor of Slavic Language and Literature. An influential and socially active scholar and highly respected teacher, Gleason also offered dedicated service to the department and the university, as Chair of History and

Director of the Watson Institute. His passing on December 25, 2015 represents a great loss to Brown. (Please see the tribute by Professor Ken Sacks at the end of the Newsletter.)

As my term as chair comes to an end, I am keenly aware of how much I owe the History faculty as a whole for their willingness to work hard and deliberate seriously (and extensively) on a range of difficult topics in pursuit of the department's goals. The department is indebted to the superb service of the two other officers of the department, Tara Nummedal and Ethan Pollock, for their expert guidance of and dedication to the graduate program and undergraduate program, respectively. I have benefited greatly from the advice and guidance of the PPC (Faiz Ahmed, Roquinaldo Ferreira, Rebecca Nedostup, Tara Nummedal, Ethan Pollock) and especially from the counsel and assistance of this year's chair, Robert Self. Special thanks are also due the hard-working committees who guided our appointments this year: the New Directions in the History of U.S. Slavery committee (Françoise Hamlin, chair; Roquinaldo Ferreira, Seth Rockman, Robert Self), the Modern European Search committee (Omer Bartov, chair; Ethan Pollock, Amy Remensnyder), and the Environmental History Search committee (Robert Self, co-chair; Nancy Jacobs). And of course our excellent staff—Cherrie Guerzon, Academic Department Manager; Mary Beth Bryson, Academic Program Manager; and Julissa Bautista, Administrative Assistant—deserve nothing but the highest praise and the most profound gratitude for all that they do for the department.

I am very happy to be leaving the leadership of the department in the hands of Robert Self, the incoming chair. By training and temperament, he is ideally suited to build on the achievements of the past decade and lead the department in planning its future development.

*Cynthia Brokaw*



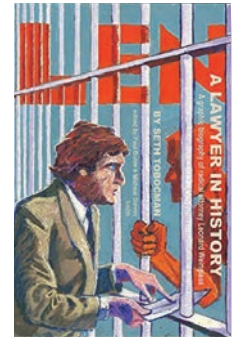
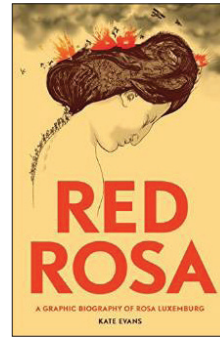
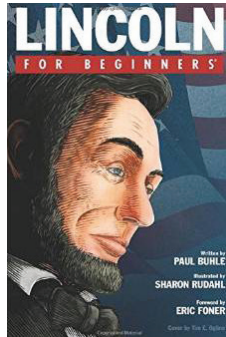
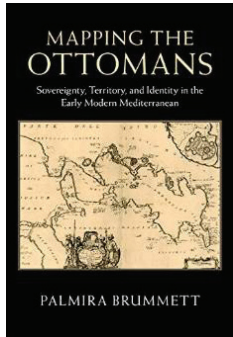
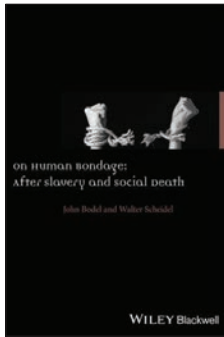
## Cover Image/Jennifer Johnson

Algeria underwent one of the most violent struggles for decolonization in the Global South. After a bloody and prolonged eight-year war against the French (1954-1962), the Algerian nationalist party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), emerged victorious over its opponent. The FLN used a variety of innovative approaches to convince the Algerian people and the international community that the party was ready to govern the country. However, in the aftermath of independence the FLN had a difficult time following through with its political, social, and economic promises. One of the ways the nationalist party preserved its legacy was by lionizing the FLN in nearly every aspect of everyday life and constantly reminding the people of its heroic efforts to liberate the nation. This memorialization can be seen in a range of ways, including graffiti in the casbah, primary and secondary education textbooks, veterans' services, and city architecture. In 1982, on the 20th anniversary of independence, the Chadli Bendjedid government erected the martyrs' monument to commemorate the people, soldiers and FLN officials who collectively brought an end to one hundred and thirty-two years of French colonial oppression. Today this structure dominates the Algiers skyline and can be seen from nearly every part of the city. It is a physical manifestation of FLN power, but it also serves as a reminder of the hope and possibilities that have yet to be realized in postcolonial Algeria.

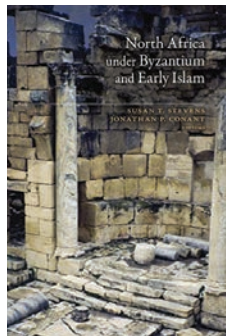
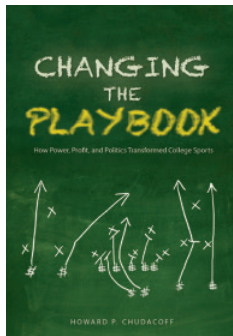
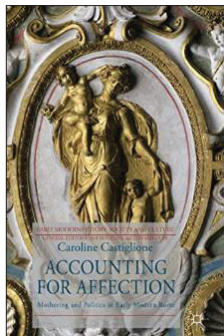




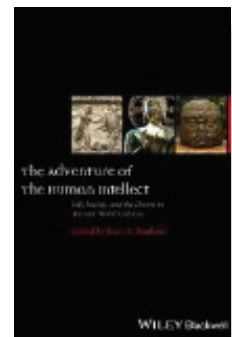
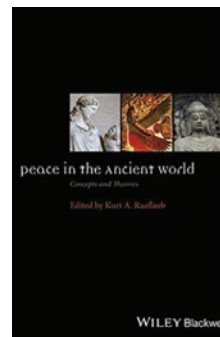
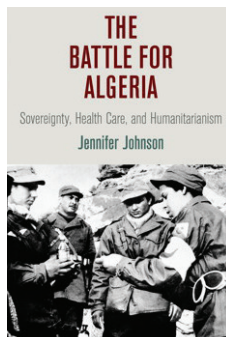
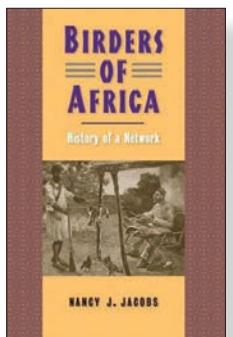
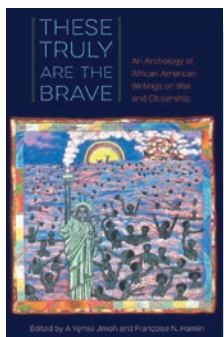
# Recent Faculty Books



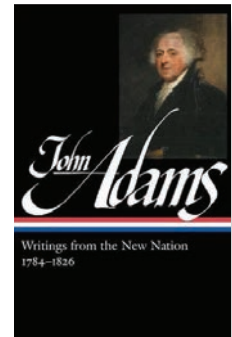
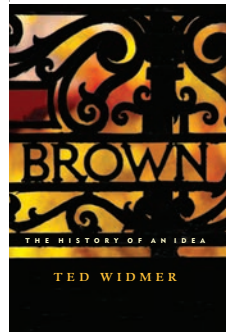
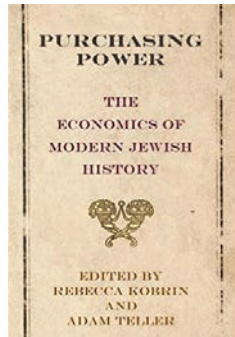
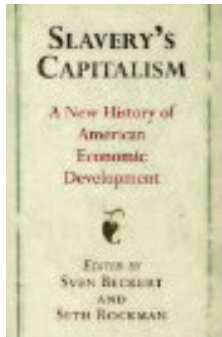
**John Bodell and Walter Scheidel, eds.**, *On Human Bondage: After Slavery and Social Death*, Wiley-Blackwell (August 15, 2016); **Palmira Brummett**, *Mapping the Ottomans: Sovereignty, Territory, and Identity in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, Cambridge University Press (May 19, 2015); **Paul Buhle**, *Lincoln for Beginners*, For Beginners (January 13, 2015); **Paul Buhle and Kate Evans**, *Red Rosa: A Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*, Verso (November 3, 2015); **Paul Buhle and Michael Steven Smith**, *Len, A Lawyer in History: A Graphic Biography of Radical Attorney Leonard Weinglass*, AK Press (July 5, 2016)



**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); **Jonathan P. Conant and Susan T. Stevens, eds.**, *North Africa under Byzantium and Early Islam*, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection (March 14, 2016); **L. Perry Curtis**, *Notice to Quit: The Great Irish Famine Evictions*, Cork University Press (November 16, 2015); **Mary Gluck**, *The Invisible Jewish Budapest: Metropolitan Culture at the Fin de Siècle*, University of Wisconsin Press (April 12, 2016)

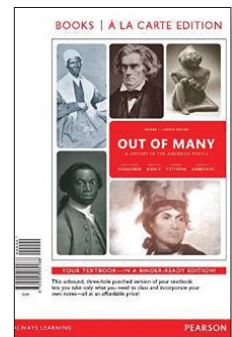
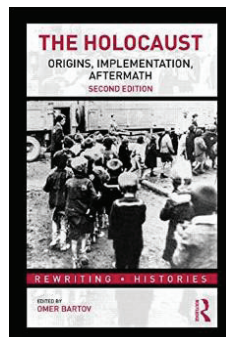
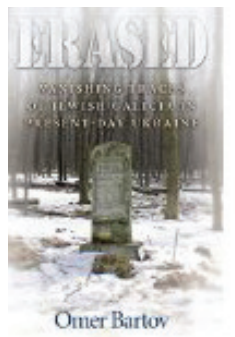


**Françoise Hamlin and A Yemisi Jimoh, eds.**, *These Truly Are the Brave: An Anthology of African American Writings on War and Citizenship*, University Press of Florida (September 15, 2015); **Nancy Jacobs**, *Birders of Africa: History of a Network*, Yale University Press (April 26, 2016); **Jennifer Johnson**, *The Battle for Algeria: Sovereignty, Health Care, and Humanitarianism*, University of Pennsylvania Press (December 1, 2015); **Kurt A. Raaflaub**, *Peace in the Ancient World: Concepts and Theories*, Wiley-Blackwell (May 31, 2016); **Kurt A. Raaflaub**, *The Adventure of the Human Intellect*, Wiley-Blackwell (June 7, 2016)

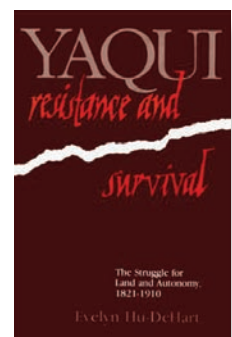
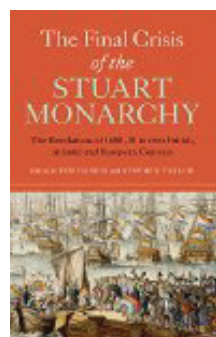
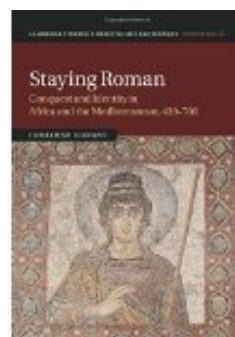
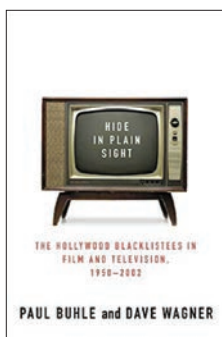


Seth Rockman and Sven Beckert, eds., *Slavery's Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development*, University of Pennsylvania Press (August 12, 2016); Adam Teller and Rebecca Kobrin, eds., *Purchasing Power: The Economics of Modern Jewish History*, University of Pennsylvania Press (October 23, 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); Gordon S. Wood, *John Adams: Writings from the New Nation 1784-1826*, Library of America (March 22, 2016)

### Reprints, Paperback Editions, and Translations

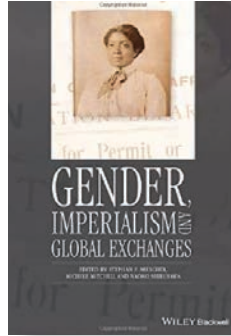


Omer Bartov, *Borrados* (Spanish Edition of *Erased*), Malpasso Kindle Edition (February 15, 2016); Omer Bartov, *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine*, Princeton University Press (2015 paperback edition); Omer Bartov, *The Holocaust: Origins, Implementation, Aftermath*, Routledge; 2 edition (January 4, 2015 paperback edition); Cynthia Brokaw, *Wenhua maoyi: Qingdai zhi Minguo shiqi Sibao de shuji jiaoyi* 文化贸易：清代只民国时期四堡的书籍交易 (Chinese translation of *Commerce in Culture: The Sibao Book Trade of the Qing and Republican Periods*), Beijing University Press (July 2015); Mari Jo Buhle, John M. Faragher, and Daniel Czitrom, *Out of Many: A History of the American People, Volume 2*, Pearson (March 7, 2015 paperback edition)



Paul Buhle and Dave Wagner, *Hide in Plain Sight: The Hollywood Blacklistees in Film and Television, 1950-2002*, St. Martin's Press Kindle Edition (April 28, 2015); Jonathan Conant, *Staying Roman: Conquest and Identity in Africa and the Mediterranean, 439-700*, Cambridge University Press (October 1, 2015 paperback edition); Tim Harris, *Rebellion: Britain's First Stuart Kings, 1567-1642*, Oxford University Press (December 1, 2015 Reprint edition); Tim Harris, *The Final Crisis of the Stuart Monarchy*, Boydell Press (October 15, 2015 Reprint edition); Evelyn Hu-DeHart, *Yaqui Resistance and Survival: Struggle for Land and Autonomy, 1821-1910*, University of Wisconsin Press New Edition (forthcoming 2016)





Jane Lancaster, *Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth – A Life Beyond “Cheaper by the Dozen,”* Northeastern Kindle Edition (November 17, 2015); Neil Safier, *La medición del Nuevo Mundo* (Spanish translation of *Measuring the New World*), Perfect Paperback (2016); Naoko Shibusawa, Stephan F. Miescher, and Michelle Mitchell, eds., *Gender, Imperialism and Global Exchanges*, Wiley-Blackwell (May 11, 2015 paperback edition)

## The 36th William F. Church Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

4:00pm, Winnick Chapel at the Brown/RISD Hillel building  
(80 Brown Street)

*“Revealed Beauty and Hidden Danger: On Jewish Books of Time in Early Modern Europe”*

### Elisheva Carlebach

Salo Wittmayer Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture, and Society, Columbia University

Elisheva Carlebach studies the lived context of ideas, customs, and texts within early modern Europe’s Jewish communities. She has written award winning books on Jewish heretical movements, on the lives and work of religious converts, and on the consequences of moving between Jewish and Christian timescapes.



## New Faculty



**Holly Case** joins the department as a historian of modern Europe. Her work focuses on the relationship between foreign policy, social policy, science, and literature in the European state system of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her first book, *Between States: The Transylvanian Question and the European Idea during WWII*, was published in May 2009. The book describes the struggle between Hungary and Romania for control of Transylvania during the Second World War. These allies of the Third Reich spent much of the war arguing bitterly over Transylvania's future, and Germany and Italy were drawn into the dispute to prevent it from spiraling into a regional war. The book shows how the perspective of small states can put the struggle for mastery among Europe's Great Powers into a new perspective.

Case is currently at work on a history of the "Age of Questions" (the Eastern, Jewish, Polish, woman, and worker questions, etc.) spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The book sets out to explain when and why people started thinking in terms of "questions," and how it altered their sense of political possibility. She has also begun writing a history of the role of consuls and consular reform in transforming the international system over the course of the last two centuries. Case occasionally writes on history, literature, politics and ideas for various magazines and newspapers, including *The Guardian*, *Dissent*, *The Chronicle Review*, *The Nation*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

Case received her B.A. from Mt. Holyoke College in 1997 and her M.A. (History, 2000) and Ph.D. (History and Humanities, 2004) from Stanford University under the mentorship of Norman Naimark. She taught history at Cornell University from 2004-2016.

The recipient of a fellowship from the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna for the academic year 2016-17, Case will begin teaching at Brown in the fall of 2017.



**Bathsheba Demuth** will join the department as an environmental historian in July 2016, with a joint appointment in the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society. Her geographic specialties are Russian and U.S. history. Both countries are represented in her current book project, "The Power of Place: Ecology and Ideology in the Bering Strait, 1848-1988," which examines how the common extremity of the arctic environment shaped the twentieth century's two great economic systems: capitalism and communism. The book begins with the meetings between indigenous Yupik, Inupiat, and Chukchi peoples and commercial whalers, progresses through the development of national borders, then studies the contrasts and convergences evident as a united ecological space was divided along ideological lines. The work explores how people understood their northern environs and how their interactions with the arctic demonstrate the impact that both capitalism and communism had on what people found thinkable, valuable, and rational. By paying close attention to the region's ecology,

the book also demonstrates how ideas did not exist outside environmental context. In ways specific to marine, coastal, and terrestrial habitats, local circumstance changed the practice of communism and capitalism. The result is a history of how human intention and action were negotiated in concert with the arctic environment.

Demuth has spent over fifteen years working in the far north, both before her doctoral studies and while on Jacob Javits and Fulbright-Hayes fellowships in the U.S. and Russian Arctic. She has worked with the Arctic Council on issues of how climate change impacts indigenous communities. Her second project will examine how human beings and canines have co-evolved and adapted to extreme situations and environments. She received her BA in Trauma Studies from Brown University in 2006, her MA in Development Studies from Brown in 2007, and her PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley in 2016.



**Brian Lander** will join the department in July 2017 in an environmental history position held jointly with the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society. He will teach East Asian and world environmental history. His first manuscript, “State Formation and Environmental Change in Early China: The Political Ecology of Agrarian Empires,” explores the environmental history of the capital region of China’s ancient empires from the origins of farming until the fall of the first empire in 206 BCE. It begins with a multidisciplinary reconstruction of the region’s Holocene climate, flora, and fauna before describing how domesticated plants and animals gradually replaced wild species in people’s diets and in the landscape. The rest of the work analyzes the environmental consequences of the centralization of political power that led up to the formation of Qin, China’s first empire. Qin’s centralized bureaucracy became the standard form of political organization in China, and its emphasis on agricultural expansion was inherited by subsequent empires, playing a key role in the transformation of China’s environment.

His next project explores the environmental consequences of the gradual colonization of South China’s wetlands by millions of migrants from North China, one of the main demographic trends in East Asian history. Entitled “From Wetland to Farmland: An Environmental History of the Central Yangzi Lowlands,” it will employ newly discovered documents to rewrite the early history of South China and consider the place of East Asia in the global history of wetlands loss.

Brian received his BA from the University of Victoria, his MA from McGill University, his PhD from Columbia University, and spent five years at various universities in China along the way. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard University Center for the Environment.



**Emily Owens** will join the history department in June of 2016 as an historian of US slavery and the history of gender and sexuality. Her current book project, “Fantasies of Consent: Sex, Affect, and Commerce in 19th Century New Orleans,” historicizes the culture and economy of the antebellum New Orleans sex market. Its central question is: “How do we write the history of black female sexuality?” and it targets the sex trade under slavery to approach that question. The book argues that the primary objects for sale in the sex market of antebellum New Orleans were not sex, itself, but rather a set of feeling-experiences attached to those sex acts. Through close readings of Louisiana State Supreme Court cases and Louisiana law, as well as new research in lower court records, newspapers, and manuscript sources, “Fantasies of Consent” unpacks the kinds of pleasures that women of color were called upon to produce for white men within the sex economy, and the pleasures they themselves were able to inherit. She argues that both sets of pleasures emerged from and were therefore sutured to the violence of the market,

demonstrating the simultaneity of pleasure and violence in the story of sex and slavery.

Emily’s second book project, “On the Threshold: Domesticity and the Black Feminine,” turns to the history of black innkeepers of the 18th and 19th century circum-Caribbean world, whose labors create a prism through which to understand black women’s historically heterodox relationship to ideals that underwrite normative femininity: privacy, labor and leisure, beauty, childrearing and family-building, and sexuality.

In 2015-2016, Emily was a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, MA. She received her Ph.D. in African American Studies, with a primary field in history, from Harvard in 2015.



# Faculty Activities

**Faiz Ahmed's** third year at Brown delivered his greatest moment yet—the birth of his daughter Enise Khedija. Together they've been sighted between the moon and stars ever since. In more earthly matters, his forthcoming book "Constituting Afghanistan" was contracted with Harvard University Press, and article "In the Name of a Law" was



accepted for publication in the esteemed *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. He presented on Ottoman-Mughal jurisprudential exchanges at a symposium in Istanbul and delivered the

keynote address for a Central Asian Studies conference at UCLA. Once more he opened the Watson Institute's Annual Choices Program with a historical lecture, this year to the theme of "The Middle East Map: 100 Years of Partition, Contestation, and Negotiation." Other highlights included launching the Brown Legal History Workshop with colleagues Mike Vorenberg and Rebecca Nedostup and organizing a special campus event to honor—and hear—Afghanistan's first woman mayor.



**Engin Akarlı** continued to serve as dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Istanbul Şehir University. The most pleasant instant of the past year for him was his visit to Brown to give the Peter Green Lecture on the

Modern Middle East on November 13, 2015. He spoke on "Turkey after the Elections."

This was an extraordinarily busy and interesting year. While writing the final parts of his book, "The Voice of Your Brother's Blood," which will go into production with Simon and Schuster in the fall, **Omer Bartov** launched a new, three-year project at the Watson Institute titled "Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples." In the course of the project Bartov hosted two international workshops, in November

2015 and April 2016, which gathered Israeli and Palestinian scholars, along with other specialists from Europe and the United States, to discuss both the long-term and profound links to that land, and some of the most difficult issues of the current conflict in an intense yet open and extremely thoughtful manner. He also taught two challenging undergraduate seminars on themes related to the topics discussed at the workshops with a diverse and thoroughly invested groups of students. In the spring Bartov enjoyed teaching a graduate seminar on "First Person History in Times of Crisis" with a dozen brilliant MA and PhD



students from History and other departments, who presented their own fascinating research in the class. To cap it all, he was privileged to visit Barcelona at the invitation of the publisher of the Spanish

translation of his book *Erased (Borrados)*. But the real highlight of the year was hosting his daughter and budding historian at the department's winter party (see photo).

**Cynthia Brokaw** continues to work on several projects: a study of the popular daily-use encyclopedias of the late Ming and early Qing and what they reveal about changing conceptions of knowledge in early modern China; a monograph on the "Revere the Classics" Academy of Chengdu, Sichuan, in the nineteenth century and the impact it and its publishing operations had on regional intellectual life and political engagement during the reform era of the late Qing; and a collaborative project on paratexts in Chinese woodblock imprints. She contributed one essay, "Empire of Texts: Book Production, Book Distribution, and Book Culture in Late Imperial China," to *The Book Worlds of East Asia and Europe, 1450-1850*, edited by Joseph P. McDermott and Peter Burke (Hong Kong University Press, 2015). The American Printing History Association honored her work in Chinese printing and publishing history with its Individual Award for Achievement in Printing History. This spring she very much enjoyed teaching a new freshman seminar, "The Silk Roads, Past and Present."

**Palmira Brummett** has the following articles appearing: “The Early Modern Convert as ‘Public Property’: A Typology of Turning,” in Claire Norton and Anna Contadini, eds., *The Lure of the ‘Other’: Religious Conversion and Reversion in the Early Modern Mediterranean and Beyond* (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2016); and “The ‘What If?’ of the Ottoman Female: Authority, Ethnography, and Conversation,” in *Ottoman Women in Public Space*, Kate Fleet and Ebru Boyar, eds. (Leiden: Brill, 2016). She was featured on an Ottoman History Podcast, discussing her new book, *Mapping the Ottomans*; and was invited to lecture at NYU’s Middle East Center, on “Mapping the Ottomans: Space, Sovereignty, and the Circulation of Information in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” She delivered presentations in spring 2016 in Boston, to the Renaissance Society of America, on “The End of the Renaissance: Ambrosio Bembo and the Limits of Ottoman Space,” and at the University of Zadar, Croatia, on “Mapping the Limits of Ottoman-Venetian Space and Authority: 16th-17th Centuries,” Symposium on Negotiating Limits between Early Modern Sovereignities: Venetian Dalmatia and Ottoman Bosnia, 15th – Early 18th Centuries.”



A trip to Ireland and more specifically Dublin, in May 2015, at the moment of the Equality Vote, prompted rumination and finally this short comic art book from **Paul Buhle: A Full Life: James Connolly** (PM Press), in time for the centenary of the Easter Rising. A trip into youthful and even childhood memories prompted

*Red Rosa*, the comic art story of Rosa Luxemburg (Verso, 2015); and he has plans for “Green Dreamer,” the saga of John Chapman/Johnny Appleseed. The Buhles (Mari Jo as well as Paul) are politically active in Madison and 105% loyal to Bernie Sanders.

**Nicole Burrowes** completed her first year as a Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow. She continues to work on her book manuscript “Seeds of Solidarity: African/Indian Relations and the Labor Rebellions of 1935 in British Guiana,” and two articles. This year she presented at the Colin Palmer Retrospective on the Political Biography of the Caribbean in New York; the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Atlanta; and the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville. She was selected for the Building Future Faculty Program at North Carolina State University, where she presented her work to the History Department. On campus, she taught a course on

international black power movements and worked with students to create a multimedia website. She also gave talks at the History Department, the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, a special keynote address for the Ebony Soirée, and served as a moderator for the



Katrina +10 conference. Finally, she co-organized a fun lunch session for 28 young men of color from the Brotherhood/Sister Sol during their visit to Brown. This summer she will serve as Assistant Director

for the Schomburg-Mellon Summer Humanities Institute in Harlem, USA. She offers a warm and fuzzy thank you to everyone who spent time with her to welcome her to Brown.

**Caroline Castiglione** was promoted to full professor in July 2015. She is chair of Italian Studies and was also chair of an ad hoc university committee considering possible improvements to the Ph.D. program in the humanities at Brown. In fall 2015, she was a participant in the roundtable at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference: “The Future of Mediterranean Studies: A Roundtable in Memory of John Marino.” In May 2016 she presented her research to the Brown Legal History Workshop: “Cesare Beccaria’s *On Crimes and Punishments* (1764): Doubting Readers, Dubious Theories and Legal Reform In the Eighteenth Century.”



**Howard Chudacoff’s** book, *Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports* was published December 28 in the Sport and Society series of University of Illinois Press.

**Kelly Ricciardi Colvin** has very much enjoyed another year at Brown. She developed a new course, a history of modern anti-feminism, and also taught courses in



modern French history, European women’s history, and fashion history. She also published an article detailing the influence of beauty norms on popular politics in

postwar France in the journal *French Historical Studies*. She thanks the weather gods for their restraint this year.

This year, **Jonathan Conant's** research focused primarily on his second book, "The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, c. 795–840." Work on this project brought him to northern England and Scandinavia, where he explored archaeological sites that provide evidence for complex interactions between early medieval Frankish, Anglo-Saxon, and Norse populations. He also co-edited and published a volume on *North Africa under Byzantium and Early Islam*, which examines the history,



St. Cuthbert's Isle, Lindisfarne, the site of the first recorded Viking attack in Western Europe.

archaeology, architecture, literature, and religious life of the Maghrib between the late Roman and early Islamic periods. He further organized a conference at Brown called "Listening to Silence," which investigated the lived experiences of rural women and children in the late ancient Mediterranean from an interdisciplinary perspective (see "Listening to Silence," pp. 32-33). He was selected as the inaugural Summer Research Fellow at Loyola University Chicago's John Felice Rome Center for 2016. In addition, he has presented papers at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, and the University of Leeds (England). He has a book chapter forthcoming in 2016 on sectarian violence in late Roman North Africa.

Although he made one trip abroad to attend a conference at Oxford in honor of the retirement of Professor Pietro Corsi, **Harold (Hal) J. Cook** spent the past year mainly working on his next book, "Becoming René Descartes." The work was interrupted in order to write other talks for conferences in the US, on early modern commerce and science and on "translation" as mobile knowledge practices. As a part of his interest in the latter subject Cook is editing a collected volume on the globalization



"Portrait of a man wearing a collar" by Simon Vouet

of Chinese medicine in the early modern period. Among his publications were papers on Bernard Mandeville (a Dutch physician whose writings on political economy are often taken to be the source of inspiration for

Adam Smith) and, thanks to Nancy Jacobs, who co-edited a special issue of *Kronos*, a paper on animals like mermaids in late seventeenth-century Southeast Africa. For Brown, he continued as Director of Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and served on other university committees, advised the senior class in the Science and Society Program, and taught the MA required seminar, "Historical Crossings," in the fall of 2015. He continued to teach undergraduate courses on the history of medicine and the Dutch Golden Age.

In 2015-2016, **Douglas Cope** taught a freshman seminar on pirates and completed a sequence of courses on Mexican history from 1300 to the present. His research focuses on the informal economy of eighteenth-century Mexico City.

At the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, **Roquinaldo Ferreira** organized two workshops ("Crosscurrents of the Black Atlantic" and "The Iberian Slave Trade: A Global History") and worked towards completion of a monograph on the abolition of the slave trade and the remaking of the Portuguese in Central Africa in the nineteenth century. Ferreira will finalize this project during his sabbatical in 2016-2017.

**Linford Fisher** was back in the classroom this academic year after a productive year of leave last year at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA. In July of 2015, Linford was grateful to be promoted to Associate Professor (with tenure). During this past academic year, Linford taught classes on early American readings (graduate), early American religion, Native American history, and Atlantic world slavery. He also finished a few smaller publishing projects, including a co-authored introductory essay and stand-alone essay for a special volume on indigenous slavery for the journal *Ethnohistory* and an essay on the translation of the Bible into different indigenous languages. An essay (for a wider audience) on historical comparisons was also published online at Vox.com. Linford also presented his work at conferences and public venues, including Tufts University, the American Society



Stone piles / statues on the Barbados coast in memory of the African slave trade, taken during a January 2016 research trip.

for Ethnohistory, and the Organization of American Historians. He continues to make progress on his next book project, which is a comparative study of Native American and African slavery in New England and the English Caribbean (particularly Barbados, Jamaica, and Bermuda). A Ryskamp Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, awarded in 2016, will greatly aid the finishing of that book.



**Jonathan Gentry** had a momentous final year as a member of the Brown history department. In addition to leading seminars on biopolitics, the Holocaust, and the European *avant-garde*, he gave a conference paper on “degenerate music” and an invited talk on Nietzsche. This year his article “Sound Biopolitics: Modernist

Music and Degeneration in the Wilhelmine Empire” was accepted for publication by the *New German Critique*. After almost a decade of graduate study and teaching at Brown he has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History at Kennesaw State University, to begin Fall 2016. You’ll soon be able to find him in the greater Atlanta area.

**Mary Gluck’s** monograph on *The Invisible Jewish Budapest: Metropolitan Culture at the Fin de Siècle* finally came out in April 2016. After living with the book for many years, she feels like the parents of our graduating seniors, glad to be free of responsibility for its future life and success. While the book is out of her hands, its central questions about the role of humor and popular entertainment in social interactions continues to preoccupy her. In the spring of 2016, Gluck taught a seminar on the Jewish joke as it developed in Central Europe and America



in the early 20th century. Perhaps not surprisingly, the course attracted a large number of students, who were disappointed to learn that they would not be viewing Woody Allen films and Seinfeld episodes and that studying jokes is not as much fun as it appears to be at first sight. In the future, Gluck plans to expand on this subject by exploring the connections between humor and politics, which are inseparably connected.

The Brazilian National Amnesty Commission and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have awarded Brown University’s Opening the Archives Project a \$60,000 grant to continue the digitization and indexing of U.S. government on Brazil produced during the military dictatorship (1964-85).



Organized by **James N. Green**, Director of Brown’s Brazil Initiative and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Professor of the Latin American and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, this multi-

year project has digitized over 40,000 State Department and other materials about Brazil in U.S. government archives for an open-access website sponsored by the Brown University Library. See: <http://library.brown.edu/openingthearchives/>. According to Green, “The Opening the Archive Project is an effort to support international researchers interested in U.S.-Brazilian relations during two very difficult decades in the nation’s history. The Brown website makes these documents easily available to scholars in Brazil and abroad. We hope to index and upload a total of 100,000 items over the next five years of the project.”



In the past year **Françoise Hamlin** published her co-edited anthology, *These Truly Are The Brave: African American Writings on War and Patriotism*, with the University Press of Florida.

She continues to work on her new monograph and various essays, while engaging with the extraordinary students

here at Brown. As part of that work she took students to Tougaloo College (Mississippi) for her sixth annual Spring Break trip as part of the Brown-Tougaloo partnership and in conjunction with her courses and research. This year she won a Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women Seed Grant that enabled her to bring civil rights veterans and educators from historically black educational institutions to campus in September 2015 for conversations about race, education, and trauma. Not abandoning her students while on her post-tenure leave this year, she advised in an array of activities, and co-founded the Faculty of Color Working Group to address some of the pressing needs of that constituency at Brown. For her work the university awarded her the Karen T. Romer Award for excellence in advising. Away from campus and her various desks, she is immensely proud of her other full-time passion: her eight year-old son, Elijah. Together they both began taking martial arts classes!



**Tim Harris** gave talks on “The Intellectual Value of Working with Historical Periods” at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. in November; “Some Misconceptions about the Revolution of 1688” at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon in January; and “Hibernophobia and

Francophobia in Restoration England” at the University of Maryland in May. In June he will be giving lectures about the English Revolution and the Glorious Revolution in Taiwan, where he will also be catching up with his former student Shih-Chieh (Roger) Lo and erstwhile colleague Professor Richard Davis. His *The Final Crisis of the Stuart Monarchy* (Boydell Press; co-edited with Stephen Taylor) came out in paperback on October 15, while the paperback version of his *Rebellion: Britain’s First Stuart Kings, 1567-1642* (Oxford University Press) was released on December 1. He published various essays, including “Did the English have a Script for Revolution in the Seventeenth Century?” in Keith Baker and Dan Edelstein, eds., *Scripting Revolution* (Stanford University Press, October 2015); “The Dissolute Court and Retribution,” *National Maritime Museum Pepys Exhibition Catalogue* (Thames and Hudson, 2015; the exhibition ran from November 2015 to March 2016); and “Francophobia in Late-Seventeenth-Century England,” in Tony Claydon and Charles-Édouard Levillain, eds., *Louis XIV Outside In: Images of the Sun King Beyond France, 1661-1715* (first published by Ashgate, November 2015; republished by Routledge, March 2016). He is currently working on a book on “Britain’s Century of Revolutions” for Oxford University Press.

**Patricia Herlihy**, Professor Emerita and Adjunct Professor, Watson Institute for International Studies, continues to write a biography, “Eugene Schuyler, American Diplomat 1840-1890,” and her memoirs. At the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs she serves as a member of the Arts at Watson Committee, which selects art exhibits for the Watson Institute. At the Institute she also arranged for Tim Snyder, a Brown University graduate in history, to give talks on Ukraine February 9 and April 29. The talks can be viewed on line on the Watson Institute web. It was her sad task to write the *In Memoriam* essay in memory of Abbott (Tom) Gleason for the journal *Russian History*. In September she gave a talk to a graduate seminar on Odessa at the University of Washington, Seattle. On October 23 she was honored at a banquet in New Haven, Connecticut, for being a Past President of the New England Historical Society



**Nancy Jacobs’s** book *Birders of Africa: History of a Network* appeared in February 2016. The book, described as “a unique and original assessment of the culturally diverse origins of knowledge about African birds,” appeared in the Agrarian Studies series of Yale University Press. Her other publication was a co-edited

issue of the journal *Kronos: Southern African Histories* (available as open access on the SciELO platform). For that issue, she contributed an article on a shadowy CIA-connected ornithologist who retired in southern Africa during decolonization. What was he doing with that surveillance equipment? Watching birds or watching out for US rivals? We may never know. With that, Nancy concluded her research on the politics of environmental knowledge in colonial Africa. For the past few years, she has been taking on the challenge of devising histories with non-human animal subjects. In fall 2015, she taught her first course on “Animal Histories.” Plans for 2016 are to continue this direction in teaching and research.



**Jennifer Johnson** was thrilled to join the department in 2015. She received a Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Grant and was on leave for 2015-2016. During this time, her first book, *The Battle for Algeria: Sovereignty, Health Care, and Humanitarianism* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press (2016). She also published a review



essay on medicine and colonialism in *Contemporary European History* and wrote a book chapter on the French Red Cross during the Algerian War for an edited collection on human rights and the end of empire (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press). She spent most of the year researching her second book project, tentatively titled “Medicine and Public Health in North Africa: Postcolonial State-building and International Aid, 1956-1975.” She traveled to archives in France, the UK, Geneva, Morocco, Tunisia, and New York. She presented her work and served as a discussant at various conferences and workshops in Florida, Providence, and New York. She looks forward to teaching courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Africa next year.



**Carl Kaestle**, Professor emeritus, published “Federalism and Inequality in Education: What Can History Tell Us?” in Henry Braun and Irwin Kirsch, eds., *The Dynamics of Opportunity in America: Evidence and Perspectives* (Princeton: Educational Testing Service and Springer Open, 2016): 35—96. It is also available for

download on line, no charge, at [www.springer.com/US/book/9783319259895](http://www.springer.com/US/book/9783319259895), scroll down, click on “Read this book on SpringerLink.”

During her second year in the History department, **Jennifer Lambe** offered new courses on popular culture in Latin America and Cuban history. This spring, she co-organized a one-day conference on “Cuban Transitions:



What’s Left Out?” with the goal of nuancing and challenging media representations of diplomatic normalization. She is currently finalizing her book manuscript

on the history of psychiatry in Cuba and working on an edited volume dedicated to “New Histories of the Cuban Revolution.” She has also conducted initial research for new projects on postcolonial confinement and leisure time and spaces in revolutionary Cuba. Together with Brown colleagues and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Representative David Cicilline, she enjoyed watching the historic baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national team during Obama’s visit.

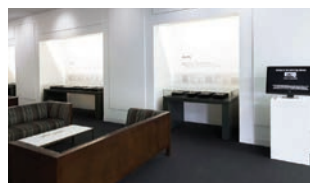
**R. Burr Litchfield** (on right in photo) and his partner Gardner Chace (left) continue to live pleasantly in



Westport MA. In recent years they have had some peripheral relations with the Italian and Portuguese studies programs at nearby University of Massachusetts,

Dartmouth. They travel to Florence Italy yearly and occasionally visit Brown. Litchfield has published on the Internet, and he reviews recent books for history journals. This last year Princeton University Press put out a paperback edition of his 1986 book *Emergence of a Bureaucracy: The Florentine Patricians, 1530-1790* in their Princeton Legacy Library series.

In the Fall **Steve Lubar** taught a course on Brown collections, focusing on the John Hay Library’s stamp collections—the largest collection of stamps at any American university. Students created an exhibition at the Hay that argued for the value of stamps in teaching and wrote a plan to encourage wider use of the little-known collection. He was on leave in the spring, working on a book on the history and future of museums, to be published next year.



Pictures of the exhibit.  
Courtesy of Brown University Library.



**Maud S. Mandel** spent the year carrying out the administrative duties associated with her position as Dean of the College of Brown University, a position she will occupy until 2019. In addition, she gave presentations on her research on Muslim/Jewish relations in France at Boston University, UCLA, Emory, and the University

of Minnesota. In April, she was elected a fellow of the American Association of Jewish Research.



**Rebecca W. S. More** defines her activities this year as “applied History.” The ca. 1814 Mourning Picture painted by her great-great-great-grandmother and rescued last winter is now on display at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston (Gallery 26, Arts of the Americas) as part of an exhibit on “Women’s Domestic Arts in the

Early Republic.” Watercolor on silk, it is a classic example of early nineteenth-century schoolgirl art. In October, the task of getting the archives of Reed & Barton Silversmiths in Taunton MA out of the factory and safely to proper archives proved a major investment of time. As the oldest silver company in private hands (founded in 1824), its archives (company papers and design papers, as well as a vast array of silver pattern moulds, etc.) are of tremendous value to business scholars and artists. The papers will go to the Harvard Business School and RISD Special Collections. She continues to fight to protect the White Mountains region of New Hampshire from the potential degradation by the proposed Northern Pass Transmission (HV electric power) project from Canada to Connecticut. Finally, in the department, she enjoyed working again this spring with Ethan Pollock and the 2016 senior History Honors students to prepare effective presentations of their Honors thesis in early May. In spare moments, she continues to research and 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. No rest for the wicked!

**Rebecca Nedostup** continued to explore the challenging topics of conflict and displacement in a variety of disciplinary and institutional settings, from the Pembroke Center’s “Approaching War” working group, to the steering committee for colleague Beshara Doumani’s forthcoming Sawyer Seminar on displacement, to an SSRC InterAsian

Connections workshop on forced migration. She organized a workshop on finding and theorizing displacement in death for the Chinese Religions Seminar at Harvard’s Fairbank Center, co-organized “Repositioning Taiwan and the Americas,” the inaugural conference of the new Brown Nexus Taiwan project, and, together with Caltech colleague Maura Dykstra, spearheaded a collaborative project on the history of the modern Chinese state. During 2015’s “commemorative summer,” she took part in several conferences and panels in Asia discussing the history and legacy of the second world war and other mid-twentieth-century conflicts; later in the year she presented her research on displacement and community formation to audiences in both the modern Chinese history and Chinese religions fields in the US and Europe. MIT Visualizing Cultures published her digital collaboration with Jeff Wasserstrom on *fin-de-siècle* Shanghai social history as revealed in the *Dianshizhai Illustrated News*. This summer she looks forward to fieldwork in Taiwan with two UTRA-funded students, Michelle Ng and Wing-Sze Ho, before taking up the position of DGS.



**Charles E. Neu** spent more time than he anticipated promoting *Colonel House: A Biography of Woodrow Wilson’s Silent Partner*. He spoke at a book launch at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, organized a round-table review on H-Diplo, and also spoke at a variety of other places, most recently at Brazos

Bookstore in Houston. He made good progress on his next book on Woodrow Wilson and his inner circle of friends and advisers. In June he and Sabina enjoyed a leisurely cruise down the west coast of Mexico and Central America and through the Panama Canal.



**Tara Nummedal** developed two new courses this year: an advanced undergraduate seminar in the fall, “The Enchanted World: Magic, Angels, and Demons in Early Modern Europe,” and a graduate seminar on “The Body” in the spring. She enjoyed two collaborations with RISD this year as well: a short essay for the

RISD museum’s journal, *Manual*, on a sixteenth-century coconut shell owl beaker in the museum’s collection, and another essay on “Gemstones and Philosophers’ Stones” for a collection of essays celebrating *50 Years of RISD*

Glass. Nummedal completed her final term as Director of Graduate Studies this year and is looking forward to a sabbatical in 2016-17 in Berlin, where she plans to complete her book on the alchemist and prophet Anna Zieglerin, “The Lion’s Blood: Alchemy, Gender, and Apocalypse in Reformation Germany.” She will also spend three months as a Visiting Scholar at the Max-Planck-Institute for History of Science pursuing her collaborative project with Donna Bilak (Columbia University) on the German physician Michael Maier’s 1618 musical-alchemical emblem book, *Atalanta fugiens* (see “Project Atalanta,” page 29).

An organization called the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame will induct **James Patterson** Saturday (April 30) as a member. Patterson will be one of ten Rhode Islanders who are chosen each year to become members of this honorary organization. Gordon Wood was inducted in an earlier year.

**Ethan Pollock** is finishing up his second year as Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department. He taught the honors “workshop” and a course on Russia in the Era of Reforms, Revolutions, and World Wars. He continues to make progress on a book on Russian bathhouses, which,



thankfully, appear periodically in the news. (See the image, recently published in the *New York Times* of Bernie Sanders in the Russian bathhouse in Yaroslavl in 1988.) An article he

wrote on Stalin and science appeared this past year in Georgian translation.



**Joan Richards** returned to full-time teaching this fall, and has greatly enjoyed working with Brown students in “Newton,” a course that focused on the rise of Newtonian thinking from the seventeenth into the eighteenth centuries; “Science at the Crossroads,” which focused on the overthrow of Newtonian ideas

with the rise of relativity physics and quantum mechanics at the beginning of the twentieth century; and “Reason, Revolution and Reaction” which focused on the French Revolution. Richards didn’t realize the relationship among these classes until she was in their midst, but teaching them back to back has been an interesting exercise in approaching and conceptualizing ideas of “revolution” in

different times and contexts. In addition to teaching, she has been continuing work on “Generations of Reason,” her book about the Frennd/De Morgan family. The history of science editor at the Chicago University Press has encouraged her to adjust the manuscript to make it accessible to a general audience as a “trade book.” She is at once excited and challenged by the process of revamping what she has been writing so that it is accessible to a larger audience, and hopes to deliver the revised manuscript to the press by the end of this calendar year.

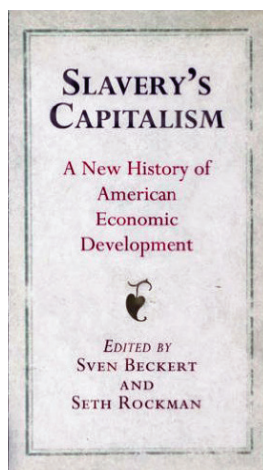
After hiking in the Swiss Alps and visiting Northern Italy over the summer, **Lukas Rieppel** spent 2015/16 on sabbatical with a fellowship at the Charles Warren Center



for American History at Harvard University and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In addition to feverishly working on his book manuscript, he enjoyed finally achieving his lifelong goal of learning

to sail! He also spent a good deal of time getting to know the other historians of capitalism visiting the Warren Center this year. Finally, he wrote an essay about the history of nineteenth-century sea serpents, including one that was repeatedly spotted by several intrepid mariners off of Cape Anne in northern Massachusetts.

**Seth Rockman** began his year by giving the Dale E. Benson Lecture in Business and Economic History at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. His year ended with the keynote talk at “Free and Unfree Labor in Atlantic and Indian Ocean Port Cities, c.1700–1850,” a conference at University of Pittsburgh. In between



there were talks at Wesleyan, Princeton, Harvard, Michigan, and University of Illinois-Chicago. In summer 2016, the University of Pennsylvania Press will publish a co-edited volume, *Slavery’s Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development*. Rockman continued to offer “Capitalism, 1500-Present” as one of our department’s introductory lecture course, and also taught a seminar on class

in early America and a lecture on the politics of antebellum America. Other activities included teaching for Brown’s

Executive MBA program and participating in a campus-wide initiative on Entrepreneurship and Innovation—a topic ripe for some historical perspective. For the upcoming academic year, Rockman will be in residence in Berlin as part of a global labor history research center at the Humboldt University.



**Ken Sacks** spoke on Emerson at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the National Endowment for the Humanities at Loyola of Maryland, and “Emerson and Some Jewish Questions” was published in *A Power to Translate the World: New Essays on Emerson and International Culture*. His co-

edited volume on cultural appropriation in the early Greek Iron Age inches closer to being in production. Among the courses Sacks taught, he had the most fun with a new sophomore seminar, “Walden + Woodstock: the American Lives of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bob Dylan.” It’s been a long-time goal to pair these two, but until he began researching celebrity culture and its effect on political activism for his current book on Emerson, he didn’t have a handle on how to put them in dialogue.



**Robert Self** enjoyed an active academic year of service on campus and beyond. On campus, he co-chaired the faculty search in environmental history, joint with the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES) that produced two new hires: Bathsheba Demuth, a

Russian/U.S. historian of the Arctic, oceans, and human-animal interactions in the Bering Straights, and Brian Lander, a historian of ancient China who studies the environmental history of early Chinese states. Self served on the departmental committee that sponsored the “New Directions” series featuring visiting lectures on the history of U.S. slavery, a series that produced another exciting new hire, Emily Owens, a historian of African Americans, slavery, and gender and sexuality. He continued to serve as chair of the department’s Priorities Planning Committee, which drafted, in conjunction with department chair Cynthia Brokaw, two major documents this academic year: the department self study, a comprehensive internal review in advance of an external review of the department conducted in April, and the department’s diversity and inclusion action plan. Additionally, Self served on the board of the Cogut Center for the Humanities, served

on the search committee for a new Dean of the Graduate School, and sponsored a spring-semester lecture series in conjunction with his course, “The Intimate State” (see “The Intimate State,” p. 31). Beyond campus, Self was co-chair of the program committee for the 2017 Organization of American Historians (OAH) annual conference, scheduled for April in New Orleans.

In between these bureaucratic stints, Self received, along with a colleague from Harvard, Nancy Cott, a Radcliffe Institute Exploratory Seminar grant. This will allow Self and Cott to launch a two-workshop sequence (the first at Harvard in 2016 the second at Brown in 2017) with the aim of producing an anthology of essays about the role of state power in the regulation of private life in the U.S. since Reconstruction. Self also published two short essays, one on right-wing dissatisfaction with Ronald Reagan’s presidency in a volume entitled *Recapturing the Oval Office* (Cornell, 2015) and a second on the long 1960s for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*. Finally, in the spring and early summer he began, along with fellow historians Rebecca Edwards and Eric Hinderaker, drafting a revised edition of his co-authored college and high school AP textbook, *America’s History*, published by Bedford/St. Martin’s.

During her sabbatical semester in the fall, **Naoko Shibusawa** worked on her book, but also collaborated with her colleagues in Ethnic Studies to draft the “5% Percent Plan.” A collective response to the provost’s plan for diversity and inclusion, the 5% plan was largely incorporated into the final draft of the Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. She found it particularly gratifying that the upper administration has been made aware of the hidden labors of faculty of color—particularly junior, female, faculty of color—who are disproportionately



called upon by students of color for emotional support and counseling on a range of concerns. Also, in response to distress expressed by students at the Asian American Pacific Islander community

dinner in the fall, she decided to create—with the consultation and help of two History advisees—a new First-Year Seminar for fall 2016, “Asian Americans and Third World Solidarity.” In addition to her regular course load and service commitments during the spring semester, she sponsored one Group Independent Study Project (GISP) with readings on the political economy and was

the lead faculty sponsor of another GISP with a group of graduating student-of-color activists who produced a draft of a syllabus of a potential foundational course on intersectionality and inequality to be co-taught, ideally, by faculty in American Studies and Africana Studies. Shibusawa also served as a committee member for Bancroft Book Prize Award for the “Best Book in U.S. and Diplomatic History” and chaired the committee for the Myrna Bernath Book Prize Award given by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

**Kerry Smith** continues work on a book about earthquakes, science, and the risk in modern Japan. As part of that effort he will be spending portions of the next two summers in Germany as a visiting fellow with the joint research project on “Accounting for Uncertainty: Prediction and Planning in Asia’s History,” which is overseen by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and the International

**THE DAWN OF THE ATOMIC AGE**  
1945-2015

**OCTOBER 8, 6:00 PM**  
Olson and Henry Wilson Center

**MARTIN SIEGHEIN**  
George Mason University

**WEDNESDAY**  
What Do We Know About the Status of Nuclear Power in the Post-Chernobyl Atomic World History?

**OCTOBER 21, 6:30 PM**  
Olson and Henry Wilson Center

**KATE BROWN**  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**FRIDAY**  
Nuclear Energy, Atomic Cities, and the Cold War: American Nuclear Nationalism

**FEBRUARY 11, 6:00 PM**  
Johannsen Pavilion, Wilson Institute

**DAVID HOLLOWAY**  
Baltimore Museum of Art

**"ON A NUCLEAR SCALE"**  
From the Nuclear Age

**MARCH 16, 6:00 PM**  
Johannsen Pavilion, Wilson Institute

**MAX PROFFENBERG**  
Penn State University

**GLOBAL HISTORIES**  
The Struggle for Nuclear Energy in the Nuclear Age

**Public Lecture Series**

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the Bruce M. Bigelow Lectureship, the History Department, the C. Y. Siert Foundation, the Deane of the College, East Asian Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Ethnic Studies, International Relations, and the Frederick Public Policy Center.

Contact: [Ethnic\\_Public@brown.edu](mailto:Ethnic_Public@brown.edu) or [401.253.2000#ext2000](mailto:401.253.2000#ext2000)

Consortium for Research in the Humanities at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. On the teaching front, he and Ethan Pollock have been awarded a development grant by the Stanton Foundation in support of History 0276, “A Global History of the Atomic Age,” a new course they will team-teach this fall. Pollock

and Smith also brought a series of speakers to Brown over the past year to discuss the origins and legacies of the nuclear age. (See “The Dawn of the Atomic Age,” page 34.)



At the Organization of American Historians convention in Providence in April, **Luther Spoehr** chaired a session called “Mr. Chips, Ph.D.: The History Doctorate in Secondary Education.” His article on “Making Brown University’s ‘New Curriculum’ in 1969: The Importance of Context and

Contingency” is scheduled to appear in *Rhode Island History’s* Summer/Fall issue. And he has now published over 70 reviews as a book reviewer for History News Network.

**Tracy Steffes** continues to work on two book projects. The first, “Shifting Fortunes: City Schools and Suburban Schools in Metropolitan Chicago, 1945-2000,” examines state and local education, taxation, and development



policies that structured educational inequalities across the metropolitan area. The other project is a collaboration with philosopher

Ken Howe on the history and philosophy of 20th-century school assessment and accountability policies. She had essays appear in two edited collections, one on compulsory attendance policies as state-building in *Boundaries of the State* and the other a reflection on undergraduate history education goals and assessment in *Improving Quality in American Higher Education*. The latter was part of the Measuring College Learning project sponsored by the Social Science Research Council.



It has been another busy year for **Adam Teller**. His book, *Money, Power, and Influence in Eighteenth Century Lithuania: The Jews on the Radziwiłł Estates*, has finally gone into production at Stanford University Press. The proofs await him. Teller also managed to write a third of his new book on the Polish-Jewish refugee crisis of the

seventeenth century, which is under contract to Princeton University Press; that section dealt with the refugees who remained in Eastern Europe. A book he co-edited, *Purchasing Power: The Economics of Modern Jewish History*, was published by Pennsylvania University Press. Teller co-wrote the introduction, a historiographical essay on the development of Jewish economic history. He also had one article dealing with perceptions of Bohdan Khmelnytsky in seventeenth century Jewish history writing published; it appeared in a collection of essays dealing with the various images of the Ukrainian hero, reviled by Jews and Poles as a mass-murderer. Teller presented his research in a number of different conferences and seminars held at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University, both in Israel; The Simon Dubnow Institute at the University of Leipzig and the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz, both in Germany; as well as at the University of Toronto in Canada. Closer to home, he continued as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Program

in Judaic Studies and ran the Medieval and Early Modern Historical Seminar. He was also delighted to invite his colleague and friend, Elisheva Carlebach, to deliver this year's Church lecture. She spoke on Jewish books of time in early modern Europe. His plans for the immediate future: In July, we will be hosting the early modern Hebrew palaeographic workshop of the annual Summer School in Ashkenazi Pinkassim here at Brown. Teller will be holding classes with students from the USA, Europe, and Israel, helping them read in manuscript the seventeenth century communal record books of Poznań, a Jewish community in Poland. He loves reading those materials in the original.



**Germán Vergara** thoroughly enjoyed his first year as a postdoctoral fellow in environmental history at Brown. In the fall, he taught a course on the global history of energy and, in the spring, he offered a course to undergraduate and graduate students on the global history of extinctions. At Brown, he participated in a weekly seminar at the Cogut Center

for the humanities and presented his research at talks and workshops. Off-campus, he gave talks on his work, including one on Mexican conservationists at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego. In the meantime, he continued to work on his book manuscript on the environmental and energy history of Mexico City in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as on two articles on that research and one entry on animals and extinctions in Latin American history for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*. He is now looking forward to a summer of research in Mexico.

**Michael Vorenberg** continued working on his book about the end of the U.S. Civil War and presented work on that topic at a number of venues, including a public forum at Gettysburg, a workshop at the University of California, Berkeley, and a conference in beautiful Banff, Canada (see photo). He again taught a first-year seminar on Abraham Lincoln in history



and culture, and two of the student projects in that class won the university's library prize for undergraduate research. In addition, he taught a new course on the

history of U.S. and international law. With colleagues Faiz Ahmed and Rebecca Nedostup, he helped launch the Brown Legal History Workshop, which had a number of meetings during the fall and spring.



**Gordon Wood** led several seminars for schoolteachers and college professors and presented several lectures at colleges, the New York Historical Society, and Colonial Williamsburg. He is a member of the Scholarly Council of the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress and the Board of the new American Revolution Museum in Philadelphia;

and served on the editorial boards of several Founding Fathers projects. He completed *John Adams: Writings from the New Nation, 1784-1826*, the final volume of his edition of the writings of John Adams, and two volumes of *The American Revolution: Writings from the Pamphlet Debate, 1764-1776* (including thirty-nine pamphlets), all published by the Library of America.

Some notes on another year filled to the brim: **Vazira Zamindar** transformed her seminar on displacement and violence into a new introductory level lecture course entitled "Refugees: A Twentieth Century History," only to find the newspapers agitated with "the refugee crisis." It gave teaching an unexpected sense of urgency that was both exciting as well as deeply challenging. As director of South Asian Studies and faculty fellow at the Watson, she was busy organizing and supporting a lot of programming on South Asia, but her personal highlight was the second Brown Harvard Pakistani Film Festival "Love, War and Other Longings," which she hopes will lead to a book about a subaltern cinema in the making. In terms of speaking engagements, Zamindar presented at "Political Concepts at Brown" and "What is a Refugee Crisis?" conferences at Brown, participated in the Kolkatta and Jaipur Literary Festivals, and gave talks for the Aesthetics Project in New Delhi, at T2F in Karachi, and at Princeton University. She also presented the keynote address for a conference on Borders and Mobility at the University of Hawaii. Zamindar is looking forward to a quiet summer of writing, and seeing how tall her boys get in the sun.



# Undergraduate Program



It gives me great pleasure to report on the department's undergraduate program. As part of our department-wide "self-study" this year we thoroughly reviewed the curriculum and the concentration. The process made clear that we serve

two different undergraduate constituencies in our courses. There are, of course, history concentrators. But there are also non-concentrators who determine that some exposure to historical thinking constitutes a desirable component of their education. Of the approximately 80 concentrations at Brown, over 30 count at least one of our courses toward their requirements. We taught over 2500 students in our courses this year. Many were concentrators and many more were not.

This outreach to students in other concentrations makes the history department integral to the university as a whole. This integration helps explain why even as the number of history concentrators has remained more or less constant over the past 5 years our enrollments have gone up. Simply put, we are offering more classes that appeal to a broader spectrum of Brown students. Two types of classes deserve special attention: our First-Year Seminars and our new "History 150s." We teach as many as 10 First-Year Seminars a year (on topics ranging from Lincoln to Shanghai), meaning that roughly 10% of each entering class takes a seminar in their first year with one of our faculty members. Whether they become concentrators or not, these students often go

on to take more History courses. "History 150s" are lecture courses designed to cover broad themes that cut across time and space in ways that traditional history courses rarely have. After only a few years, our "150s" on "Capitalism" "Refugees" and "Prison and Captivity" are three of our largest courses. These classes both pull students into the concentration and provide an introduction to other students about why our discipline is essential to understanding thorny topics that dominate the news and our lives.

The payoff for all this teaching often comes in the form of senior theses, which display back to the faculty all that our students have learned how to do while here. This year's students wrote theses on Queen Elizabeth's sartorial politics, Yale University's Division of Mental Hygiene, prostitution in fin-de-siecle St. Petersburg, striking Rhode Island textile workers, Irish female rebels, gender and sexuality in Alcoholics Anonymous, anti-trust legislation and baseball, Civil Rights in Chicago, Mexican immigrants in the 1930s, the Vietnamese community in San Jose, technologies of time in the 19th century, rent strikers in St. Louis, and Italian soldiers in Ethiopia. In each case, students displayed their capacity to conduct extensive research, analyze a tremendous amount of data, and organize their ideas into compelling arguments. When future concentrators head to the Hay Library to see what sorts of theses history students have written, 2016 will be considered a bumper crop. I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that our students' efforts and accomplishments make it pleasure and an honor to be a Brown history teacher.

*Ethan Pollock*



## Honors Recipients

Sarah A. Bochicchio, *Dressing Good Queen Bess: Queen Elizabeth I, Sartorial Manipulation, and Foreign Policy*  
Advisor: Tim Harris

Katherine E. Boorstein, *Higher Learning, Institutionalized: The Yale University Division of Mental Hygiene, 1926-1949*  
Advisor: Jennifer Lambe

Athena C. Bryan, "Our Great Shame": *Concepts of Prostitution, Poverty, and the Public in the Working-Class Press of Late Imperial St. Petersburg*  
Advisor: Ethan Pollock

Edward L. Clifford, *Labors of the State: Immigrants, Industrialists, and the National Guard in the 1922 Rhode Island Textile Strike and its Consequences*  
Advisor: Michael Vorenberg

Emily A. Dupuis, *1641: The Women's Rebellion*  
Advisor: Tim Harris

Meredith K. Heckman, *Pathology and the Possibility of Inclusion: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Alcoholics Anonymous, 1944-1982*  
Advisor: Jennifer Lambe

Michelle K. Johnson, "Who Speaks for Chicago?" *Civil Rights, Community Organization and Coalition, 1910-1971*  
Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

Caleb M. Miller, *A Whole New Ballgame: How a Capitalist, a Judge, and a Political Boss Protected the National Pastime early in the 20th Century*  
Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Jonatan Pérez, *Mexican Threat: Immigration Quotas and the Racialization of Mexicans in 1930*  
Advisor: Monica M. Martínez

Danielle L. Phan, *Exchanging, Entertaining, and Eating: Participatory Transnationalism in Vietnamese San Jose*  
Advisor: Robert G. Lee

Richard J. Salame, *Keeping Time: Techno-politics and Technologies of Time in the 19th Century US Economy*  
Advisor: Seth Rockman

Jordan M. Schulz, *We Don't Intend to Keep Paying for What We Haven't Been Getting*  
Advisor: Tracy Steffes

Ian M. Shank, *Visions of Empire: Italian Soldiers' Perspectives on the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-1936)*  
Advisors: David Kertzer and Caroline Castiglione





# Award Recipients

**The Samuel C. Lamport Prize in International Understanding** best paper on international understanding, with emphasis on cooperation and tolerance.

**Ian Shank**

*Visions of Empire: Italian Soldiers' Perspectives on the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-1936)*

Advisors: David Kertzer and Caroline Castiglione

**The Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Award** for best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course.

**Meredith Heckman**

*Pathology and the Possibility of Inclusion: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Alcoholics Anonymous, 1944-1982*

**Kerrick Edwards**

*One World or None: The Atomic Bomb and World Government Dreams.*

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

**Katherine Boorstein**

**Pell Medal Award** for excellence in United States history.

**Michelle Johnson**

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

**Athena Bryan**

*"Our Great Shame": Concepts of Prostitution, Poverty, and the Public in the Working-Class Press of Late Imperial St. Petersburg*

Advisor: Ethan Pollock

**Caleb Miller**

*A Whole New Ballgame: How a Capitalist, a Judge, and a Political Boss Protected the National Pastime early in the 20th Century*

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

**Danielle L. Phan**

*Exchanging, Entertaining, and Eating: Participatory Transnationalism in Vietnamese San Jose*

Advisor: Robert G. Lee

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

**Richard Salame**

*Keeping Time: Techno-politics and Technologies of Time in the 19th Century US Economy*

Advisor: Seth Rockman

**The David Herlihy Prize** for best student in Medieval or Renaissance, or Ancient History.

**Sarah Bochicchio**

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

**Jonatan Pérez**

*Mexican Threat: Immigration Quotas and the Racialization of Mexicans in 1930*

Advisor: Monica M. Martínez

## Brown University Distinguished Thesis Prize

**Richard Salame**

*Keeping Time: Techno-politics and Technologies of Time in the 19th Century US Economy*

Advisor: Seth Rockman



## Graduate Program

As I conclude my term as Director of Graduate Studies this spring, it is a pleasure to reflect on our MA and PhD programs. Both programs enrolled slightly larger cohorts than usual this year, with 10 new PhD students and 7 MA students beginning this fall. The interests of this latest cohort reflect newer strengths in our department, including the Atlantic world, Jewish history, Ottoman Empire, South Asia, and Brazil, as well as our longstanding strengths in the history of the US and Europe. Our more advanced students, meanwhile, have been very successful in taking advantage of new funding opportunities at Brown, securing fellowships at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in the Americas (CSREA), Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ), Cogut Center for the Humanities, and the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, as well as the opportunity to teach at nearby Wheaton College via the Brown/Wheaton Faculty Fellows Program.

The History Department as a whole has spent a great deal of time this year discussing how best to take up the University's [Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan](#). Our graduate programs have been a central focus of these efforts and I am grateful to all of the students who have shared their experiences and ideas with us in the past few months. We are committed to recruiting diverse MA and PhD cohorts, and to supporting all students once they are here by creating an inclusive environment in the program, and I hope that we have developed some good ideas, large and small, that can help us realize these goals.

One additional issue that has increasingly drawn our attention, and will undoubtedly continue to do so, is how to incorporate career diversity into our PhD program. For many years, the unstated assumption of many History PhD programs has been that newly minted PhDs will obtain tenure-track jobs teaching at colleges and universities. Increasingly, however, the profession is reckoning not only with the fact that this model is unsustainable, given the challenges of the academic job market, but also that faculty positions may not be desirable for all of our students. Our PhDs often seek out jobs in academic administration,



Front row: Patrick Chung, Rachel Knecht, Marley-Vincent Lindsey, Heather Sanford, Xingjian Yan, Yu Chi Chang.

Second row: Julia Gettle, Ann Daly, Benjamin Holtzman, Charles Carroll, William Johnson, Simeon Simeonov.

Third row: Sam Caldis, James Wang, Leslie-William T. Robinson, Harry Merritt, Suvaidd Yaseen.

for example, or public history, secondary education, or consulting, not as a “plan B” when they fail on the academic job market, but as a first choice. We applaud these various career outcomes, and I look forward to a vigorous discussion in the coming years as we grapple with the best way to prepare our students for a broad range of careers suitable for History PhDs both within and beyond academia. Our MA students, of course, often arrive with a range of career goals, hoping to find jobs in secondary education or administration, public history or policy; occasionally they seek additional training in PhD programs in History as well.

As I prepare to hand over the reins to the next Director of Graduate Studies, Rebecca Nedostup, let me close by saying how much I have enjoyed working closely with our graduate students during my term as DGS. They inspire us all with their dedication and creativity, and it is always a pleasure to see our students take off in their years with us at Brown.

*Tara Nummedal*



## Master of Arts, 2015-2016

Thamyris F. Almeida

Sam L. Caldis

Sherri V. Cummings

Julia C. Gettle

Leland R. Grigoli

Remy M. Hassett

Jacob R. Hertz

William S. Johnson

Mayer Juni

Marley-Vincent Lindsey

Charles E. Lockwood

Diego J. Luis

Harry P. MacDougald

Joseph S. Reich

Matthew F. Rosenblatt

Simeon A. Simeonov

James Q. Wang

Xingjian Yan

Suvaïd Yaseen



# Doctor of Philosophy, 2015-2016

**Bryan C. Brinkman**

*Popular Collective Speech and the Communication of Ideology: Acclamation in the Roman Empire*

Director: John Bodel

**Zachary P. Dorner**

*Manufacturing Pharmaceuticals, Credit, and Empire in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic*

Director: Tim Harris

**Rachel Gostenhofer**

*The Pursuit of Priority in Enlightenment Paris*

Director: Tara Nummedal

**Benjamin Holtzman**

*Crisis and Confidence: Reimagining New York City in the Late Twentieth Century*

Director: Robert Self

**Joseph J. Kurz**

*The Barcid Empire? An Economic, Social, and Political Study of Imperial Interactions between Carthaginians and Locals in Southern Iberia*

Director: John Bodel

**Adam J. Sacks**

*Healing and Harmony from War to Genocide: The Doctors Chorus of Berlin, 1913-1938*

Director: Michael Steinberg

**William P. Tatum III**

*"For the Good of the King's Service:" The British Legal-Military State, 1715-1782*

Director: Tim Harris

**Jennifer C. Wells**

*Prelude to Empire: State Building in the British Archipelago and its Global Repercussions, 1620-1688*

Director: Tim Harris




Keeping Up . . .

# Project Atalanta

by Tara Nummedal

On Feb. 5-7, 2016, Tara Nummedal, Donna Bilak (Columbia University) and Evelyn Lincoln (History of Art and Architecture/Italian Studies, Brown) convened the Atalanta Workshop at Brown, a meeting to explore the possibilities for digital scholarship in connection with the extraordinary 1618 multimedia emblem book, Michael Maier's *Atalanta fugiens*, or "Atalanta fleeing." Nummedal and Bilak are developing a digital publication that will integrate an edition of *Atalanta fugiens* with a set of scholarly essays on the book, its contexts, and its afterlives. Their project was chosen recently as one of two pilot projects for Brown's Mellon-funded digital publishing initiative.






**SONGS FROM HESPERIDES**  
 Michael Maier's 1618 Musical Alchemical Emblem Book *Atalanta fugiens*  
 Friday, February 5, 2016, 5:30pm  
 Annmary Brown Memorial • Brown University • 21 Brown Street, Providence, RI

**LES CANARDS CHANTANTS**  
 solo voice ensemble  
 Robin and Graham Bier,  
 directors

**DONNA BILAK**  
 Columbia University

A Performance Lecture  
 exploring the sound and  
 structure of Maier's  
 seventeenth-century canons as  
 encoded instructions for  
 making the philosophers'  
 stone.

This event was made possible  
 by the generous support of the  
 Humanities Teaching and  
 Research Fund, Renaissance  
 and Early Modern Studies, the  
 University Library, the History  
 Department, and Science and  
 Technology Studies.



Maier's book offers its readers an alchemical interpretation of the Classical myth of Atalanta as a series of fifty emblems, each containing a motto, a copper plate engraving, an epigram (in German and Latin), an accompanying fugue (or canon) for three voices, and a discourse explicating the emblem's alchemical meaning. The parts of each emblem and the 214-page quarto book as a whole are meant to work together, with the music, image, and text as an interlocking guide to alchemical theory and to the production of the philosophers' stone. *Atalanta fugiens* was meant not only to link sound, sight, and intellect, but also to spark discussion and laboratory practice, making it an intriguing point of entry into an examination of the place of reading and writing – and their relationship to other bodily ways of knowing – in the production of early modern knowledge.

The workshop events began with a public performance/lecture in the Annmary Brown Memorial, "Songs from Hesperides: Michael Maier's 1618 Musical Alchemical Emblem Book, *Atalanta fugiens*" featuring Donna Bilak and the vocal ensemble *Les Canards Chantants*); and continued over the weekend in the Hay Library (which houses a copy of the book) and the Digital Scholarship Lab in the Rockefeller Library. The workshop brought together about 40 historians, literary scholars, musicologists and performers, librarians, scientists, rare books and museum curators, and digital humanists from Brown and elsewhere, as well as local graduate and undergraduate students.

The Atalanta Workshop at Brown builds on a workshop organized by Donna Bilak at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in March 2015 – the subject of this [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) article (16 March 2015), "Delving into a 400-year old puzzle book, through song" by Jason Laughlin. The Brown workshop was made possible by the generous support of the Brown University Humanities Initiative Research and Teaching Fund, History Department, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, the University Library, and the Program in Science and Technology Studies.

# The Intimate State

by Robert Self

In the spring semester, Robert Self, holder of the Mary Anne Lippitt Professorship in American History, with assistance from the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, sponsored a three-part entitled “The Intimate State: Race, Gender, and State Power in the Twentieth-century United States.” The lecture series ran in parallel with a course Professor Self taught this semester, entitled “The Intimate State: The Politics of Gender, Sex, and Family in the U.S., 1873-Present.”

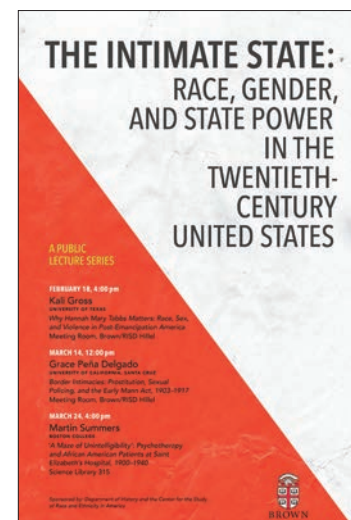
This course and lecture series are part of a multi-year project Professor Self is directing, with Nancy Cott, the Jonathan Trumbull Professor of American History at Harvard, that will ultimately involve nearly two-dozen scholars of U.S. history from universities across the United States. With conferences planned at Harvard this summer and at Brown in 2017, Professors Self and Cott expect to produce an anthology of historical essays covering the period from Reconstruction to the present.

The idea is to mobilize historical scholarship on gender, sexuality, and race produced in the last three decades to rethink how U.S. historians theorize the state. Historical scholarship on this period of U.S. history on gender and sexuality, understood intersectionally, has advanced our understanding of state power. But two things have also become obvious. For complex reasons, that scholarship has rarely endeavored to make broadly theoretical claims about the state, as an abstraction. Certainly some scholarship has, but on balance theorizing state power has not been the central aim of this scholarship. Conversely, historical scholarship that does theorize the state tends to, on balance, proceed without foregrounding intersectional understandings of gender and sexuality—looking rather at imperialism, economic regulation, taxation, warfare, and other arenas as the primary domain of state building.

Thus the larger aim of this multi-year project is precisely to ask how understandings of the modern state do or do not shift if an intersectional history of gender, sexuality, and race is foregrounded.

Each of the three speakers who visited campus is someone whose ongoing research and work in the profession embraces just this conjuncture. Each gave a public lecture and spoke to Professor Self’s class. Kali Gross from the University of Texas at Austin delivered a lecture entitled, “Why Hannah Marty Tabbs Matters: Race, Sex, and Violence in Post-Emancipation America”; Grace Peña Delgado from the University of California, Santa Cruz delivered spoke on “Border Intimacies: Prostitution, Sexual Policing, and the Early Mann Act, 1903-1917”; and Martin Summers of Boston College delivered a lecture entitled “‘A Maze of Unintelligibility’: Psychotherapy and African American Patients at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, 1900-1940.”

Turnout was strong, among undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty, and we look forward to further updates on this project.




# “LISTENING TO SILENCE”: Sounding the Experiences of Rural Women and Children in Late Antiquity

*by Jonathan Conant*





The lived experiences of the women and children who inhabited the ancient Mediterranean countryside are all too often frustratingly inaccessible to us. The classical historical and literary sources that talk about rural life typically do so from an elite urban perspective, and on the rare occasions when we hear the voices of rustics themselves, they are almost invariably those of adult men. The voices of rural women and children—who will have constituted the majority population, not just of the countryside, but of the ancient world as a whole—are strikingly silent. Yet for students of the ancient past, as well as of the deep history of gender, childhood, and agrarian life more generally, understanding these crucial segments of the population is a clear priority. In recent decades, the development of new techniques for studying the human past has opened up fresh possibilities for approaching this silent populace. Above all, the increasing sophistication of stable isotope analysis has exponentially increased what bio-archaeologists can learn from the bones of the rural poor with respect to questions of nutrition, diet, and life history. At the same time, scholars have begun to explore new theoretical models for understanding peasants' own aspirations, the social and environmental constraints within which they operated, and how they sought to mitigate and manage risk. On May 6–7, 2016, Brown therefore hosted a small conference, organized by Jonathan Conant (Department of History) and generously co-sponsored by eleven different offices, institutes, centers, departments, and programs across the university, to consider the social roles and contributions of rural women and children in late antiquity (ca. 200–700 CE) from the perspectives of archaeology, classics, history, and religious studies. Drawing on archaeological, artistic, osteological, and textual evidence from Christian and Jewish communities in Syria, Britain, Italy, and North Africa, a group of international scholars examined such questions as the vulnerability of rural women; their management of risk and responses to disaster; the ritual complexity of infant burial in the post-Roman West; the public roles of women in Christian religious communities in the Roman–Persian borderlands; the part that visual images of children played in the maintenance and transmission of Jewish identity in the same region; and the geographical mobility of rural women and children and their critical role in forming alliances and creating connected communities.



ROBIN FLEMING  
HAGITH SIVAN  
CAM GREY  
KATIE HEMER  
SUSAN HARVEY  
JONATHAN CONANT

**LISTENING TO SILENCE**  
SOUNDING THE EXPERIENCES OF RURAL  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN LATE ANTIQUITY

**Interdisciplinary Conference**  
The lived experiences of the women and children of the late ancient countryside are all too often frustratingly inaccessible. Drawing on archaeological, artistic, osteological, and textual evidence from Christian and Jewish communities in Syria, Britain, Italy, and North Africa, this conference will examine the geographical mobility of rural populations; children's role in maintaining and transmitting identities; the public roles of women in religious communities; how rural women responded to disaster; and the ritual complexity of infant burial.

RHODE ISLAND  
HALL 108  
Brown University  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
MAY 6 – 7, 2016  
Friday 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

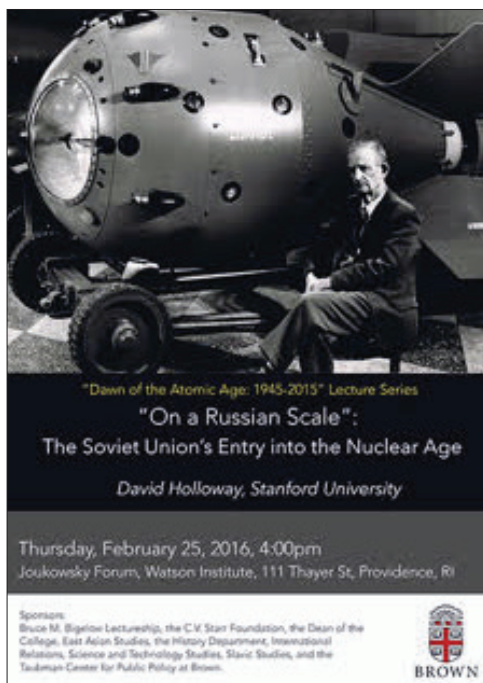
This conference is generously supported by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the Office of the Dean of the College, the Souleway Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, the Cogut Center for the Humanities, the Department of History, the Program in Judaic Studies, Middle East Studies, the Program in Early Cultures, the Fendler Center for Teaching and Research on Women, the Department of Religious Studies, and the Program in Medieval Studies.

NEEKE EAST  
STUDIES  
BROWN

Image on page 32: 5th-c. mosaic of a woman from the Great Palace in Constantinople (now Istanbul).

# The 70th Anniversary of the DAWN OF THE ATOMIC AGE LECTURE SERIES

by Kerry Smith and Ethan Pollock



This lecture series, organized by Ethan Pollock and Kerry Smith and generously supported by the Department, was designed both to launch a year-long discussion on campus focused on the origins and legacies of the atomic age, to shape a new course that Pollock and Smith will team-teach this coming fall semester. Four speakers were invited, two each in the fall and spring, and asked to discuss their own work on the histories of the atomic age and to reflect on how our understandings of the events that marked its beginnings have changed over time. All the speakers were historians, but the nature of their topics and expertise was such that they drew an audience of diverse interests, ranging from international relations to environmental science, from physics to public history, to each of their talks. Martin Sherwin, who along with his co-author Kai Bird won a Pulitzer Prize in 2006 for *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, launched the series by asking “Hiroshima: What Do We Know After Seventy Years of Debate About the Most Important Event in World History?” Our second speaker, Kate Brown (University of Maryland, Baltimore County), addressed the environmental and social impacts of the nuclear industry in the United States and in the former USSR, through the lens of her most recent work, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters*. In the spring, David Holloway (Stanford), one of the pioneers of scholarship on the nuclear age

in the USSR, provided us with an overview of the state of that field in “On a Russian Scale: The Soviet Union's Entry into the Nuclear Age.” The final speaker in the series, Ran Zwigenberg (Penn State), drew on from his own recent work on the legacies of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in his discussion of “Global Hibakusha: The Entangled Histories of Victimhood in the Nuclear Age.”

Pollock and Smith's new team-taught course, “A Global History of the Atomic Age” (HIST 0276), is being developed with the support of a grant from the Stanton Foundation, and will be offered for the first time this fall.



# In Memoriam

## Abbot (Tom) Gleason

Abbott (Tom) Gleason died on December 25, 2015. With his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard, Tom came to Brown as an assistant professor in 1968 and retired in 2005 as Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Kenney Professor of History and Professor of Slavic Language and Literature. A Renaissance individual in a modern world, Tom Gleason was a model colleague at an institution that identifies as a university-college.

Tom wrote prolifically and with purpose. He authored two seminal academic studies: *Young Russia: The Genesis of Russian Radicalism in the 1860s*, a work on the intellectual currents of Nineteenth Century Russia, informed not only by a profound understanding of the European tradition but as well by twentieth century radical thought, and *Totalitarianism: The Inner History of the Cold War*—a book that provoked much discussion about totalitarian systems of the twentieth century. Tom also co-edited three volumes that demonstrate his broad range: *Bolshevik Culture: Experiment and Order in the Russian Revolution*; *Shared Destiny: Soviet-American Relations from Roosevelt to Reagan*; and *Nikita Khrushchev: Fresh Perspectives on the Last Communist*. Tom published more than fifty articles, extensive notes, and newspaper contributions, and frequently expressed in them deeply held personal feelings.

In its obituary, *The Washington Post* noted that:

Dr. Gleason participated in the civil rights movement and taught at Tougaloo College, a historically black institution in Mississippi, during the 1960s. Later, his work as a historian was distinguished by a “strong moral perspective,” Blair A. Ruble, vice president for programs at the Wilson Center and a former director of the Kennan Institute, said in an interview. “What Tom took from the civil rights movement is that politics is about morality and moral philosophy, not just about power.”

Social activism and political engagement were at the core of Tom’s being, and he gave generously of his time and leadership abilities to numerous local organizations. Tom’s service to the academy was equally estimable. At Brown, he was Chair of the Department of History, Director of the Watson Institute, and annually on more departmental and campus committees than most anyone else. Externally, among the many examples of conspicuous academic service, he was Director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

About teaching, Tom wrote in his autobiography:

I was certainly onto something long ago when I signed on to the academy. I needed an education, and I got it by learning how to help educate others. I needed to discover how many ways there are of being intelligent, how many ways of being open to the world. I learned that it is better to teach your students how to show what they can do than to demonstrate to them what you can do. I learned how deeply and intricately success and failure are related to each other and not the polar opposites I had assumed they were when I was young.

A legendary lecturer in Russian and Soviet history, Tom welcomed and encouraged students of all interests. In his last years at Brown, for example, he supervised an honors thesis on the American folk anthologist Harry Smith, another on the Czech resistance rock band Plastic People of the Universe, and another on Leonard Bernstein’s Young People’s Concerts. He was later intrigued by Hip Hop, but Classical and especially Jazz were his musical passions and he had an extraordinary depth of knowledge about both.

While still a student, Tom put on major art exhibitions, and he continued to paint and exhibit his work even while increasingly challenged by Parkinson's disease. Tom bore that burden with great nobility and candor. His final work, the autobiographical *A Liberal Education*, is a highly praised account of the life of the mind, heart, and body. To the end, the mind and heart remained strong even as the body became increasingly unwilling.

Self-deprecating and possessing a deeply ironic sense of humor, Tom was profoundly kind and generous. Once committed to a colleague, he would offer help far beyond what any of us had a right to expect. But even Tom's patience had its limits. Whenever a department meeting ran on too long, he would announce that he was now going to walk home and enjoy a drink with his wife, thus reminding us of the important things in life. In Tom Gleason, Brown had a scholar, teacher, and colleague of world renown, of broad interests, and of intimate, humane caring.

Tom Gleason is survived by his beloved wife Sarah, their two children, and four grandchildren.

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