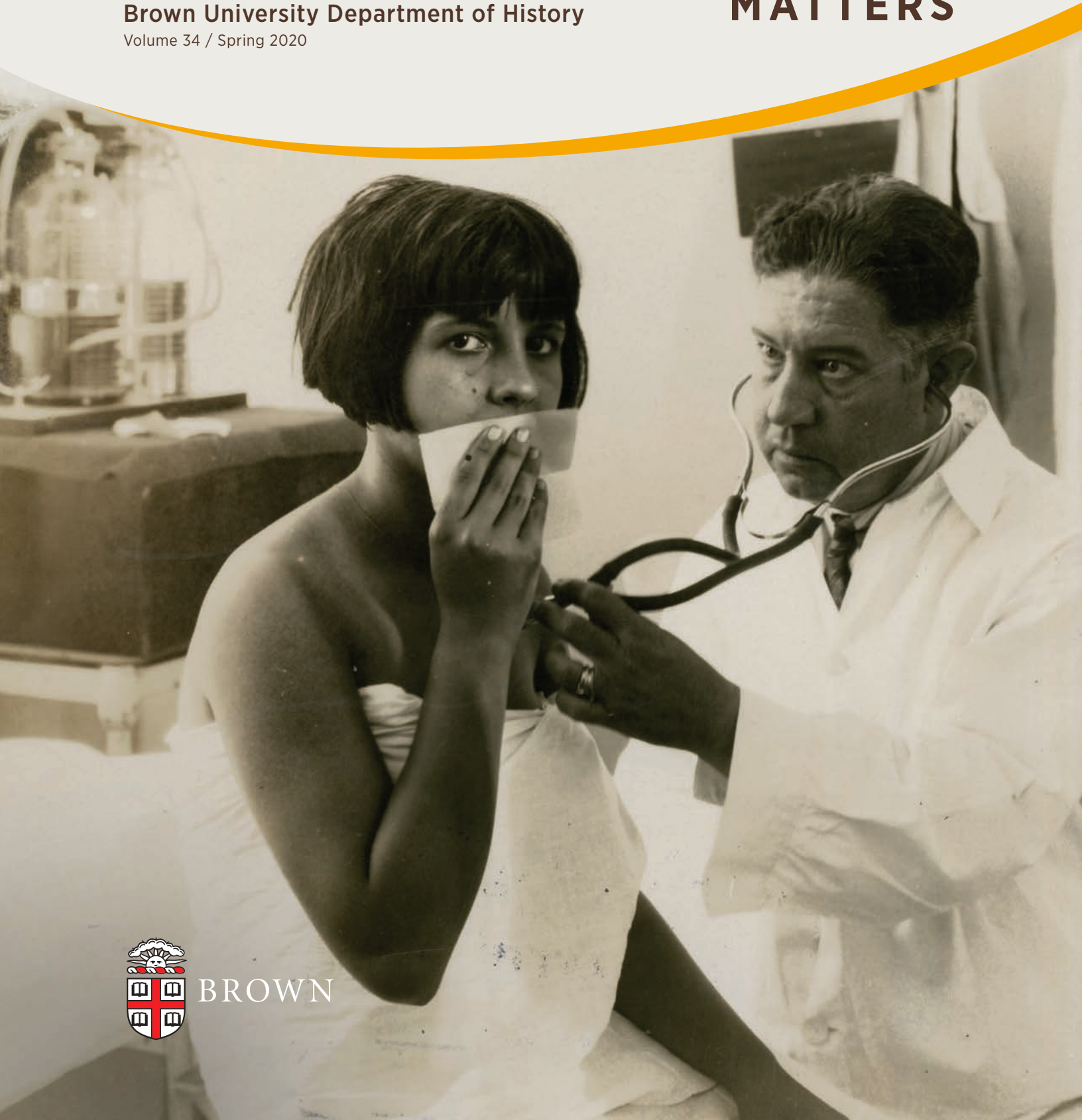



HISTORY

MATTERS

Brown University Department of History
Volume 34 / Spring 2020



BROWN



A view of the new addition to Sharpe House and the corridor connecting Sharpe and Peter Green House at the ground level. With a graduate work space and lounge on the ground floor, a 40-seat classroom on the first floor, and three faculty offices on the second floor, the new addition is a major feature of the relocation and renovation of Sharpe. See the "Exploration" section inside for more photos of the new History building.

History Matters

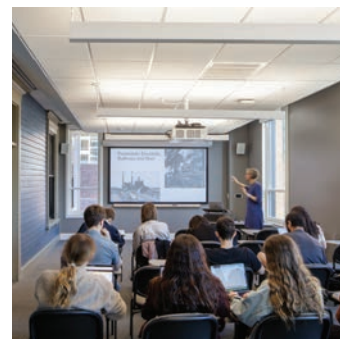
Brown University Department of History / Volume 34 / Spring 2020

10

Table of Contents

A Word from the Chair.....	2
Cover Image	3
Recent Faculty Books.....	4
Exploration	
Epidemics and Personal and Political Bodies.....	6
Public Health After Empire: Lessons in Innovative Global Partnerships	7
Stay Well: Young Writers on COVID-19 in South Africa	9
Sharpe and Peter Green Houses Reborn.....	10
New Faculty Profile: Benjamin Hein.....	12
Faculty Activities	13
Undergraduate Program.....	31
Graduate Program.....	36

42



09

Follow us on Twitter and
Facebook @BrownHist



Brown University Department of History



79 Brown Street
Providence, RI

MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

The department is happy to receive gifts in any amount to support undergraduate and graduate research. Contact ethan_pollock@brown.edu or simply send a check to the department! Small amounts can add up and really make a difference.

Thank you.



BROWN

A Word from the Chair

Even for historians reluctant to judge the present too quickly, without the benefit of the archive, it's impossible to regard 2019-2020 as anything other than a watershed year. As I write this letter in early May 2020, the state of Rhode Island has just begun easing nearly two months of home quarantine owing to the coronavirus pandemic. A full economic restart is still weeks, if not months, away. The last third of Brown's spring semester was carried out entirely remotely. At the end of this month, commencement degree conferrals for undergraduate, graduate, and medical students will similarly take place virtually, online. Plans for the coming academic year, 2020-2021, are ongoing, multi-valent, and tentative, surely to be dictated by the pandemic's ebb and flow as much as by the university administration's earnest intentions. Meanwhile, outside of our campus community, in the nation at large, unemployment has surged to Depression-era levels and the headlines are filled with dire warnings of a permanent adjustment to high joblessness on one hand and, on the other, of growing, intractable hostilities among citizens that mirror our partisan political divide. In an undeniably global epidemic, only a handful of other countries have higher Covid-related deaths per 100,000 people than the United States. The most cautious historian would surely concede that we are witnessing something "historical."

Indeed, such is the weight of the present moment that it is difficult to set the social context aside and provide the normal year-end review in these pages. You will find many of the usual markers of such a review in what follows: books published and other activities of the faculty; PhD graduates and graduate student awards and honors; undergraduate senior theses and prizes. But I have also asked a number of my colleagues—many of them experts in the history of medicine—to offer historically informed commentary on the coronavirus pandemic. Their pieces attest to the deep human historical experience of disease pandemics, including the centuries-old practice of "social distancing," a new term of art describing a very old innovation. They also affirm an equally long, and plainly tragic, history of the disproportionate impact of pandemics on vulnerable populations, those

whose class or race or gender or age, or other identity, had already conferred social marginalization—an "underlying condition," if you will. Both the epidemiological and economic reports of the past month have revealed that in the United States people of color and low-income white women will bear the costs of the pandemic and the economy's collapse far out of proportion to their numbers.

As events press upon us at an unaccustomed pace—global, national, local, and campus, all at once—I find it challenging to know how to apportion my attention to avoid becoming overwhelmed. This was not true just a few months ago, and I hope you'll forgive me if I pause here and recognize three important events of the past academic year of which we can be collectively proud as a community. First, the newly renovated Sharpe House opened for occupancy in

December (please see the story and photographs further inside), the culmination of two years of planning and construction. Second, the department hired a new Vasco da Gama Chair in the History of Early Modern Portugal and the Portuguese Empire: Gabriel Rocha of Drexel University. And third, the department hired a scholar of U.S. Latinx history: Mark Ocegueda of California State University, Sacramento, and lately a postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth College. We will welcome Gabriel and Mark to the department this fall, as assistant professors, and we will re-occupy the new Sharpe House at the earliest opportunity allowed by university social distancing rules.

In March, when the surging pandemic led Brown to send its students, faculty, and staff to their homes for the remote continuation of the semester, I was teaching a sophomore seminar on the U.S. welfare state. For the last two months, my students and I have watched history and the present mingle and conjoin in stunningly clear ways. The famously wobbly and notoriously ungenerous public-private welfare system in the U.S., whose creation and evolution had been our subject, acquired a sudden immediacy and poignancy that led students deeper into the semester's readings and assignments, in search of historical explanations, and adjacent social theory, to apply to yesterday's events. It was a strange, and not altogether comfortable, revelation of how the study of history remains the cornerstone of a broad-minded understanding of the present. I hope that doesn't sound too self-serving, or reveal too much disciplinary arrogance, in a moment of global crisis. But I think it points to something that each passing day reveals with increasing certainty: how bound our present actions (and choices) are to actions taken in the past. The historical habit of mind, whose cultivation is our animating purpose in the Department of History, has never been more relevant or necessary.

Robert Self

Robert Self



Cover Image / Daniel Rodriguez

This summer, my book *The Right to Live in Health: Medical Politics in Postindependence Havana* is finally hitting the shelves. When I began the research, the U.S. was in the midst of a sometimes-fiery debate over President Obama's Affordable Care Act. At the time, it was not lost on me that a century ago, at the cusp of independence, Cubans began claiming healthcare as a fundamental right of citizenship and demanded that the state provide the necessary resources to safeguard the health of the Cuban people.

As this book goes to press, however, almost half of the world's population is under a "stay at home" order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. During times of crisis, it can be comforting to look to the past for guidance or understanding, but it gives me little comfort that so many of the dynamics present in early twentieth century Cuban health politics are also shaping the current pandemic.

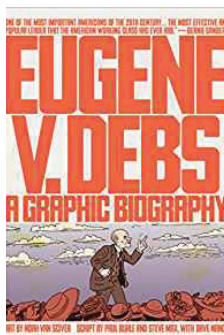
As in Cuba a century ago, we see the health implications of a partisan media landscape, the medical scapegoating of the foreign-born, and hygienic education campaigns meant to change individual behavior and thereby reduce the spread of disease. As in Cuba before the creation of the national Ministry of Health, today in the United States we see the health consequences of a patchwork system of public health authority—with major public health decisions made at the local and state level, and little national coordination and insufficient government funding. Most importantly, while disease spares no one, once again we see the health effects of global and national inequality, with the poor and those lacking social protections most at risk of dying in this new pandemic. But perhaps the current moment of crisis will jolt people to demand universal access to essential health services and an end to the entrenched inequalities that condemn so many to unnaturally short lives, just as a century ago, Cubans demanded health and medical care not as a privilege, but as an essential right for all. ▢

Recent Faculty Books



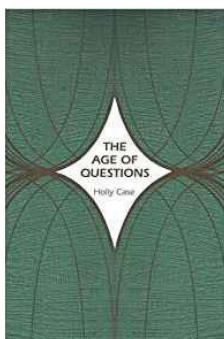
Omer Bartov

Voices on War and Genocide: Three Accounts of the World Wars in a Galician Town, Berghahn Books
1st Edition (June, 2020)



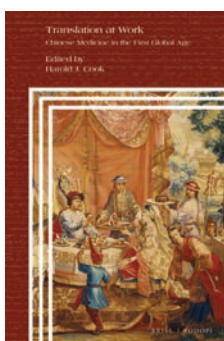
Paul Buhle and Steve Max

Eugene V. Debs: A Graphic Biography, Verso pbk. (February, 2019)



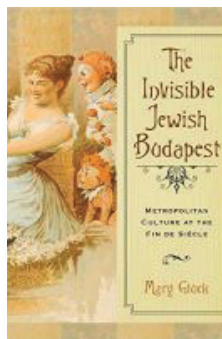
Holly Case

The Age of Questions Or, A First Attempt at an Aggregate History of the Eastern, Social, Woman, American, Jewish, Polish, Bullion, Tuberculosis, and Many Other Questions over the Nineteenth Century, and Beyond, Princeton University Press, pbk. (August, 2020)



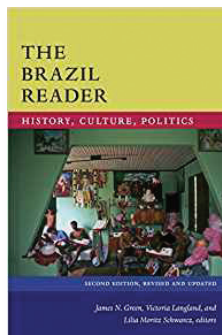
Harold J. Cook

Translation at Work Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age, Brill | Rodopi
1st Edition (January, 2020)



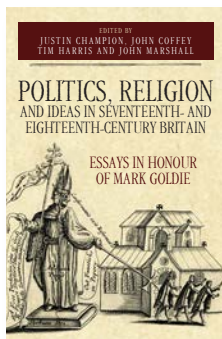
Mary Gluck

The Invisible Jewish Budapest: Metropolitan Culture at the Fin de Siècle, University of Wisconsin Press; pbk. (July, 2019)



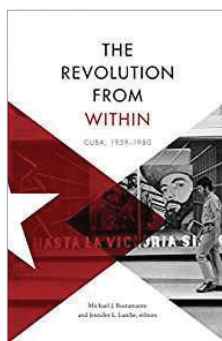
James N. Green, Victoria Langland and Lilia Moritz Schwarcz, eds.

The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics, Duke University Press Books
pbk. (January, 2019)



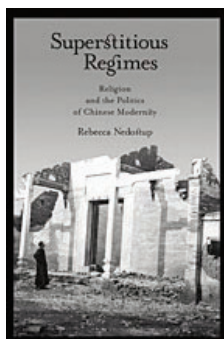
John Coffey, Justin Champion, Tim Harris, and John Marshall

Politics, Religion and Ideas in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Britain, Boydell Press
(October, 2019)



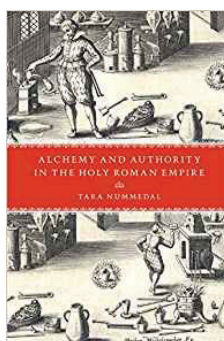
Jennifer L. Lambe and Michael J. Bustamante

The Revolution from Within: Cuba, 1959-1980, Duke University Press pbk. (March, 2019)



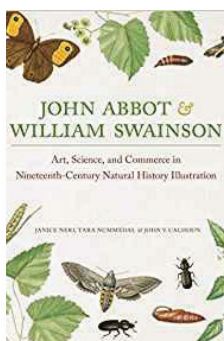
Rebecca Nedostup

Superstitious Regimes: Religion and the Politics of Chinese Modernity, Harvard University Asia Center (April, 2010)



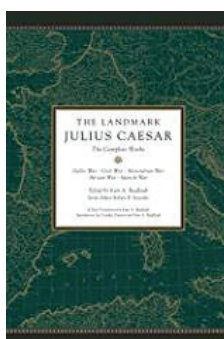
Tara Nummedal

Alchemy and Authority in the Holy Roman Empire, University of Chicago Press pbk. (February, 2019)



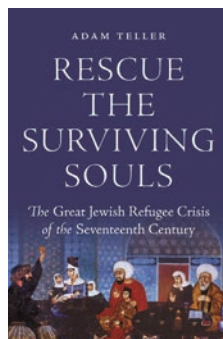
Tara Nummedal, Janice Neri, and John V. Calhoun

John Abbot and William Swainson: Art, Science, and Commerce in Nineteenth-Century Natural History Illustration, University of Alabama Press (April, 2019)



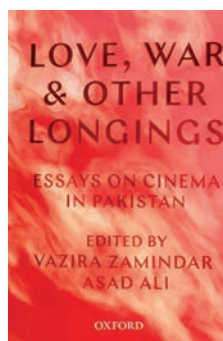
Kurt A. Raaflaub and Robert B. Strassler

The Landmark Julius Caesar: The Complete Works: Gallic War, Civil War, Alexandrian War, African War, and Spanish War, Pantheon; pbk. (February, 2019)



Adam Teller

Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century, Princeton University Press (April, 2020)



Vazira Zamindar and Asad Ali

Love, War & Other Longings: Essays on Cinema in Pakistan, Oxford Press (2020)

Exploration

Epidemics and Personal and Political Bodies

By Hal Cook and Faye Getz

Epidemics have often ranked among the most important pressure points of the past. We read of “plagues” helping to free the Israelites from Pharaoh or driving off besieging armies or bringing down great cities, of destroying populations in the Americas or of preventing Europeans from inland settlement in “the tropics” until the sciences of hygiene, bacteriology, and parasitology began to have real effects. The institution of quarantines helped to consolidate city-state and then nation-state power, not only in medieval and early modern Europe but throughout the modern world. Some of the first international treaties establishing diplomatic organizations, and some of the first non-governmental international charities, were aimed at preventing the spread of contagious diseases. Signifiers of modern “development” have therefore often included the ability to suppress threats like bubonic plague, malaria, yellow fever, and polio in home countries, even to eliminate smallpox from the wild. The presence of “disease-free” environments despite quick and easy long-distance travel has come to be taken for granted, almost.

Some disease narratives also use such moments of collective disruption reductively, to explain historical change. For instance, when a few decades ago the AIDS epidemic was stalking the land a medievalist was quoted in a headline of the *National Enquirer* as reassuring its readers that the Black Death had a “silver lining,” creating a labor shortage that ended feudalism and set the stage for the modern world. (That view remains prevalent!) At the time, one of us, Faye, was conducting new research for a talk she was asked to give on plague – a common enough request for medievalists – and found that some of the first epidemiologists, at the beginning of the 19th century, thought of the Black Death of the 14th century as an archetype of how the World Spirit shapes human



Patients suffering from cholera in the Jura during the 1854 epidemic, with Dr Gachet attending them. Source: Wellcome Collection Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0).

life. For them, a generation of anti-clerical scholars living through a period of rapid and revolutionary change, the swarms of badgers and many cross-dressing women who appeared along with the plague indicated a kind of Hegelian *Weltanschauung* giving birth to a new age. But she also noted an alternative, in *Annales*-style *longue-durée* accounts of regions where major disruptions came and went, clearly bringing personal tragedies but not changing the world, at least not by themselves.

So will Covid-19 be a game-changer? While we are clearly embodied organisms, requiring us to attend to times when Nature seems to speak, diseases do not change history; that is what humans do. So we look for illuminating comparisons but know that each historical moment speaks in its own voice. Epidemics are examples. Of what, is grist for the historians' mill. ▢

Public Health After Empire: Lessons in Innovative Global Partnerships

By Jennifer Johnson

At a time when the news is dominated by the COVID pandemic and we see countries struggling to address its dramatic impacts, I am struck by how strained health care systems, many considered the most advanced in the world, have become. Admittedly, it would be nearly impossible to adequately prepare for such an event. Yet, when contextualized within the larger histories of global public health, we have much to learn from past approaches to health crises by often overlooked historical actors.

In the wake of decolonization in the global south, newly sovereign nations and their leaders faced unprecedented challenges to state building. Typically, scholarly inquiries into this unprecedented period of transition emphasize political and economic factors over social policy, particularly health and welfare. But public health was a central and equally important sector upon which recently independent countries focused.

In North Africa, specifically Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, which were all colonized by the French, the respective leaders quickly sought to address the woefully underdeveloped public health sectors they inherited from the colonial period. For example, as late as 1947, thirty-six years after the French established the protectorate in Morocco, there were only 263 doctors, 8 pharmacists, and 310 nurses for a total population of 10 million, and they largely saw patients in the urban centers of Casablanca, Fes, Rabat, Meknès, and Marrakesh. On the eve of independence in 1956, Tunisia had 548 doctors (only 2 of whom were Tunisian women), 181 pharmacists, 82 dentists, and 134 midwives for a total population of 3,783,000. The colonial state's chronic neglect and underdevelopment of medical infrastructure, education and social services also extended to Algeria. In December 1954, the outset of a brutal eight year war, fewer than 1,900 doctors in Algeria (of whom only 75 were Algerian) served a population of roughly nine million Algerians and one million French settlers; put another way, almost 5,300 patients per doctor. Of the total

number of doctors, 75 percent (approximately 1,400) lived in the three major cities of Algiers, Oran, and Constantine, where the highest concentration of settlers resided. These statistics may not be shocking to scholars of public health and empire. And yet they are essential because they explain the legacy of colonialism upon which North African leaders had to build. Moreover, they set the stage for what by necessity required innovative and creative solutions.

One of the ways in which Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia tackled expanding the public health sector and meeting the welfare needs of the people was by implementing family planning programs and working with international health organizations that provided crucial medical supplies, biomedical technologies, and expertise. The local government's motivations and role in shaping the terms and implementation of family planning programs is often overlooked in the scholarship on postcolonialism, state building, and global health programs. And yet, there is ample evidence to show that the Tunisian and Algerian presidents, the Moroccan monarch and North African health officials throughout the region were active agents in the decision and implementation process. They were engaged in mutual partnerships with international experts, which, on the one hand, enabled both sides to formulate policies derived from a shared language and understanding of development, governance and political expectation, and on the other hand, allowed them to negotiate, adapt, and balance competing agendas in order to achieve their respective goals.

This strategic approach to a public health crisis of a different sort than the current COVID pandemic demonstrates how unconventional and innovative partnerships strengthened the health sector and the care North African states could provide for the population. In our current moment, we all stand to benefit from more lateral and creative approaches, like that of international scientists collaborating on a vaccine, to improve our health and wellbeing. ▢



Thembi, 17 years old, from Gauteng Province

STAY WELL: YOUNG WRITERS ON COVID-19 IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Nancy Jacobs

A quarter-century after apartheid, South Africa still had the world's highest Gini coefficient (a metric of inequality). And so, what many observers noted about COVID-19 elsewhere—that inequality will magnify its impact — suggested a high risk for the country. President Cyril Ramaphosa acted effectively by ordering an extended and strict shut-down. But even if spared extensive sickness and death, the country will have disparate experiences of the pandemic, because the measures to control COVID-19 will exact a higher toll on South Africa's historically disadvantaged populations. For those who do not have the living space to isolate themselves, the means to stockpile supplies, or even access to piped water, sheltering in place is difficult. And so, they must evaluate the best ways to preserve health and then act as best as they can on these understandings.

The details of every-day strategies under extraordinary pressures are the stuff of rich historical narratives and so a final inequality about this pandemic is of particular concern to historians; there will be a disparity

in documentation. The digital divide in South Africa is wide and the disadvantaged are less likely to be blogging and tweeting. Journalists are trying to follow the story, but they can only report from a distance. Memories will survive, but synchronous accounts of how underprivileged South Africans thought and acted in the time of coronavirus will be sparse.

Inspired by the hope of encouraging documentation, I have worked with the Pretoria-based writer Lorato Trok to launch a letter writing project among black high school students. Ms. Trok, who is well-networked in educational circles, has identified 20 high school students (7 boys and 13 girls) to write to us several times a week with reports on the impact of the virus in their homes and communities. High school students, accustomed to pen-and-paper writing assignments, are the ideal scribes for this moment. They are free to write to us in English or their vernacular languages, as they choose. They submit their essays as photos through WhatsApp on their cell phones. (A grant from Brown's Office of the Vice President for Research has provided modest compensation to the

writers for their time and covers the costs of cellular communication.)

Within days, we discovered that this documentation effort had become an incubator of connection

with social media's quick turn-around time, Ms. Trok's encouragement, and the students' enthusiasm, the project has produced a virtual community.

Their early impersonal submissions on South African politics are giving way to deeper reflections on their responsibilities as citizens and the possibilities for their futures. The project is still new, but we hope that we have identified a cohort whom we can track through the country's recovery from the COVID-19 shocks. We hope to publish excerpts from the letters in several of South Africa's official languages. ▢

Exploration

Sharpe and Peter Green Houses Reborn

By Robert Self

After a year and a half of construction and anticipation—accompanied by the exile of more than half of the department’s faculty—late in the fall of 2019 a newly renovated History Department complex opened. The nearly 150-year-old Sharpe House was officially connected to Peter Green House (through a sky bridge consisting of two floors and a ground level “loggia”), and the Department of History, for the first time in more than half a century, boasts a single, common home for all faculty, staff, and graduate students.

I’ve chronicled the story of Sharpe House’s relocation—to facilitate the construction of the Performing Arts Center—in past newsletters. In this edition, in the spring of 2020, I am delighted to bring that chronicling to a close. On the opposite page the reader can find a selection of photographs of some of the new spaces forged from the joining of our two centenarian buildings. There is ample reason to be excited about this latest move. Now separated by less than 10 feet, Sharpe House and Peter Green House have been thoroughly stitched together, unifying the physical spaces of the department. A connecting hallway of floor-to-ceiling glass conjoins the two buildings on the ground floor, while overhead a new bridge, also light-filled, connects the second and third floors. Critically, these new features will make both buildings fully accessible to all members of the Brown community and to visitors. Renovations have added a four-floor elevator, a new classroom, and a new seminar room. Henceforth, Sharpe House and Peter Green House together will constitute a single unified facility for the department.

Built in 1872 as a wood-frame, two-family double house, Sharpe was converted into a dormitory for Pembroke College students in the early 1920s. Before becoming home to History, it housed the Education Department. Just a dozen years ago, in 2007, Peter Green was moved and resettled in its current location at the corner of Brown and Angell. That move facilitated construction of the Walk and the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts. Leading the relocation and renovation design for Sharpe House was the



On right from top to bottom: the light-filled loggia connecting Peter Green and Sharpe Houses at ground level; a student standing on the bridge connecting the buildings’ third floors; the new classroom on the first floor of Sharpe House.

firm KITE Architects, which blended the two nineteenth-century buildings together while remaining in conversation with the planned Performing Arts Center, which is under construction just to the east of the two History buildings. Additionally, a new gift by Peter Green supported enhancements to Peter Green House. Faculty, staff, and graduate students relocated to the renovated and reenergized facility this past December, just before winter break.

Though we enjoyed only a few months of occupancy, before faculty and staff began working from home during the early phase of the coronavirus pandemic, initial reports of the building are exceedingly positive. Faculty find themselves in conversation with one another more often, due to the conjoined and redesigned hallways. Graduate Students have an enlarged and much-improved study area as well as an additional TA office. We were able to hold multiple department events in the new classroom, as well as a number of regular History courses. Overall, the new building positions the History Department—now with a single unified building—at the core of the Brown campus, where its physical footprint stands as a metaphor for the centrality of history as a discipline to the core of the liberal arts. ▢



Exploration

New Faculty Profile

Benjamin Hein

Assistant Professor Benjamin Hein joined the department in the fall of 2019, as a specialist in modern European history. He kindly agreed to a brief interview with the department chair.

Welcome Benjamin!

I know it's been an unprecedented year in many respects, because of the pandemic, but how was your first year at Brown?

Yes, what a year to start a job. I've got much to be grateful for. Brown students have been a joy to work with, and I could not have wished for a more caring group of colleagues with whom to start my career. I profited handsomely from the department's policy to protect the time of junior faculty so that we can dig into our research. It's made the transition to Brown that much smoother.

Say a few words, if you would, about your research and plans for your first book.

Just a few words ...here we go. I'm a social historian with a specific interest in economic life. Much of my work deals with the dynamics within families, the cultural norms and practices of work, the social and legal underpinnings of markets—in short, with everyday men and women “doing business.”

My first book explores the global dimensions, and origins, of the industrial revolution in Germany. It tells the story of millions of families who, over the course of the nineteenth century, made their way overseas, especially to North America, in search of opportunity. One of the book's striking discoveries is that these individuals, though they now lived an ocean away, actually contributed directly to a nascent industrialization process back in Europe. How they managed to do so is the stuff of the book, which I've titled *The Migrant's Spirit: Industrial Revolution in the German Lands*.

What courses did you teach this year, and what courses are you hoping to offer in the future?

I started with a freshman seminar on the First World War (fun), a lecture on the history of migration in Europe



(antiquity to the present!), and an upper-level seminar titled “Industrial Revolution in Europe” (serious discussion). This fall, I'll be teaching a re-designed version of Seth Rockman's “History of Capitalism” together with Lukas Rieppel. Looking ahead, I've thought about a new lecture course titled “The European Union: A History.” The topic often gets short shrift but it's so important to understanding present-day European politics.

You came to us after completing your PhD at Stanford. How have you enjoyed getting to know Providence, and what have you and your family enjoyed doing since you arrived in Providence?

My wife Laine and I love exploring new sights, woods, mountains, and beaches with our son Enso. Rhode Island is an entirely new playground (Besides, it has a fascinating history in the industrial Blackstone River Valley). Once it's safe, we want to get back out there. New Hampshire and Vermont are also high on the list. ◻

Faculty Activities



Before the indelible semester of Spring 2020/COVID-19, **Faiz Ahmed** spent the academic year on sabbatical in Istanbul, Turkey, as a Senior Fellow at the Research Institute for Anatolian Civilizations at Koç University. In August 2019, he was honored to chair a panel at the Centennial of

Independence conference at Kabul University, Afghanistan, a memorable gathering of scholars and students dedicated to commemorating the 100th anniversary of Afghanistan's independence from Britain, and reflecting on the country's uncertain future. That experience laid the seeds for a related November 2019 cover story in the AHA's *Perspectives on History*, and spiced up conversations after book talks he delivered for *Afghanistan Rising* in Istanbul, Ankara, and the John Richards Prize Panel at the January 2020 AHA conference in New York. In February he published an article on Ottoman "soft power" in South Asia and North America in the *International History Review*. Then came his most meaningful moments of 2020 so far: watching the Kobe and Gianna Bryant memorial in Los Angeles with family, and spending the remaining spring with his most loved ones close.



Omer Bartov was pleased to see the publication of the Polish translation of his book *Anatomy of a Genocide* in October 2019 and the Hebrew translation in March 2020. The book will be coming out in

German in October 2020, to be followed soon thereafter by the French version. The book also received the 2019 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research. Bartov's new edited volume, *Voices of War and Genocide: Three Accounts of the World Wars in a Galician Town*, will be published in June 2020. He has also just submitted to the publisher the final manuscript of the edited volume "Israel-Palestine: Lands and People," which includes 21 chapters by an array of Israeli, Palestinian, and American scholars, based on the eponymous project he directed at the Watson Institute in 2015-18.

Bartov was also delighted with the publication of his article "Tales from Half-Asia" in the recent issue of the literary journal *Prooftexts*, which presents the gist of the book on which he will be working on later this spring and

summer, "Tales from a Vanished World: Small-Town Galician Encounter Modernity." Based on chapters discarded from the final version of *Anatomy of a Genocide*, this will be a very different kind of book, not about the road to genocide but rather about all the other roads that people coming from that part of the world took, which might have, under different circumstances, led in very different directions. Similarly, Bartov was happy to see the publication of the article "The Return of the Displaced: Ironies of the Jewish-Palestinian Nexus, 1939-49," in the recent issue of *Jewish Social Studies*, not least because it begins to chart a path for research on his next project, "Israel, Palestine: A personal Political History."

Before locking down in the face of the current pandemic, Bartov lectured widely on his new book in North America, Europe, South Africa, and Israel. He was about to begin teaching a course at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as part of the Providence-Jerusalem Student Exchange Program on Israel/Palestine, but is instead been teaching it online from his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While this exchange program will cease at the end of this year, there are some discussions over reopening it in a reconfigured, largely online version. Finally, Bartov was thrilled with the recent successful PhD defenses of his students Harry Merritt, Amy Kerner, Filip Ani and Frances Tanzer!



Shahzad Bashir is delighted to join the History department starting this year. His current work is aimed at proposing new ways to think about Islamic history. This year, he continued to work on the book *Islamic Pasts and Futures: Horizons of Time* that is to be published as a media-rich monograph

supported by a Mellon grant for Brown Library's Digital Publications Initiative. In the same vein, he was guest editor of the theme issue "Islamic Pasts: Histories, Concepts, Interventions" for the journal *History and Theory: Studies in the Philosophy of History* (December 2019). Collaborating with the journal was a great intellectual pleasure and he has now joined the collective that produces the journal as an associate editor. He published four articles and presented on various topics at the AHA and Columbia, Central European University, UBC, and Penn. He was especially pleased to travel to Uzbekistan in December, with visits to Tashkent, Samarkand, and Shahrissabz.



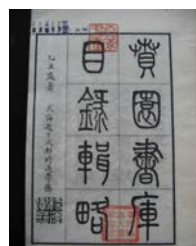
During the academic year, 1992-1993, **John Bodell's** first year of teaching at Brown before a ten-year hiatus, he taught both semesters of the Roman

history survey in Wilson Hall, in the large ground-floor lecture room overlooking the College Green. In 2018-2029, for the first time in twenty-six years, he had the pleasure of teaching both courses again in the newly renovated and renamed Friedman Hall, during the spring semester in the same ground-floor room, now reoriented ninety degree to face Sayles Hall. The architectural changes on the College Green mirror those undergone by History over the past fifteen years, with the successful relocation and reorientation of first Peter Green House and then Sharpe House reflecting shifts in the Department's orientation as well as its underlying continuity and stability. Over the years, the shape and emphases of his survey of Roman history have shifted similarly, and the orientation has changed, but the lessons of a considered review of Roman civilization remain largely the same, and the pleasure of laying out this feast of food for thought before hungry Brown students persists and grows. Plus ça change.

Last year he published the revised text of a paper delivered in August 2018 at a panel in honor of the distinguished Harvard sociologist Orlando Patterson at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia, in which Bodell ventured to analyze the historiographical influence mutually exercised upon each other by Patterson and ancient historian Moses Finley during a year they spent together at Cambridge University in 1978. Essays from the panel were published together in a special issue (48) of the journal *Theory and Society*. He also led a small team of five specialists in Roman history and epigraphy in publishing a text, translation, and commentary of an important newly discovered funerary inscription from Pompeii. First uncovered in 2017, the long anonymous text (the longest yet found at Pompeii) describes in detail benefactions offered by a local magistrate to the people of the town over a period of decades, during times of famine and including a famous incident (a riot at the amphitheater) in 59 CE reported by the historian Tacitus.

In 2019 and early 2020 he had the pleasure of presenting his research orally in a variety of contexts: at international conferences—in Berlin in May, where he spoke about digital epigraphy and the humanities; at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University in November, where he presented a comparative study of slave traders in the ancient Mediterranean (Galatians) and in colonial North America

(Rhode Islanders); and in January 2020 at Georgetown University, which hosted the Third North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy, where he delivered a keynote address in which he outlined a new conceptual approach to the study of inscriptions by recognizing an epigraphic mode of writing that can be found in various media not usually regarded as “epigraphic.” Bodell also had the opportunity to present ideas about comparative slave-trading to a workshop on slavery at Dartmouth College in April of 2019; to discuss land transport and the role of muleteers in the Roman economy at a Columbia University Seminar in Classical Civilization in October; and to discuss the Roman epigraphic habit for the annual Hoyt Lecture at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia in November. Finally, he served as respondent for a paper on ancient Iranian views of Rome at a meeting of the Mediterranean Seminar organized at Brown by Amy Remensnyder and Jonathan Conant, and for a panel of papers on Roman burial practices organized by the American Academy in Rome for the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America in Washington, DC in January 2020.



Cynthia Brokaw looks forward to concluding her final year as chair of the Department of East Asian Studies and her full return to the Department of History next year. During the 2019-2020 academic year, in her research and published scholarship, she has worked toward two goals. First, the

integration of Chinese studies more fully into the field of book history by introducing research on Chinese book history to other, primarily Western, book history scholars. Her survey of medieval and early modern East Asian book history, written for a broad academic readership, will be published in the *Oxford Illustrated History of the Book*. In addition, she is editing an issue of the online journal *Lingua franca* to introduce translations of important Chinese scholarship on book history to an English-reading audience. Second, she continues her more specialized research in the history of the book in early modern China, with studies of concepts of intellectual property in pre-modern China; and of the new technologies of color printing and their impact on readership and reading practices in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The courses she taught have allowed her to integrate her research interests into her teaching: an undergraduate seminar on the imperial civil-service examination system offered opportunities to discuss the impact of publishing and expanded educational opportunities on Chinese government and society before the

twentieth century; and her graduate seminar on the history of the book has opened up interesting avenues of inquiry into the transcultural transmission and exchange of texts within Eurasia in the early modern era.



Amy Turner Bushnell's major accomplishments in 2019-2020 contain four pertinent items: "The Noble and Loyal City, 1600-1668," in *Oldest City: The History of Saint Augustine*, ed. by Susan Richbourg Parker (St. Augustine: St. Augustine Historical Society, 2019), 47-74; a talk,

"A Requiem for Lesser Conquerors," at a signing for the above book hosted by the St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine, July 31, 2019; "Patterns of Food Security in the Pre-Hispanic Americas," chapter one in *The Oxford Handbook of Borderlands of the Iberian World*, ed. by Danna Levín Rojo and Cynthia Radding (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 31-55; and a paper, "Debitage of the Shatter Zone: Requests for Friars, Petitions for Asylum, and the Law of Towns," presented at the session "Crossing Imperial Boundaries II: Routes, Roots and Frontier Peoples," during the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, January 5, 2020.

As far as work in progress, she has recently returned to an old project: a monograph that approaches the colonial Floridas through a set of essays on the problems that various governors faced and the measures that they and their councils took to solve them. The working title is "Patchwork Sails: The Governing of the Spanish and British Floridas, 1565-1821."



After defending his dissertation, "I Made a New Man in My Mind": Gender and the Making of the University of Paris, 1100-1300,"

Charlie Carroll was grateful to have been appointed as visiting assistant professor of history. He is indebted to his committee (Amy Remensnyder,

Jonathan Conant, and Caroline Castiglione) for their wise and wholesome guidance. This year he adapted a lecture course, "Paris: Sacred and Profane, Imagined and Real," and developed a new seminar, "Bearer of Light, Prince of Darkness: The Devil in Premodern Christianity." In the Fall, he also co-taught a course in the English department: "The Theory and Practice of Writing." Meanwhile, he has been busy at work on three article manuscripts (two in history journals and one on the teaching of writing). In addition to his faculty appointment, Charlie was Interim Program Manager of the Writing Center/Sheridan Center

for Teaching and Learning. He is happy to announce that he has been appointed to a three-year term as Assistant Director of the Writing Center/Sheridan Center. As Assistant Director, he will continue to lead the Writing Associates Program and will also serve as the key dean liaison for students needing Writing Check (now Writing Support, or WSUP) and Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) support. Additionally, Charlie will continue his work with the Graduate School to offer dissertation writing retreats, writing groups, and other resources to support graduate student writers. He is thankful that this also means that he will be able to continue teaching in the History Department.



During the summer of 2019, **Holly Case** conducted archival research in Sofia, Bulgaria and Belgrade, Serbia for a variety of forthcoming projects on the modern history of Southeastern Europe. She also co-organized—together with colleagues from the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena,

Germany, and Charles University in Prague—a one-week Sommerfrische intensive seminar in Trebujeni, Moldova on the theme of "Initiation," with graduate and undergraduate participants from the US and Europe. In August, she was one of the faculty presenters at the summer school of the Institute for the Human Sciences (IWM) on "Democracy and Demography," in Burg Feistritz, Austria. And in January 2020, she co-ran a week-long Winterfrische—together with Ondřej Slačálek, a political scientist at Charles University, and Niall Chithelen, a first-year grad student in Modern East Asian history at UCSD—on the theme of "Scale" in Prague and Štěkeň, Czech Republic, including grad student and undergrad participants from the US, Europe, Russia, and China. Case spent the academic year 2019-2020 in Vienna, Austria at the Institute for the Human Sciences (IWM) and in Jena, Germany at the Imre Kertész Kolleg doing research for her next book project the role of consuls in shaping the international system of the 19th and 20th centuries. Throughout the year (up until the pandemic) she gave a number of public lectures and presented at workshops, conferences, and roundtables in Austria, Germany, Croatia, and Hungary, and also wrote articles and reviews for a variety of general interest venues, including *Slavic Review*, *H-Diplo*, *Aeon*, *Eurozine*, *Boston Review*, *Current History*, and *The Poetry Foundation*.

Caroline Castiglione concluded her term as Chair of Italian Studies department in summer 2019, turning her focus to a book-length project, *Freedom and Justice in Moderata Fonte's The Worth of Women*. She recently won two external



Venice's fragile ecology threatens the city and its archives. Archivio di Stato of Venice, facing rising flood waters.



grant awards for her research on Fonte, a sixteenth-century Venetian writer who pondered why the conjuncture of being female and Venetian was often dangerous and sometimes deadly. With the support of the Social Science Research Institute Seed Funding Award and a Franklin Grant from the American Philosophical Society, she undertook research in Venetian archives in 2019. A Delmas Foundation grant awarded in spring 2020 will support additional archival work on this project next year.

Howard Chudacoff completed his 50th year as a member of the Brown history faculty in spring of 2020 and will be entering a phased retirement in the fall, teaching half time for three years, then fully retiring.

He continues his research and writing on issues pertaining to the history of intercollegiate athletics in the United States and is working on several articles on the reform successes and failures involving influential but overlooked individuals, such as the NCAA's Walter Byers and former U.S. Congressman Tom McMillen, over the past fifty years.



This year, **Jonathan Conant's** research focused primarily on his second book, *The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, c. 795–840*. He was hoping that work on this project would bring him back to France this year, but the spring of 2020 finds him sheltering in place and pondering from afar early

medieval conceptions of space, ideas about religious imagery, and encounters and interactions between early medieval Franks and their neighbors. In 2019–20, he spoke about topics ranging from combat trauma in the early middle ages to the Islamic conquest of North Africa in venues from Harvard to the Woodbury Forest School in Virginia. He also organized the 2019 annual meeting of the New England Medieval Conference. This year, its topic was “Rethinking the Body: Humanity and Its Discontents in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages” and it brought together scholars working on various aspects of body and soul in the art, archaeology, history, literature, and religions of medieval China, Africa, and Europe. Thereafter, Conant served an annual term as the president of the New England Medieval

Consortium. His teaching this year dealt with the fall of Rome, the Viking age, and (at the graduate level) professional development for historians. He also published a chapter on “Conflict, Trauma, and the Formation of an Early Christian Identity” in a volume on memories of Utopia in late antiquity.



Hal Cook's chief accomplishment

this year has been seeing through to publication an edited book on the world-wide movement beyond the home country of forms of Chinese medicine in the early modern period. Aspects of medicine arising in China began to be of interest to people in other parts of

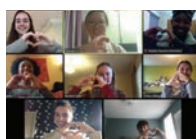
Asia and Europe, even in the Americas, despite its contested truths and the Celestial Empire's lack of overseas empire in the period, which provides an important counter-example to many current arguments about the global circulation of European science due to its truth-value or to economic and political efforts at domination. A couple of decades ago Cook began to notice discussions of Chinese medicine in Dutch sources of the 17th century, and over time he also met a number of other scholars who were also investigating similar discussions, so in 2014 he organized an international conference at Brown, from which the collection of papers arose. The meeting had provoked conversations about the subject of historical “translations” and so became the main theme of the volume: Cook, ed., *Translation at Work: Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age* (Leiden: Brill, 2020). Cook also continues to follow up other of his recent studies that alter our understanding of the historical processes of the so-called scientific revolution, including further reconsiderations of the world and work of the famous René Descartes as well as a study of a Dutch traveler in Russia and Persia from around 1700 who became bankrupt from his efforts to acquire new information and images of the region. Cook is also the US sponsor of a European Union Post-Doctoral Fellowship project led by Sabrina Minuzzi, of Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, on early modern materia medica in transit. So transformations in knowledge due to processes of mobilization continue to attract his attention. He also continues to serve the department and university and his international field of study in various ways, and remains engaged in teaching, advising, and mentoring.



Bathsheba Demuth was on

sabbatical in 2019–2020. She spent the fall participating in the Cogut Institute's seminar and on book tour for her first book, *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait*, which came

out in August. Named one of the best books of 2019 by *NPR*, *Nature*, Barnes and Noble, and other outlets, she enjoyed having conversations about the Arctic, whales, capitalism, and communism with folks all around the United States. She also published pieces in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Boston Globe*, among others, using history as a way to help understand current environmental change. Demuth also started working on her second book, a history of the Yukon River watershed, with trips north of the Arctic Circle in the summer and fall, and all across Alaska to visit archives in the winter of 2020. When not donning layers of clothes to go outside at -35F, she's been planning a new course on the Environmental Humanities that she'll co-teach with Lukas Rieppel in fall 2020. While on COVID-19 lockdown, she's finishing an article on the history of sled dogs, and looking forward to getting back into the field this summer.



Beshara Doumani thought that re-entry after his first sabbatical in twelve years will be rough. How wrong he was! The joy of teaching made for a smooth re-integration into the Brown

community. In the fall, Doumani co-taught with Prof. Cemal Kafadar (Harvard University) a joint Brown-Harvard graduate course on historiography of the Middle East and the Ottoman Empire. It was an extraordinarily stimulating course, which rotated between Providence and Cambridge on a weekly basis. The classes sometimes stretched to four-hour sessions followed by group dinners. In the spring, Doumani introduced a new 150 level course, *The Making of the Modern World*, which attracted a diverse and highly committed group of students. He also had a chance to teach two of his favorite courses: the annual theory and methodology seminar that is a requirement for Middle East studies concentrators, and a seminar the modern history of the Palestinians.

This academic year was exceptionally productive in terms of institution building. The most exciting event was the formal establishment by the Brown Corporation of the Mahmoud Darwish Chair in Palestinian Studies, the first of its kind in the United States. This remarkable and unique development capped years of investment in the *New Directions in Palestinian Studies* (NDPS) initiative that Doumani founded when he joined Brown in 2012. As part of this initiative, Doumani co-organized the annual thematic NDPS workshop with Palestinian Studies Post-Doctoral Fellow, Paul Kohlbry; and he chaired the editorial of a book series on Palestinians studies with the University of California Press. Doumani also accepted a position as co-editor the *Jerusalem Quarterly*, a leading journal in this field

of study. It seems like eons ago—in the foggy mists of the pre-COVID era—that Doumani delivered, this past summer, a Keynote address to the Swiss Congress of Historical Studies. It is not at all clear when he will be able to continue his speaking engagements and research field work overseas, but he considers himself fortunate to be able to work from home and looks forward to the uniquely productive and exhilarating intellectual exchanges that are only possible through face-to-face interaction with students and fellow scholars.



A typical scene in Amsterdam, taken by Linford Fisher while presenting at a conference in the Netherlands.

Linford Fisher returned from his sabbatical to jump right into departmental leadership as the Director of Graduate Studies. Building on a strong program that was built and sustained by past DGSs, Fisher worked to expand several means of support for departmental PhD students, increase research funding, and create a more robust presence of our graduate students on the website. In addition to his classes on early American history, Fisher enjoyed speaking about his current work on indigenous slavery in over a dozen venues in the US and abroad, including the Netherlands. He continues to work on his book manuscript, *America Enslaved: The Rise and Fall of Native Slavery in the English Atlantic World* and a digital project, The Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas (DISA).



Mary Gluck, who will be retiring from Brown in July 2021, divided the past year between Budapest, Providence and Miami Beach, trying to decide on at least two of these cities as permanent places of residence. While in Budapest, she began working on a research project on Central European Jewish culture

between 1880 and 1914. The new book, which is conceived as a sequel to her last monograph, *The Invisible Jewish Budapest*, explores the interconnected institutional and personal worlds of Jewish-identified popular entertainment in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and Budapest. In Providence, she continued to teach her seminar on Jewish humor and popular entertainment

and her lecture course on the European fin de siècle. In the spring of 2019, she was honored by being named the Dorot Professor of History and Judaic Studies.

In addition to directing the Brazilian Initiative at Brown, Professor **James N. Green** will be completing his



fifth and final year as the Executive Director of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRSAS), an international professional organization that organizes biannual conference of scholars in the United States in Brazil. After two successful BRASA International Conferences—one at Brown in 2016 and the next in Rio de Janeiro in 2018, regrettably the 2020 event, scheduled to be held at the University of Texas in August in late March had to be cancelled because of Covid 19. Green is looking forward to a sabbatical year at the American Academy in Berlin in the fall of 2020 and at the University of São Paulo on a Distinguished Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in the spring of 2021, public health conditions in both countries permitted.

2019-20 is certainly the first academic year in **Jack Greene's** sixty-four year engagement with the historical profession that, as he recalls, did not publish a single word. Nor did he do much conferencing, only presenting one paper, "On the Importance of Historical Reach," at a conference at the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Annual Conference on "Virginia 1619: A California Conversation." In San Marino, California on September 20, 2019. Greene also organized a conference on "Settler Constitutionalism and the Quest for Liberty in Colonial America, 1720-1750" scheduled to be held this very weekend in Portland, Maine, only to have it postponed because of the Covid2019 Pandemic. However, his sparse list of external professional activities did not mean that he was inactive as a historian. He finished up putting together 77 images for his edited book James Knight, *History of Jamaica (1742-45): A Critical Edition* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press), which will be published this fall or winter, and except for the Preface, also completed another book tentatively entitled *AGAINST THE GRAIN: Essays Challenging Orthodoxies and Re-contextualizing Early Modern American History*



Françoise Hamlin continues to work on her monograph, and gave lectures all over the country on this new work, while constantly distracted by a host of side publishing projects. She continues to take students to Mississippi, this year accompanying Bonner Fellowship

students through the Swearer Center in January, and then teaching a corresponding course. She remains the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Africana Studies. Hamlin advises and serves the department in many capacities, and remains co-chair of the Faculty of Color Working Group that she co-founded in 2015.



Tim Harris has given talks in Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Montreal, Vancouver, Leicester, and Sheffield over this past academic year. He was a faculty fellow at Brown's Cogut Humanities Institute in the fall and has been on leave this spring, working on a book for Oxford University Press on Britain's

Century of Revolutions, 1603-1691. His *Politics, Religion and Ideas in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Britain*, a collection of essays in honour of his PhD supervisor Mark Goldie and co-edited with Justin Champion, John Coffey and John Marshall, was published by Boydell Press in September 2019. There was also a symposium to celebrate Professor Goldie's career and mark his retirement from the Cambridge History Faculty in Clare College in July. Another highlight of last summer was spending time with his good friend and former colleague Tony Molho in Athens. (He had to skip a conference in Bangor, Wales, to go to Athens, but sometimes sacrifices have to be made.) Visiting fellowships and planned talks in the UK for the spring were cancelled due to the pandemic.



Benjamin Hein is a proud new Rhode Islander, having joined Brown's history department in summer '19 after previously teaching at Stanford University. He spent his first year at Brown preparing and teaching several brand-new courses in European history, including a seminar on the

industrial revolution and a survey course on European migration history. Another seminar on the First World War was especially fun to design and teach, given Brown's spectacular archival collections on the subject. Benjamin also wrote and submitted for peer review three journal articles, one of which—a history of the Frankfurt stock exchange—is forthcoming in 2020 in the *Journal of Modern History*. Meanwhile, he is pleased with the progress made on his first book titled *The Migrant's Spirit*, a new global history of Germany's industrial revolution. Before sheltering in place amidst the coronavirus pandemic, Benjamin enjoyed exploring New England's many outdoor sights and historic treasures together with his newborn son Enso.

During Wintersession, January 2020, **Evelyn Hu-DeHart** took a dozen Brown undergraduates and TA Rene Cordero, History PhD candidate, to visit the US-Mexico Border and Borderlands up close and on the ground (see story ahead in the undergraduate section of the newsletter).



Evelyn Hu-DeHart gave the keynote address to a Conference at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro on June 5, 2019. Here she is pictured with Prof. Yow Cheun Hoe of Singapore. The title of her keynote was: "Globalization and the Chinese Diaspora, 16th Century to the Present."

the first time during her last sabbatical when she was in Singapore in 2014-15. She is looking forward to her next sabbatical, for whatever it might bring!



During her sabbatical and research leave as the Centennial Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) in 2019, she spent a few months in Sevilla, Spain, at the *Archivo de las Indias* finding documents on Spanish Manila. Then she went to Xiamen (Amoy), China, to research the 30,000 Chinese immigrants who went from Fujian Province to build Manila for the Spaniards. The visit was cut short in March when she was called to take over the study-abroad program in Havana, Cuba, when both directors had to go on leave, so her research leave was cut short. But Hu-DeHart was happy to be of service to the program in Cuba, which is thriving with up to 30 students each semester from more than 10 Ivies and Ivy-Plus institutions and top liberal arts colleges. This was the second time she was called to direct the program,

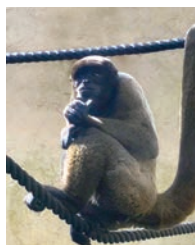
to West Africa, coincided with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved Africans in the US, so it was particularly moving to visit the slave-trading forts at El Mina and Cape Coast. The rest of the year was given over to teaching and service, especially to work as chair of the program committee for the 2020 annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History. That effort was to culminate in a late-March conference in Ottawa, which was cancelled because of the pandemic. And now the year is ending with a long stay very close to home. Web conferencing and social media have become the new way of teaching, of exchanging ideas with colleagues, and even a new way of connecting research abroad. In the last few weeks, Nancy has organized a writing project for South African high school students, who are using WhatsApp to submit their reflections on life in the time of COVID-19.



Jennifer Johnson spent this past academic year immersing herself in her teaching and adapting to the new normal of COVID. In the fall, she taught a new graduate seminar on the history of global empire and in the spring she tried to infuse her lecture course on Modern Africa and a capstone seminar on North Africa with passion, enthusiasm, and humor via Zoom. She looks forward to the spring publication of the edited volume, *Decolonization, Self-Determination and the Rise of Global Human Rights Politics*, for which she contributed a chapter entitled, "The Limits of Humanitarianism: Decolonization, the French Red Cross, and the Algerian War." She eagerly awaits the warmer weather when she can get outside with her one-year son and to the upcoming academic year when she will be on leave working on her current book project.



In the fall 2019 semester, **Jenny Lambe** enjoyed the opportunity to revisit two of her favorite courses on Cuban history while also organizing a panel series dedicated to "Revolutions in History," featuring scholars from within and beyond Brown. The semester also saw the publication of articles on the apocryphal sons of a celebrated Cuban patriot (*New West Indian Guide*), the cultural afterlife of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (*Literature and Medicine*), television and politics in the Cuban Revolution (*Past & Present*), and sexuality in Cuban history (*Radical Historical Review*). But the most exciting debut in Lambe's life this year was that of her twin baby boys, Tomás and Max, born in February 2020. Congratulations, Jenny!



Brian Lander spent much of his year revising his book manuscript and doing new research on the history of livestock in China. The highlight of the year was a conference trip to Brazil in July 2019. It was Brazilian history that first kindled Brian's interest in environmental history and this trip allowed him to learn about the region's history and ecology, and to prepare for teaching about it in his new seminar on the environmental consequences of imperialism. He also organized panels on cattle and on the history of wildlife conservation in China for conferences that never happened.

Steven Lubar continued his exploration of the history of skill with a course on boatbuilding, co-taught with Brown



Design Workshop director Chris Bull and professor emeritus of music Shep Shapiro. Students learned about the history of boatbuilding and the representation and understanding of technological knowledge and built a Maine peapod that was launched successfully on a cold day in December.

In the spring Steve took on a new position as Faculty Director of the library's Center for Digital Scholarship.



Sreemati Mitter was glad to return to Brown after a sabbatical year away and thrilled to be reacquainted with the many pleasures of classroom and campus life, which seem more precious to her now that they've been curtailed by the global pandemic. She was pleased to see a long-gestating journal

article, "Bankrupt: Financial Life in Mandate Palestine," finally published at the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. She spent most of the year toiling away at her book manuscript, *A History of Money in Palestine: From the 1900s to the Present*, which she hopes to finish this summer, come what may, even the end of the world. She also inched towards the completion of a new journal article, "The Pensioners and Orphans vs the Banks: a financial account of the transition from Ottoman to British rule in Palestine." She presented a draft chapter of her book manuscript at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in the fall, in New Orleans, where she also sampled many Old Fashioneds and Po-Boys. She wishes she could report on various exotic research travel plans for the spring and summer, but, like everyone else, she's been stuck in Providence since March, and her travels limited to shuffling between her bedroom and her living room, in search of Old Fashioneds. She has loved teaching a new capstone seminar this spring whose title, "Nothing Pleases Me," borrowed from a poem by her favourite Palestinian poet, summarizes her mood at the moment.

2019 seems to have been light years ago. From **Tony Molho's** encaged condition in Athens (GR) it is difficult to imagine that so much has changed only in a few months. Last year, two articles of his were published (one in the *History of European Ideas*) and another in a miscellaneous volume on the history of Civility, published in Sweden. By the end of 2019, he had begun to put together a lecture he had been invited to deliver at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at the Villa I Tatti, near Florence. But then the virus arrived and everything (it seems life itself) was postponed. The volume in which his commemoration

of Riccardo Fubini (which Molho had announced last year) was to have been published early this year, but it, also, has been postponed for some time in the future. His generation of historians were often drawn to discussions about the nature of time –in pondering the relationship between past and present would we draw on concepts of linear time (to explain, for example, modernity, secularism, individualism, the emergence of the state, the emancipation of suppressed people), or would we rely on more complicated concepts such as that of fractured, non-linear or non-teleological time, or even different levels of time? Our current crisis brings up once again since the beginning of the 20th century the question of the relationship not only between past and present, but also between the present and a largely unfathomable future, whose outline can hardly be discerned through the social changes brought about by the carnage of an epidemic, and by a massive economic dislocation. This seems to me to be a challenging and very exciting time to be a historian, and he deeply regrets being unable to fumble through some of these concepts together with his undergraduate and graduate students.



Over the past year many issues of the AHA's *Perspectives on History* have addressed the challenge for the profession to demonstrate how effectively historiographical methodologies and analytical skills can be adapted to other professions. **Rebecca More's** own work in healthcare, educational non-profits and community/regional fundraising continues to benefit from both her training in the profession and association with the department. The fundamental research and interpretative skill have been employed in many productive ways. In the ten years since More retired from administrative work at the Sheridan Center and years of teaching Early Modern gender history at RISD, she continues to find more work than she can actually manage.

Working closely with staff and board members of a regional healthcare consortium in rural New Hampshire, the current SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has put those skills to the test in ways one could not anticipate. She feels very fortunate to be able to serve on several non-profit boards and committees that address substantive community/regional issues: The New Hampshire Historical Society, Weeks Medical Center in Lancaster NH, Advisory Council chair of Plymouth State University's interdisciplinary Museum of the White Mountains, member of the RISD Museum of Art's Fine Arts committee [acquisitions and deaccessions], and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Outreach committee. For example, led

by former Supreme Court Justice David Souter, the NH Historical Society has developed an innovative educational program, *The Democracy Project*, to address the critical need for civics education in NH schools. The curriculum can be scaled up to reach students from elementary through high school and has already been implemented in several large school districts in the state. As part of that project, she led a program for teachers, "Close Looking at Primary Resources."

In a rural area with limited resources, Weeks Medical Center recently built a new primary care clinic whose trained staff have become an important part of the COVID-19 response in this region. Developing the case for the funding the clinic resulted in a "Short History of Weeks Medical Center, Lancaster NH" now on the hospital's website. This has been a project with profound benefits to an underserved area. More's ongoing research projects and resultant lectures continue to bring enormous pleasure. In conjunction with two major exhibitions at Plymouth State in 2018 and 2019 on the Centennial of the White Mountain National Forest (2018) and the Grand Hotels of the White Mountain region (2019), she gave lectures on "The White Mountain National Forest as a Cultural Landscape" and "The Sinclair House: Profit and Politics, 1850-1880." In conjunction with the former, she participated in a NH Preservation Alliance conference panel on "Saving Cultural Landscapes: The Northern Pass Case Study." The Sinclair House project explored the link between Rhode Island cotton manufacturers, White Mountain tourism, and the nascent New Hampshire wood pulp/paper industry. This year she is working on an article for the NH Historical Society and a lecture for Plymouth State on the circumstances behind the Naming of the White Mountains' Presidential Range in 1820 and the ongoing conflicts over the ownership of the summit of Mount Washington. Please enjoy the accompanying photograph of the Presidential Range: Madison, Adams, Jefferson, Washington and Monroe. With the suspension of on-campus education, she has been deeply saddened not to have a chance to work with the 2020 History Department Honors students. The chance to learn about the extraordinary research by these young people into an incredibly diverse range of topics and issue has been an inspiration for the past ten years. The 2019 cohort of twenty (20) students was no exception. More devoutly hopes that we will all be back on campus for the Honors thesis presentation in May 2021.



In what now seems like another era entirely, **Rebecca Nedostup** handed off responsibilities as Director of

Graduate Studies to the able hands of Lin Fisher in July 2019. That summer she continued collaborative work in Sichuan, returning to rural fieldwork and co-organizing a workshop on scale, historiography, and digital humanities. She presented at a workshop in Hong Kong on critical concepts in Chinese religious studies, and commented at international Asian studies meetings in Bangkok and Leiden and at the AHA in New York. She and her co-PIs on the digital project Magpie brought international leaders in Chinese DH to Brown for a best-practices workshop. Such mobility now seems both a tremendous luxury and worth recording as part of professional life. In the fall she taught a seminar on Chinese political culture and ritual, and the lecture course "At China's Edges", which among other topics gave historical context to the ongoing situations in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Undergrad, grad students, and History alums contributed tremendously to this body of knowledge through guest lectures and their own research (including on Singapore, Taiwan, and many other areas.) In January 2020 she began a sabbatical aimed at completion of her monograph on displacement in China and Taiwan's mid-twentieth century long war. Since March efforts have turned to rethinking research conceptions, methods and timelines, as well as professional and personal goals, both for students and oneself. Nonetheless, writing and thinking has also been sustained by newly close conversations with students and colleagues, even though conducted at a distance.



My class during my fall Virtual Reality teaching module "Analyzing Representations of Angkor" at Multimedia Lab at Brown.

Cindy Nguyen joined the history department this fall as a 2-year Postdoctoral Fellow in history and Cogut. She taught Southeast Asian history courses this year, including a colonial Indochina seminar in the fall and an interdisciplinary seminar titled "Print and Power in Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam" in the spring. She developed a teaching module on visual analysis and virtual reality in her Indochina course with the international project Virtual Angkor and the Multimedia Lab at Brown. She has thoroughly enjoyed teaching dedicated students and working with

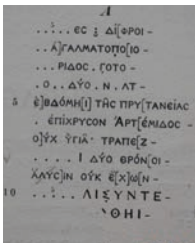
campus initiatives to increase Southeast Asian curricula and programming at Brown. She has a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, titled "Reading Rules: The Symbolic and Social Spaces of Reading in the Hanoi Central Library, 1919-1941" and was recently awarded the Pattana Kitiarsa Paper Prize by the Southeast Asia Council. At her invited talk on colonial Indochina at Middlesex Community

College, she appreciated the opportunity to speak to a diverse audience about the importance of historical inquiry. In February, she also screened her documentary film and led a creative translation workshop at the Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights at Harvard University. This summer, she hopes to work on her book manuscript titled "Misreading: The Social Life of Libraries and Colonial Control in Indochina, 1865-1958." She has deeply appreciated the sense of community from the department during this tumultuous time, and looks forward to reconnecting in the halls of our new building in the near future.



Tara Nummedal continued to explore the possibilities of collaboration for teaching and research this year. In addition to her two lecture courses on early modern Europe and the history of science in the Renaissance, she co-taught two seminars. In the fall, she and Daniel Rodriguez teamed up again

to teach the Colloquium to a wonderfully diverse cohort of new PhD students. In the spring, Nummedal and Hal Cook co-taught a seminar on premodern art and science through the Cogut Institute for the Humanities and also in tandem with two colleagues at the University of Minnesota, J.B. Shank and Michael Gaudio, and their students. While the planned meetings in Providence and the Twin Cities were cancelled due to the Coronavirus, the two scholarly communities were able to come together virtually in ways that were both challenging and enriching. Meanwhile, Nummedal and Donna Bilak completed their co-edited book, *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens, with Scholarly Commentary*, which will appear as a fully digital publication in the fall with the University of Virginia's series, *Studies in Early Modern German History*.



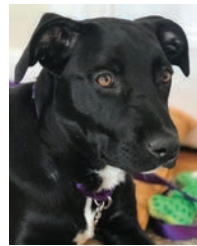
Graham Oliver was able to spend time in January 2020 consulting materials at Wolfson College, Oxford. There he consulted and recorded important archival material towards the completion of an article on Athenian financial organization in the late 4th century BCE. Important, and

unpublished, earlier readings by a 20th century scholar (A. M. Woodward) have been recorded, in marginalia, by the late Professor D. M. Lewis in his personal editions of *Inscriptiones Graecae*. These volumes are now held by the library at Wolfson. The marginalia, indicating alternative readings and restorations, allow a more accurate record

of the epigraphical texts to be developed. To facilitate their work, the images have been passed on to Professor Diane Harris Cline (George Washington University) and Sebastian Prignitz (Austrian Academy of Science) who are researching the history of these inscriptions and producing new editions respectively.



Emily Owens began her third year in the department launching a new lecture course, *The Intellectual History of Black Women*, in tandem with the conference "R-E-S-P-E-C-T-A-B-I-L-I-T-Y: Black Women's Studies since *Righteous Discontent*." While the course engaged undergraduate and graduate students at Brown in the history of black women's theoretical and creative traditions since the 18th century, the conference brought scholars across the field of African American women's history to Brown to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Evelyn Higginbotham's seminal *Righteous Discontent*, which included her conceptual innovation, "the politics of respectability." Both the course and the conference, on which Owens collaborated with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, were highlights of this academic year. Owens was thrilled to receive a Cogut Collaborative Humanities Course Award with her colleague Juliet Hooker (Political Science) and looks forward to spending the summer developing their new course on histories of race, feeling, and political action for next fall.



In the fall of 2019, Oxford University Press published **Ethan Pollock's** book *Without the Banya We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse*. It was (oddly) listed on two "Top History Books of 2019" lists – one at *Foreign Affairs* and the other at *Financial Times*, despite the fact that the book is not really about foreign affairs or finance. (It's about the Russian bathhouse.) In the fall he taught a lecture course on the rise of the Russian empire and in the spring he taught a lecture course on the collapse of the Russian empire and the rise of the Soviet Union.

Next year he was planning on teaching a lecture course on the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of the Russian Federation, but instead he will take over as chair of the History Department and teach seminars that have nothing to do with rising and collapsing. Thanks to a Salomon faculty grant from the university, he hopes to distract himself from administrative work by launching a new research project on cultural exchanges between the US and USSR during the Cold War. On a personal note, he

was deeply ambivalent about welcoming a puppy into the family (pictured.) Finally, on a personal and professional note, he has been honored to work with remarkable colleagues and students at Brown who, amidst the pandemic and the incredible hardships it has brought to many in our community and the world, have consistently shown themselves to be dedicated, passionate, ethical, and humane.



Amy G. Remensnyder continues to be passionate about her research adventures into the history of the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, which have reoriented her interests to include fields like island studies, maritime history, the history of piracy, and the history of migration. When

she was in Barcelona in July giving the keynote address at the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean's annual meeting, she took the opportunity to visit not only some of that city's superb examples of modernist architecture, but also its remarkable Maritime Museum, where many of the exhibits brought to life the documents she has been working with. Remensnyder was slated to give more talks about her research in the spring of 2020, but the pandemic put them on hold. Remensnyder continues to teach her courses on medieval Europe, but this year she also broadened her repertoire of classes to include two new ones that speak to her work about Lampedusa. One was a graduate seminar called "Seascapes of History" and the other an undergraduate seminar called "Islands of the Mind," which she co-taught in the fall with the novelist Carole Maso, Professor of Literary Arts. In the fall, Remensnyder also taught her course about the global history of prison and captivity, which she gave both at Brown and in the men's medium security facility of the Rhode Island State Prison. As the director of the Brown History Education Prison Project, she coordinated a course on the global history of migrants and migration, which she team-taught at the prison in the spring with other History faculty until the interruption of the pandemic. Many students have asked her about what wisdom we can draw from the medieval pandemic of the Black Death as we face the Covid-19 crisis. The best answer is perhaps: "Society will endure. It will change, but it will endure."



Joan Richards is retiring at the end of June 2020. For the past three years, she has been in phased retirement, moving through a seemingly endless stream of temporary offices while teaching and advising part time in the History Department, and directing

the program of Science Technology and Society. She has completed her book, *Generations of Reason: A family's search for meaning in post-Newtonian England*, which will be published by the Yale University Press as soon as the coronavirus subsides enough to allow the project to move forward. It is not easy to leave a university and department that has been an intellectual home for almost forty years, but she has taken up the viola and become proficient enough that, until the lockdown, she was able to play with a string orchestra. She is looking forward to finding other ways to engage with the larger community as soon as she can once again leave her house.



While he was sad to return home from a sabbatical leave in Berlin, **Lukas Rieppel** had a great time getting back into teaching this year. In the fall, he co-taught "Science at a Crossroads" with Joan Richards, whereas the spring semester saw him dust off and revitalize his US History lecture course: "Making America Modern." In addition, he has enjoyed dreaming up new projects and working on a couple of shorter essays for publication. Oh, and he also earned tenure!



Seth Rockman was having a pretty good year until the Corona-era began. That said, he is grateful to be in good health and in good company amidst all the dislocation of the recent months. It was a teaching-intensive year: another round of the History of Capitalism undergraduate lecture class, a seminar on Early American Money, and a collaborative course on the Early Republic United States with Professor Philip Gould of the English Department. Rockman also led a faculty-graduate research seminar called "Slavery's New Materialisms" at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice. Participants came from Africana Studies, Archaeology, History of Art and Architecture, American Studies, Sociology, Creative Writing, History, and Theatre and Performance Studies in order to rethink a "more-than-human" history of Atlantic Slavery. Before travel came to a halt, Rockman had the opportunity to participate in events in Chicago, Winnipeg, Leiden, and Berlin. Equally satisfying was the opportunity to host scholars Laura Edwards, Marisa Fuentes, and Sven Beckert. Especially enlightening was the conversation he moderated at the Pembroke Center on motherhood as a subject for academic inquiry with Brown's Emily Oster and Professor Sarah Knott of Indiana University. As always, the doctoral students made Rockman proud,

especially their fortitude in the face of such great professional uncertainty. The weekly Zoom coffee hours with Ann Daly, Rebecca Marisseau, Sarah Pearlman Shapiro, and Simeon Simeonov have been a great comfort these last few months.



Ken Sacks has been writing a large book, *Emerson's Civil War*, covering Emerson's middle and later years. Touching on probability theory, evolutionary biology, and pragmatism, his essential thesis is how the Civil War helped break Emerson out of a period of lesser creativity and propel

him to a redefinition of natural religion and its relationship to pragmatism.



In the final year of his tenure as department chair, **Robert Self** dedicated most of his time to department matters (see "A Word from the Chair"). Scholarly pursuits provided some respite from those duties, in fits and starts, and Self was pleased to send his co-edited

manuscript, *Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality and Governance in Modern U.S. History*, into production at the University of Chicago Press (his co-editors are Nancy Cott and Margot Canaday). The volume's fourteen essays and co-authored introduction argue for a re-invigorated approach to state power in the United States since Reconstruction, one that regards the establishment and policing of households as a core dimension of modern governance (alongside the more well-known and well-studied powers of economic regulation, welfare dispensation, empire-building, and war-making). Self also produced a revised edition of his co-authored college textbook, *America's History*, with Rebecca Edwards (Vassar College) and Eric Hinderaker (University of Utah). With the considerable assistance of undergraduate research assistants Christina Ge and Isobel McCrum, Self moved closer to completing the research for his current book project, now entitled *Driven: The Making and Unmaking of the American Hydrocarbon Middle Class*. He looks forward to turning fully to that manuscript during his sabbatical in 2020-2021.



Work, pleasure, and politics took **Naoko Shibusawa** to Dublin, County Mayo, Amsterdam, Honolulu, Buenos Aires, Patagonia, and New Hampshire. She served her second year as Faculty

Director for the Choices Program and her third and final year as History DUS. She chaired a successful search in Latinx history. She also helped five graduate students

pass their preliminary exams and one defend her PhD dissertation, in addition to supervising four undergraduate thesis projects. Her writing group ballooned to 12 graduate students and undergraduate honors students. And finally, she tried to advocate for a group of POC staffers—saying what they couldn't without the protection of tenure—with mixed, painful results.



Kerry Smith continues work on his current book project, which explores earthquake prediction and disasters in 20th century Japan, and is looking forward to making the final edits on chapters in two forthcoming edited volumes, one on Critical Disaster Studies and the other on

Insect Histories in East Asia. He's quite happy to be back in Sharpe House.



Tracy Steffes continued work on her book manuscript, tentatively titled *Shifting Fortunes: City Schools and Suburban Schools in Metropolitan Chicago, 1945-2000* about the relationship between education, metropolitan development, and social inequality. She's completed the first

draft and is working on substantial revisions before submitting it to University of Chicago Press where it is under contract. She published an article on tax assessment politics and school finance in the *History of Education Quarterly* drawn from this research. She finished her second year as chair of the Education Department, dedicating significant time this year to planning and implementing curriculum changes, including securing university and state approvals for a substantially redesigned Masters of Arts in Teaching program.



Michael Steinberg offered a paper on "Anti-Semitism and Displacement" at the conference "Mosse's Europe: New Perspectives in the History of German Judaism, Fascism, and Sexuality" honoring the centennial of George Mosse's birth in Berlin, Germany, in June 2019. In August he

spoke at the Bard Music Festival "Erich Wolfgang Korngold and His World" and in November at a workshop of Hartmut Rosa's sociology of "Resonance" at Northwestern University. He continues to serve as senior advisor to the American Academy in Berlin and in that capacity co-convened the semi-annual Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Seminar in January 2020 on *Mixed Motive Migrations and the*

Implications for Public Policy. He is at work on two new book projects and looks forward to a sabbatical year in 2020-21.



Without a question, the most important thing for **Adam Teller** in the last year, academically speaking, was the publication of his new book, *Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (Princeton University Press, 2020), the culmination of more than a

decade's research and writing. A celebratory webinar-Book Launch was held by the Center for Jewish History in New York. A revised version of one of the chapters was published as a stand-alone article in the journal, *Jewish History*. In addition, his Hebrew-language article on Jewish military activity during the 1648 Khmelnytsky uprising in Ukraine was published in the Festschrift for Prof. Israel Bartal of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

This year, he delivered the annual *Aron Freimann Lecture in Jewish Culture* at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He also gave the 2019/20 opening seminar on eastern European Jewish history at the *Global Education Outreach Program: Doctoral Seminar* held in Warsaw, Poland. In addition, he spoke on his research at Birkbeck College of the University of London in the UK and the Polin Museum for the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. The work on the project on the digitization of early modern Jewish communal records (*pinkassim*) of whose academic committee he was a member, was completed, and over 200 mss. in Hebrew and Judaeo-German have been published on-line at the website of the National Library of Israel. He also continued to work on a new project in co-operation with colleagues at the Charles University in Prague: entitled *Transregional Contacts and Connections in the Early Modern Ashkenazi World*, it will involve a number of preparatory workshops to be held in the fall of 2020, an international conference in Prague in 2021, and the publication of a volume of research thereafter.



Meltem Toksoz wishes to write this newsletter piece as a letter to every single person that inhabits the department in all and every way to share her experience at the department! It has now been four

years since the department has welcomed her to the most congenial professional space she has ever experienced. She and her daughter aged 15 at the time arrived in Providence in the summer of 2016 for what was to be only a sabbatical year. But as July 15, 2016 brought a so-called coup d'état to

her home country Turkey with a severe purge primarily against some academics, and journalists, they found themselves in an impossible situation.

To explain this long and arduous process is not easy but here is an effort: After the June 2015 elections, the current leader's (Erdogan) party lost its majority after a decade to the first ever civilian Kurdish party (a historically suppressed large ethnic minority in Turkey), serving as the reason for Erdogan to rekindle the war against Kurds, once again lumping the militant and civilian Kurds together as was the case in all of Turkish history. This time the war was not at all limited—even in discourse—to militant Kurds but to all Kurds in southeastern Turkey, children and women included and under curfew for months at a time totally unable to escape the war and/or receive medical help. Even Doctors without Borders were not allowed in the area. The worst months were immediately after the elections. By Fall 2015, many academics began to voice their dissent against this situation and some 1000, including Toksoz, finally came together to publish a petition that condemned the war and asked for peace in early 2016. This peace petition, as it came to be called, became a fundamental reason for Erdogan to begin purging academics without really much of a plan.

Then came the coup d'état of the summer 2016. In the fall of 2016, Erdogan's government began investigations against the peace petitioners (academics for peace as we came to be called) and issuing decrees to fire people from state employment, including universities. Toksoz is one of the petitioners, and happened to be in a university where only one non-citizen petitioner was fired. However, the investigation against her began at this time, and then she was charged with 'aiding terrorist propaganda' punishable under the Turkish penal code up to 7.5 years. This meant that a few months into her sabbatical she could not return to Turkey and face such grave risk. That is when thanks to Beshara Doumani and Robert Self, who helped her remain at Brown as a visiting scholar, she began teaching as part of both the History Department and the Middle East Studies program. This was not just helping a colleague, this was practically ensuring the well-being of scholar from faraway lands at her hour of immense need. This was also keeping a family together and making sure a teenager continue her education and indeed end up in college. A family could not be more grateful than they are.

Moreover, in the past four years, the history department became her new institutional home where she began feeling very welcome. She has been teaching on the Ottoman Empire, Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean, South Asia, economic and intellectual history in a variety of courses all

of which she loves. She had the great privilege of advising some 7 undergrads in a variety of programs. This year she was hoping to share commencement with 4 advisees but the virus took it away. The virus has touched everyone in ways we perhaps cannot even fathom at the moment, it has made her think of her time with you all and how she got here. Her sabbatical in the year 2016-2017 was for writing a new book, which remains unfinished but very close to completion, and Toksoz hopes to submit it for publication by September 2021.

She is working on an Ottoman historian of the late 19th century, who produced an impressive literature in novels, journal pieces, political economy and world history volumes. Her questions are why and how an Ottoman intellectual would write a world history at a difficult time for the empire, and what that means. She aims to examine Ahmed Midhat's global history oeuvre to open up binary narratives of modern versus traditional, by and large militating against the conventional examination of ideas in the 19th century global and globally Ottoman contexts. Circumventing these binary-based narratives can dispel the nexus between Islamic and secular teleology that has been informing much of the focus of Middle Eastern historiography. Her concern here is not yet another attempt at collapsing imperial political thought into the nation, instead to position Middle Eastern political thought in the 19th century within a global context. When published, this book too shall only be possible thanks to the immense support she has from the department!

In July 2019, **Michael Vorenberg** returned from his stint as the Ray A. Billington Visiting Professor at Occidental College and the Huntington Library. Since then, he has been



At Providence College, he delivered two lectures relating to Abraham Lincoln and emancipation. At Brown, he returned to teaching, among other things, large undergraduate courses on American legal history and the Civil War and Reconstruction.



Gordon S. Wood lectured at various places this past academic year, including the University of Wisconsin and Colonial Williamsburg. He also spent three weeks at Northwestern Law School lecturing on constitutionalism in the American Revolution. In January 2020 he attended the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival where he made three presentations. He continued to serve on the boards of several documentary projects.



Vazira Zamindar was selected as a faculty fellow by the Swearer Center for the 2019-20 academic year, to support their Engaged Scholars Program, and really enjoyed working with their fabulous community. *Art History from the South*, a speaker series that she started last year, continued this year

with colleagues in History of Art and Architecture, and another collaboration with colleagues Yannis Hamilakis and Ariella Azoulay, which started with Decolonizing the Museum teach-in in Spring 2019, became more formal as the *Decolonial Initiative on Migration of Objects and People*, and she co-organized a series of events related to that. Yet another collaboration with a colleague at RISD was planned for April 2020 - an international workshop entitled *Art History, Postcolonialism and the Global Turn* - but this is now tentatively postponed to the fall due to Covid-19. And alas, *Love, War and Other Longings: Essays on Cinema in Pakistan* (based on two years of the Brown-Harvard Pakistani Film Festival) is finally out in paperback! A beautiful and busy year, as well as an extremely challenging one - it ends in unexpected quiet and preparations for the uncertain times ahead. ◻

Notable Lectures

The 40th William F. Church Memorial Lecture
"False Impressions: A History of Print Forgery"

Nick Wilding
Professor of History, Georgia State University

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 5:30 pm
 Smith-Buonanno, 106 (95 Cushing Street)

Free and open to the public.
 A reception will follow the lecture.

Faculty Activities In Memoriam



Associate Professor of History **Robert Douglas Cope** — known as Doug by colleagues, friends and family — passed away October 6, 2019, at the age of 64.

During his 31-year stretch at the University, Cope became well known among undergraduates for his vibrant and engaging lectures in courses on colonial Latin America, conquests, the Mexican Revolution and, most famously, pirates.

“Above all, he really was a master storyteller,” said Jennifer Lambe, associate professor of history. Lambe first met Cope while she was an undergraduate at the University. She took three classes with him — HIST 0233: “Colonial Latin America,” HIST 1967E: “In the Shadow of Revolution: Mexico Since 1940” and an upper level seminar on resistance and rebellion in Latin America. Lambe was consistently drawn to Cope’s courses because of his ability to “communicate the material in a way that made it come alive for students.” He could engage “everyone in the class in a really effortless way,” she added.

Cope wore many hats during his time at the University: He served as a first-year and sophomore advisor, an advisor for undergraduates and graduates in the Department of History, a graduate student supervisor for the colonial Latin American field of study and a concentration advisor for the

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. In each of these positions, Cope demonstrated an incredible dedication to students at the University, Lambe said. “Doug was the kind of person who you asked to do something, and he would always say yes,” she added.

Javier Fernández-Galeano PhD ’19, visiting assistant professor of history who knew Cope as a professor and mentor at the graduate school, remarked that Cope possessed a “legendary” talent for engaging students through his lectures. Without the aid of Powerpoints or other presentations, “students were able to visualize the historical narrative because of his incredible capacity to make his lectures so tangible,” Fernández-Galeano said.

Cope also made Fernández-Galeano feel personally welcome in the field of academia. “As someone who came from a humble background, he was always invested in making everyone feel included. That kind of presence is something very unique in academia.” Cope’s compassion for others also extended into his academic research. He was particularly interested in studying marginalized communities and ensuring historical justice for indigenous people, Fernández-Galeano said.

Cope’s first published book, titled *The Limits of Racial Domination: Plebeian Society in Colonial Mexico City, 1660-1720*, explores categories of race in Mexico during the colonial period. The book was “a classic in history from below” — a historical narrative captured from the perspective of marginalized groups — and received an honorable mention for the Herbert E. Bolton Prize for the best book in Latin American Studies, said Neil Safier, associate professor of history and director of the John Carter Brown Library.

Before he passed away, Cope was working on a book examining working class individuals and the informal economy of Mexico City in the eighteenth century, said James Green, professor of Latin American history and director of the Brazil Initiative. The Department of History is hoping to find the manuscript of the book on Cope’s computer so that his work can be published. Though Cope’s colleagues described him as shy and introverted, when Cope discussed his research “he was full of life and energy,” Green said.

Cope was raised in a working class family as the oldest of four siblings. He first entered higher education at St. Clair County Community College, where he earned an associate

Faculty Activities

In Memoriam

degree in humanities in 1977, before receiving a bachelor's degree in history from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan in 1979. Cope continued to study Latin American history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning his master's in 1981. Following his graduation, Cope was accepted as a Fulbright Scholar and chose Mexico as his host country.

One of his sisters, Marikay Cope, remembers her older brother returning from his trip and trying to teach her Spanish. Cope loved learning languages — he was fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and could read and write in French, Marikay said. “Doug has always been the smartest person I know. We laugh sometimes that he got the lion's share of the family,” Marikay said.

Because Cope was 14 years older than Marikay, he was already away at college while Marikay was growing up. Her fondest memories of their time together are during the summers when her older brother returned home. As a young girl, she remembers Cope scooping her up and letting her ride on his shoulders, telling her stories and making impressions of Sesame Street characters. “He did a really great Grover,” she said. It was a tradition every summer for Cope, Marikay and their father to make the drive up to Detroit for a Tigers baseball game. Baseball was Cope's favorite sport. Above all, Marikay remembers her brother for his quiet compassion. Cope contributed to over 50 charities throughout his life, supporting causes such as the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, firefighters and various animal charities.

Oftentimes, Cope would make a donation in the name of his nieces and nephews, Marikay said. “If you were to talk to any of his nieces and nephews, their greatest memories of their Uncle Doug were the unique things he would send them,” Marikay said. One year, he sent his nieces and nephews a letter notifying them that he had adopted a cow to help a family in a foreign country in their name. Another year, they received a stuffed toy seal along with a certificate verifying that they had saved a seal's life.

But outside of the packages sent to his nieces and nephews in the mail, Cope's family was unaware of his many other charitable donations, Marikay said. While looking through Cope's apartment after he passed away, Marikay and her sisters discovered dozens of letters from charities Cope had donated to over the years. “He never

talked about (his donations). But I think he felt like he made a good living, and he didn't need all of the money he made. He wanted to use it for something good,” Marikay said.

Cope is survived by his three younger sisters — Melissa Zantello, Marge Fagan and Marikay — along with his brothers-in-law and several nieces and nephews.

The Department of History held a memorial service for Cope on December 13, 2019 at the John Carter Brown Library, attended by members of the faculty and Cope's family.

Hunter Dupree, George L. Littlefield Professor of History at Brown University (1968-1981) and a leading historian of American Science and Technology, died peacefully at his home in Cambridge, MA on November 30, 2019. He was two months short of his 99th birthday. He is the author of the path-breaking book, *Science and the Federal Government: a History of Policies and Activities to 1940*, a still unequaled survey and synthesis of national policies and scientific activities over so long a period. He is also the author of the definitive biography of the foremost botanist of nineteenth-century America, Asa Gray, who contributed to the development of Charles Darwin's ideas, was Darwin's leading supporter in the United States and was able to reconcile science and religion. Former students describe him as “the most open, accessible, and supportive of mentors” and as a passionate lecturer, waving a clipping from the daily newspaper or the current issue of *Science* as he demonstrated the relevance of history to policy.

Born in Hillsboro, TX on January 29, 1921, Hunter Dupree was the son of George Washington and Sarah Anderson Hunter Dupree, both first generation university graduates. He was raised in Lubbock, TX, where his father was a partner in a leading law firm, Crenshaw, Dupree and Milam. Hunter excelled at Lubbock High School and at Oberlin College where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in History in 1942.

Following an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1946, at the rank of Lieutenant, Hunter went on to receive his M.A. from Harvard in 1947. Under the guidance of Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., one of the first scholars to examine the impact of science and technology on American society from a historian's perspective, Hunter completed his doctoral thesis on the life and work of Asa Gray, the leading American

botanist of the nineteenth century, in 1952 while teaching history at Texas Technological College (1950-52).

In 1953 Hunter became a research fellow at the Gray Herbarium at Harvard to continue his work on Asa Gray. His planned biography was interrupted when the National Science Foundation selected Hunter to lead a research project on the history of science in the federal government, which became his first book. Hunter joined the history department at the University of California, Berkeley in 1956. His professional career was firmly rooted in the study of science and technology in American society, and the historical impact of government science policy. During his career at Berkeley, he held various administrative posts including Assistant to Chancellor Glenn Seaborg (1960-62) and Director of the Bancroft Library (1965-66). He was a first-hand witness to the Free Speech Movement of 1964.

Throughout the 1960s Hunter held numerous advisory posts with the federal government and scientific institutions. He was a member of the Library of Congress Committee where he helped develop the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC). He was a consultant to the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science and Public Policy (COSPOP), and drafted its report, *Federal Support of Basic Research in Institutions of Higher Learning* (1964). He was on the NASA Historical Advisory Committee (1963-73) and Atomic Energy Commission Historical Advisory Committee (1967-73). Hunter became George L. Littlefield Professor of History at Brown University in 1968. Although he continued to pursue his primary research interests from the previous two decades, he also studied general systems theory, especially as it related to the controversial field of sociobiology. And, he began to write extensively on the social history of measurement, a subject he became interested in as a fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto (1967-68). Later he enjoyed a year as one of the first group of fellows of the National Humanities Center (1978-9).

In the 1970s, Hunter held positions in numerous professional organizations, including membership of the Smithsonian Council (1975-85) and Secretary of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1973-76), where he had been elected a Fellow in 1967. He was an advisor to both the National Science Foundation and National



Endowment for the Humanities, and a trustee of the Museum of American Textile History (1978-89).

Hunter retired from Brown in 1981, yet remained active in academic life. He served as a consultant on the National Academy of Science's Committee on Government-University Relationships in Support of Science (1982). He was Scholar in Residence at Southern Oregon State College in 1983 and Visiting Professor of the History of Science at the University of Minnesota in 1984. He was a member of the Research Advisory Committee for the National Air and Space Museum (1986). After returning the live in Cambridge MA from the mid-1980s, Hunter's renewed association with the Gray Herbarium and his regular participation in the activities of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences gave him much pleasure. In recognition of his many professional achievements, Hunter was the recipient of the New York Academy of Sciences President's Award (1976) and the History of Science Society Sarton Medal (1990).

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and, for three months, great grandfather, who will be deeply missed by his two children, Marguerite W. Dupree and Anderson H. "Andy" Dupree, and their spouses Rick Trainor and Jillon Dupree, and four grandchildren: Richard and Meg Trainor and Nicholas and Sarah Dupree, and by Richard's wife Rachel Finnegan, by their daughter and Hunter's great granddaughter, Juno, and by Meg's fiancé, Luke Auty.

Faculty Activities

In Memoriam

Norman Robert Rich, born April 19, 1921, passed away at home on February 22, 2020 just shy of his 99th birthday. He was surrounded by friends and family.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Norman was only child of Greta Henss and Robert Rich. Norman's father was a self-educated man who succeeded in the business of manufacturing and exporting paint. His mother was born in Germany and came to North American at the end of the First World War. She taught French and other subjects in private schools in Cleveland and the New York City area.

Norman received his bachelor of arts degree from Oberlin College in 1942, where he was a classmate and friend of the late A. Hunter Dupree. World War II was raging at the time, but as a pacifist Norman made the unpopular decision to register as a conscientious objector. While waiting to be called up, Norman followed the advice of a cousin and moved to the San Francisco Bay area, where he enrolled in classes at the University of California Berkeley. There, he came into contact with leading scholars of the day, including the great German historian Ernst Kantorowicz. Kantorowicz, a refugee from Nazi Germany, had been invited to teach at Berkeley, but as an enemy alien was subject to an evening curfew. After attending Kantorowicz' lectures during the day, Norman often visited him at home after dinner, where he, Kantorowicz and other academic refugees conversed in German about history and art.

Norman spent World War II in a camp for conscientious objectors in the Sierra Nevada mountains, constructing public works and suppressing forest fires. At the end of the war, he returned to Berkeley to complete his graduate studies, receiving his PhD in European history in 1949. By then, Allied forces had located 300 tons of German diplomatic papers that the Nazi regime had secreted in mines and other locations. One of Norman's professors, Raymond Sontag, had recently been appointed by the United States State Department to oversee the American team analyzing those documents, and he asked Norman to come to England to join him on the project.

It was there that Norman met his dear friend, a brilliant German refugee named Fredy Fischer. He and Fischer discovered that, among the volume of war records, were the papers of the 19th century German diplomat Freidrich von Holstein, which revealed a trove of previously unknown information about European politics leading up to the

outbreak of World War I. Fredy and Norman translated, edited and published the Holstein papers in four volumes. Expanding upon this work, Norman later wrote a two-volume study of German diplomacy in this period. (Possibly because of anti-Semitism, Fredy was unable to secure an academic position in Britain and instead became the editor of a then-obscure trade journal, which he transformed into the Financial Times of London.)

It was during his years in England that Norman met the love of his life and intellectual partner, Joan "Ning" Hitchcock. Ning was the granddaughter of the well-known British urban planner, Sir Raymond Unwin, and the daughter of the publisher Curtice Hitchcock. They married in 1952.

Upon returning to the United States, Norman was a fellow at Princeton's Center of International Studies, taught at Bryn Mawr College, and then became a professor at Michigan State University. It was in Michigan that his three daughters were born.

In 1968, Norman accepted a position in the Brown University History Department. For twenty years, Norman's taught an enormously popular two-semester course in modern diplomatic history. He wrote many of his seminal works during his years at Brown. His book *The Age of Nationalism & Reform*, his study of the causes the Crimean War, and his volume on Great Power diplomacy remain in use today. In 1973 and 1974, Norman published a two-volume study of Hitler's war aims, which resulted in a comprehensive re-examination among historians of the purposes and course of Nazi aggression. Befitting Norman's range of interests, he also wrote much else, including a contribution to a collection of essays on the life of Johann Sebastian Bach and a reminiscence of life in the camp for conscientious objectors during World War II. Norman also was awarded a research fellowship at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships for research in England and Germany. He retired from Brown in 1985.

Norman guided generations of undergraduate and graduate students, was a valued colleague in the Brown History Department, and had a wide (and international circle) of friends and admirers. Norman is predeceased by his wife, Ning. He is survived by his daughters Margaret ('82), Ann Curtice and Pamela ('83); son-in-law, Dirk Rosen; and three grandchildren, Samara, Nina and Maya Rosen. □

Undergraduate Program

“Will we be the first graduating class not to go through the Van Wickle Gates?” A senior asked this question in my honors thesis seminar in February.

Nobody replied. All of us in that class and across campus were coming to grips with what the pandemic would likely do to the spring semester.

The administration made decisions on the fly to try to ensure safety, wellbeing, and the educational mission. Students scrambled, with international students in particular making tough decisions about where to be—with many changing their minds as the situation worsened. (Asia seemed safer after all by mid-March.) So, too, with domestic students who would not have the emotional, physical, or technological support conducive to schoolwork if they left campus. Those who did return home, in the United States and abroad, had to cope with familial responsibilities, distractions, quarantines, depression, pandemic-related crises, and illness. One of our students managed to reach his home to sick parents near the epicenter of the outbreak in Italy, and he himself soon contracted the coronavirus. The good news is that all three are now recovering, although extremely slowly.

Faculty were given one week to transition our classes to online teaching—an enormous undertaking for those of us teaching lecture courses. Lectures had to be pre-taped so they could be offered asynchronously. Those of us teaching seminars found ourselves teaching very early in the morning, or very late at night in order to accommodate time zones across the globe. Not enough of those early or late spots were available, so some of us taught extra sessions of our classes. We found it stifling to teach to *Hollywood Square*-like boxes on a screen; it was hard to read faces and body language. On the other hand, we were given glimpses of our students' homelives. Parents and younger siblings floated in and out. Pet cats and small dogs joined us for the duration of class. All in all, the experience was “not as terrible” as we had expected, but much more labor intensive. Most of us scaled back our usual assignments for our students' sake and became much more flexible about due dates as we adjusted to the new online world. We listened, we tried to support to best of our abilities, spending hour after hour on Zoom. We checked in students we worried about. Many of us were learning how to teach preschool and elementary school to

our young children as we continued to teach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students. We tried to care for elderly parents from afar. At least two of us and a former History colleague lost a parent during this crisis; one was unable to return home abroad to mourn with his family.

At this writing, we do not know exactly what the next year(s) will look like. We've resigned to the fact that part of the teaching must continue online. But I want to assure you, our History alumni, that we are continuing to offer exciting, eye-opening classes that you loved when you were at Brown. Upcoming new courses include: The Ocean in World History, Globalism before Globalization, The First World War, Memories of the Medieval in the Age of White Supremacy, Vietnam/American War, Colonization and South Africa's First Peoples, Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe, Racial Capitalism and U.S. Liberal Empire, Earth Histories, War and Medicine since the Renaissance, and Mexican American and Chicano/a/x History. A colleague has suggested that we need to offer a co-taught class on the history of plagues, from the 6th century Justinian plague to Black Death to Smallpox in the Americas to 1855 bubonic plague in India to AIDS and other pandemics in between.

A former student, himself now an educator, recently reminded me in an email about the “long-term impact” we have on the lives of our students but usually remain “invisible” to us. “During these times of fear and sorrow,” he wrote, “I believe it is more important than ever to share our gratitude with those who have had a positive impact on our lives. So, once again, thank you for what you have taught me and countless other students at Brown.” All of my colleagues have received similar messages, if not now, in the past and will so in the future. In return, I'd like to say that the impact of our former students on us, although not usually evident, remains with us. We thank you also for what you have taught us and for inspiring us to continue to do what we love doing, which is to teach Brown history students.

Naoko Shibusawa

Naoko Shibusawa

Undergraduate Program

Award Recipients

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

Nikki M. Locklear

Beyond the Battle of Hayes Pond: Lumbee Identity and Politics in the 20th Century South

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

The Clarkson A. Collins Jr. Prize in American history is to be awarded to the member of the junior or senior class for the best thesis in United States History

Benjamin C. Bienstock

Black Awareness is Their Motto: The Black Power Movement in Providence, 1967-1972

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

Theodore A. Vial

Defining Freedom: New Mexican Debt Peonage and the Struggle to Define and Restrict Unfree Labor in the Post-Civil War Period

Advisor: Linford Fisher

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

Sophie R. Kupetz

"That neat, angel-devil theory was no longer useful": Prisoners Against Rape, The D.C. Rape Crisis Center and the Partnership that Transcended Walls and Critiqued the Society That Built Them

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

The Christian Yegen Thesis Prize for an outstanding thesis

Weng Yin Isaac Leong

Rituals of Justice

Advisor: Rebecca Nedostup

Shane H. Niesen

Socialism and the "Black Shame": Divergent Voices from The Crisis of Solidarity in German Social Democracy

Advisor: Tina Campt

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

Jacob P. Alabab-Moser

The Mexican "Island": Understanding the Role of the International in the Mexico City Popular Student Movement of 1968

Advisor: James Green

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

Zhenyang He

"Employ Such, Rely on Such": Catholics in English Universities under King James II, 1685-1688

Advisor: Tim Harris

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

Charles E. Steinman

"The bond of said child's blood through her, his slave": The Social Worlds of Slavery in Late Medieval Marseille

Advisor: Amy Remensnyder

Honors Recipients

Jacob P. Alabab-Moser

The Mexican "Island": Understanding the Role of the International in the Mexico City Popular Student Movement of 1968

Advisor: James Green

Benjamin C. Bienstock

Black Awareness is Their Motto: The Black Power Movement in Providence, 1967-1972

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

Zhenyang He

"Employ Such, Rely on Such": Catholics in English Universities under King James II, 1685-1688

Advisor: Tim Harris

Sophie R. Kupetz

"That neat, angel-devil theory was no longer useful": Prisoners Against Rape, The D.C. Rape Crisis Center and the Partnership that Transcended Walls and Critiqued the Society that Built Them

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

Weng Yin Isaac Leong

Rituals of Justice

Advisor: Rebecca Nedostup

Adam Z. Lipsey

Transcendental Development: A Meditation on the Socioeconomic History of Fairfield, Iowa

Advisor: Sandy Zipp

Nikki M. Locklear

Beyond the Battle of Hayes Pond: Lumbee Identity and Politics in the 20th Century South

Advisor: Françoise Hamlin

John L. Metz

The Warehouse of Cards: Tobacco Inspection and the Challenges of Colonial Governance in Virginia, 1713-1738

Advisor: Seth Rockman

Shane H. Niesen

Socialism and the "Black Shame": Divergent Voices from The Crisis of Solidarity in German Social Democracy

Advisor: Tina Campt

Hugh K. O'Connor

Money as Politics: The Boston Small Bill Crisis of 1804/1805

Advisor: Seth Rockman

Jeremy C. Rhee

At the Intersection of Immigration Histories: Studying Max Kohler's Engagement with Chinese Exclusion Litigation

Advisor: Naoko Shibusawa

Daniel J. Steinfeld

The Role "China Threat" Ideas in the Emergence of a New Washington Consensus

Advisor: Kerry Smith

Charles E. Steinman

"The bond of said child's blood through her, his slave": The Social Worlds of Slavery in Late Medieval Marseille

Advisor: Amy Remensnyder

Theodore A. Vial

Defining Freedom: New Mexican Debt Peonage and the Struggle to Define and Restrict Unfree Labor in the Post-Civil War Period

Advisor: Linford Fisher



On December 6th, 20 members and friends of the department attended Joan Richards's last lecture in the course "Science at the Crossroads," which was team taught with Lukas Rieppel. Professor Richards spoke of her long-standing and continuing engagement with Kuhn's idea paradigms and paradigm shifts.

Undergraduate Program

The History Department Undergraduate Group

By Kaylee Ding '20

The fall semester started off with our annual dinner welcoming history students back, where we enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with fellow concentrators and history professors. In October, we co-hosted an information session with the CareerLAB on career advice targeted to history concentrators, an event for which we received positive feedback and will continue to host in the coming years. In addition, another staple event for the History DUG is the faculty lunch. For the fall semester, we hosted one with four new faculty members: Benjamin Hein, Cindy Nguyen, Charles Carroll, and Javier Fernández Galeano. Attending students were able to chat with these four new faculty members in a more informal and intimate setting. A new event that we hosted in conjunction with the Choices Program, which recently became affiliated with the History Department. This information session introduced opportunities for students to work on creating high school history curricula with Choices.

We continued to experiment with events that will be popular with the History students who signed up to be on the DUG email list—this year about 160 students. A movie screening of the Battle of Algiers landed on a snowy day, making us realize that we host movies whenever

the circumstances allow. We also found that usual pre-registration advising hours were not well-attended, and we have decided to move our peer advising to an online Google form that students can fill out.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant we were unable to host our annual events that were slated for the second half of the semester: the thematic panel (this year on “Medicare for All” featuring two experts and Professors Rodriguez and Cook); the Declaration Day celebration; and the alumni career panel. At this writing, however, we are tentatively planning to host a virtual celebration for Declaration Day in June. The DUG members are looking forward to chatting with new concentrators then, and we hope to be able to reunite in some capacity in the fall. ◻



2019-20 DUG leaders Top: Aidan Wang, Shreya Das, Jonathan He, Isaac Leong, Kaylee Ding Bottom: Sophie Culpepper, Anna Marx, Bailey Kroop, May Niiya. Not pictured: Yara Doumani, Shane Niesen, Tanisha Pande, Melanie Pincus, and Charlie Steinman

Undergraduate Program

Wintersession Trip to the U.S.–Mexico Borderlands

By Evelyn Hu-DeHart

During Wintersession, January 2020, I took a dozen Brown undergraduates and TA Rene Cordero, History PhD candidate, to visit the US-Mexico Border and Borderlands up close and on the ground. After 3 days of intense reading and discussion on campus, we flew to San Diego, California, where we visited with the American Friends Service Border Project; Chicano Park, a symbol of community resistance against so-called urban renewal; the Vieques Reservation of the Kumayaa Indian Reservation and their casino; the Chaldean (Christian) Iraqi refugee community; an Immigrant Detention Center; and President Trump's border wall along a forlorn, barricaded stretch of land along the Pacific Coast.

Then we crossed the border to Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, where we were received by the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, our collaborating university partners, who showed us the Wall on the other side, several NGO's providing shelter to immigrants stuck at the border, environmental and ecological projects in this semi-arid region, the markets and music halls. We also visited the wall on the Mexican side, which presented a totally different scene: artists painted the wall, people sang and danced, tourists could go up to touch and even climb it.

We went across Baja California to the city of Mexicali by bus and driver provided by our university collaborators from the University of Baja California Mexicali campus. This border city was first developed as an extension of California's Imperial Valley irrigated by the Colorado River, and where cotton was cultivated by Chinese migrant labor



Crossing the U.S.-Mexico Border with TA/PhD candidate Rene Cordero, Wintersession 2020.

in the early 20th century. We visited the small town of Los Algodones 10 miles from Yuma, Arizona, to see how medical tourism works--hundreds of dental clinics and pharmacies in a few city blocks. Then we crossed the border again to Calexico, California, where the Border Patrol detained us because, we think, there were a few Muslim students among us. For the students, it was a most memorable experiential learning course. Brown provided all the funding, so it was accessible to all interested students regardless of financial background. In about two years, I hope to propose to repeat this course. ▢

Graduate Program

As I sit down to write this report at 12:30 pm on a Tuesday—a school day—the sounds filtering into my office are reminders of the tumultuous times we have faced and are still facing this semester. The sounds, not of colleagues and students, but of my children and spouse – all working in nearby rooms of our house, Zooming through the ether in their various meetings with teachers and classmates. I am not in my Brown office. No one is.

Spring 2020 brought an unexpected and unwelcomed new reality of altered education, work, and family life for everyone. Faculty at Brown have transitioned to teaching online, whether synchronously or asynchronously, often while balancing home care and the functional homeschooling of their children. Graduate students, too, have been hit especially hard. Graduate Teaching Assistants have suddenly had to learn how to use Zoom, manage online learning, hold virtual office hours, and navigate sections -- whether through Zoom or online discussion boards, sometimes all while managing childcare at home. Graduate students taking classes have felt the jolt of remote education from the other side, as students, even as professors worked hard to maintain cohesion and facilitate discussions through inevitably tedious sessions on Zoom. Other grad students overseas on research trips during their fourth or fifth years and were unceremoniously called back home, whether by the funding agency, Brown, or the US government. Still other students—particularly the third year cohort—suddenly found their dissertation prospectus writing plans hampered and even derailed as they watched their research funding and planned year abroad dissolve before their eyes. These have been trying times, there is no doubt.

The year started in a much happier place. In the fall of 2019, we welcomed a wonderful incoming cohort of 11 PhD students. The usual rhythms of classes, TAing, research, and writing for graduate students were punctuated with the fun and full complement of receptions and events that mark academic life at Brown. Some cohorts were studying for exams; others launching off into a year away from campus researching in far-flung archives around the world. The fall semester came to a close, winter half-heartedly came, the spring semester started as usual, and we welcomed a

large group of admitted PhD students to campus in early March. And then, everything changed, as campus activities were first suspended and then shut down just before Spring Break. April turned into an online teaching slog, and many graduate students faced new and difficult realities of a collapsing job market and widespread restrictions on research trips and travel. Archives, libraries, and campuses closed, and the world seemingly ground to a halt in the shadow of COVID-19.

In partnership with the Graduate School and the university, the department leadership advocated for the many needs of our students to ensure that proper funding, care, and support was in place. Although there are still many questions about international research trips, university funding more generally, and what post-graduation life looks like, we are taking one step at a time, working towards support and solutions.

Amidst these difficulties, many wonderful things also happened this academic year that are genuine reasons to celebrate: dissertations defended; research fellowships received; teaching awards and dissertation prizes won; jobs and postdocs secured; and many hours of productive work on papers, chapters, and exams. A highlight of the year was the much-anticipated completion of the Sharpe House move and renovation project in December. Since May of 2018, all faculty with offices in Sharpe House and all graduate students had been temporarily relocated for eighteen months while contractors first moved Sharpe House up the hill next to Peter Green House, joined the two buildings together, and then completely renovated Sharpe House. Although the disruption was rather monumental for all of us, in the end, it was a huge plus: faculty got revamped offices in Sharpe, and graduate students were given a brand new basement home

in Sharpe, complete with common lounge space, a separate social seating area, and an inner quiet workspace. Five TA offices round out the grad space, all of which is now nicely integrated into the traffic and social flow of the two co-joined buildings.

These challenging times have also brought us closer together as a department and as a graduate community – Zoom happy hours, virtual town halls, and never ending emails strategizing about next steps. All of this has made me proud of who we are – the community that each one of our faculty and students intentionally creates each day, in the halcyon days of just a few months ago, and now, in much harder times.

As we raise a glass to our graduating PhD students and the many successes of all of our students (see the listing below for a sample), I also want to thank Rebecca Nedostup, the DGS who immediately preceded me. It was part of

her vision to focus our graduate program on professional development and career diversity – a vision that now seems prescient and unfortunately more relevant than ever. Her strategic work during her three year term ensured that the program was strong and thriving, and better equipped to deal with the circumstances we face today.

Together, we will continue to move forward, to re-evaluate our program, our curriculum, and our professional training in light of these recent developments. I remain confident and optimistic in our people, in our process, and in our prospects.



Linford D. Fisher



Graduate Program

Accomplishments of Graduate Students in 2019-20

Thamyris Almeida

Appointed a Brown-Wheaton Faculty Fellow for the 2020-21 academic year.

Amanda Arceneaux

Selected for participation in the Researching the Archive program at the Folger Shakespeare Library for the 2019-20 academic year.

Charlie Carroll

Appointed Interim Program Manager of the Writing Center and Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University.

René Cordero

Received the Fulbright Open Study/Research Fellowship to the Dominican Republic for the 2020-21 academic year.

Received the Dominican Studies Institute Research Grant.

"The Latin American Archive: From State Repression to Political Redemption" Column essay for the *Woodrow Wilson International Cold War History Project* May 2020.

Sherri V. Cummings

Received the Richard S. Dunn Dissertation Fellowship at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies for the 2019-20 academic year.

George Elliott

Received an Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellowship at the Center for Digital Scholarship (Brown Library) for the 2020-21 academic year.

Received Ullyot Scholar Fellowship at the Science History Institute for the 2019-20 academic year.

Received a travel grant from the Linda Hall Library for the 2019-20 academic year.

Selected for participation in the Researching the Archive program at the Folger Shakespeare Library for the 2019-20 academic year.

Javier Fernandez Galeano

Received Honorable Mention for the History Department Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation entitled "Contested Sexualities: Male Homosexuality and the State in Spain and Argentina (1942-80)" (advisor: James Green).

Julia Gettle

Received an American Institute of Oriental Research in Amman for winter-spring 2021.

Leland Grigoli

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department) for the 2019-20 academic year.

Received a Birgit Baldwin Fellowship in French Medieval History offered by the Medieval Academy of America for 2020.

Appointed a Dean's Faculty Fellow for the 2020-21 academic year.

Ji Soo Hong

Received the W. Stull Holt Dissertation Fellowship from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR)

Received a research grant from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

Received a Civil Society in Russia Research Grant from the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

Received a Graduate Program in Development Fellowship from the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University for the 2019-20 academic year.

Mayer Juni

Received the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for the 2019-20 academic year.

Received a Global Mobility Fellowship Award for Fall 2019.

Joseph Leidy

Received a Teaching Fellowship in Global Islamic Studies (GIS) at Connecticut College for 2020-21, as part of the Mellon-funded Brown-Connecticut College Scholarly Exchange.

Diego Luis

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department) for the 2019-20 academic year.

Received the John Carter Brown Library's JM Stuart Fellowship for the 2019-20 academic year.

Received a 3-year VAP at Davidson College.

Publications:

-“Rethinking the Battle of Otumba: Entangled Narrations and the Digitization of Colonial Violence.” *Rethinking History* 23:3 (2019). DOI: 10.1080/13642529.2019.1604475

-“The Armed Chino: Licensing fear in New Spain.” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 20:1 (2019). DOI: 10.1353/cch.2019.0000

Rebecca Marisseau

Received a fellowship from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium.

Abhilash Medhi

Received the History Department Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation entitled “Frontier Ontologies: Land, Agrarian Governance, and Infrastructure in British India's Northwest and Northeast, 1840-1930” (advisor: Vazira Zamindar). This dissertation also received the Department's nomination for the Graduate School's Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Daniel McDonald

Received a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University.

Stacey Murrell

Received the Fulbright Open Study/Research Fellowship to Spain for the 2020-21 academic year.

Received Honorable Mention for Ford Predoctoral Fellowship (3-year)

Leslie-William T. Robinson

Received the 2019-20 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Graduate School.

Emily Roche

Received Pilecki Institute Research Grant

Heather Sanford

Fellow at the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice for the 2019-20 academic year.

Simon Simeonov

Publications

“The consular Caribbean: consuls as agents of colonialism and decolonisation in the revolutionary Caribbean (1795–1848); in J.D. Webb, R. Westmaas, M. del Pilar Kaladeen and W. Tantom (eds.), *Memory, migration and (de)colonisation in the Caribbean and beyond* (London: University of London Press, 2019), pp. 117–32.

Yu-cheng (Richard) Shih

Received a Global Mobility Fellowship Award.

Received a Doctoral Research Fellowship from the Esherrick-Ye Family Foundation

Received a Pre-dissertation Travel Grant from the Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies, Summer 2020

Publications

“Cold War Border Politics: Chinese Maritime Captives in Korea During the 1950s,” *Taiwan Insight*, October 2,

2019. Taiwan Studies Programme in the University of Nottingham.

External Appointment

External member of editorial board, *Memories of Manchuria*, Vol. 5-6. Research Association of Memories of Manchuria, Hitotsubashi University, 2019-20.

Jenny Lhamo Tsundu

Received an Academic Fellowship in Russia (AFR) from American Councils & the Carnegie Corporation of New York for Spring & Summer 2021.

Lillian Tsay

Received Stanford East Asia Library Travel Grant, 2019-2020.

Zhang Yekai ‘Kyle’

Publication

Zhang Yekai, ‘The Dutch Moment and Thoughts on the Study of Atlantic History’, *Studies of Maritime History*, vol. 15, Special Volume on the Tenth Anniversary of the Establishment of Guangdong Institute of Maritime History (Nov., 2019): pages tbd. Original Chinese title: 《<尼德兰时刻>与大西洋史研习进路之思索》

External Appointment

External member of editorial board (特邀执行编辑), *Studies of Maritime History*, Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, 2019

Commissioned Work

Co-editor, *Studies of Maritime History*, vol. 18, Special Volume on Indian and Atlantic History (2021).

Graduate Program

Doctor of Philosophy, 2019-20

Charles Carroll

"I Made a New Man in May Mind": Gender and the Making of the University of Paris, c. 1100-1300

Director: Amy Remensnyder

Javier Fernandez Galeano

Contested (Homo)Sexualities: Policing Transnational "Queer" Cultures In Argentina And Spain (1942-1982)

Director: James Green

Diego Luis

The Pacific Meets the Atlantic: How Early Modern Asian Mobility Transformed the Americas

Director: Evelyn Hu-DeHart

Abhilash Medhi

Frontier Ontologies: Land, Agrarian Governance, and Infrastructure in British India's Northwest and Northeast, 1840-1930

Director: Vazira Zamindar

Harry Merritt

For the Homeland, Against Each Other: Latvian Soldiers in Nazi German and Soviet Service in World War II

Director: Omer Bartov

Heather Sanford

Palatable Slavery: Food, Race, and Freedom in the British Atlantic, 1627-1852

Director: Linford Fisher

Master of Arts, 2019-20

Tamar Golinsky

William J. Mizgerd

Antonio R. Taylor

Stephanie Y. Wong

Director of Graduate Advising

By Jonathan Conant

Even as we bring a challenging year to a close, it has been a great pleasure to serve as the History Department's inaugural Director of Graduate Advising (DGA). Still a relatively new position, the DGA is responsible for career and professional advising across the range of jobs available to professional historians, both inside and outside the academy. An important part of the job is listening to graduate students about their sense of the needs of the program. Those concerns were central to shaping this year's "What History Looks Like" workshops, which focused on applying for major grants, asking and answering academic questions, pursuing careers beyond the professoriate (with outside guest speaker Alexis Albion of the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.), the possibilities offered by our proctorship with the Rhode Island Historical Society, and employment concerns for new and soon-to-be PhDs in light of the far-reaching economic impact of COVID-19. With the support of the Graduate School, the History Department was able to move quickly to develop a Summer Proctorship with our partners at the Choices Program to help alleviate some of the financial effects of the pandemic on our current graduate students. We hope to build on this experience and create a Fall 2020 Choices Proctorship, to expand still further the professional development opportunities for students within our department.

For a second year, the department further benefitted from one of twenty Career Diversity Implementation Grants, funded by the Mellon Foundation and administered by the American Historical Association (AHA). The grant allows us to hire a graduate student full time as Career Diversity Fellow

to help us develop more information about and relationships with partner institutions and with our students, faculty, and alumni. This year's fellow, Stacey Murrell, developed a robust series of graduate-student led and focused workshops on grant writing, preliminary exams preparation, and summer research planning. She also convened the Pedagogy Reading Group (launched in 2018–19) with sessions focused on how to teach history skills, the mechanics of writing a lecture, and grading and syllabus design. She furthermore organized "Get Hired! The Many Careers of a Historian." Drawing on the talents and experiences of Emily Swafford (AHA), Brown alums Sarah Yeh (PhD 2006, Concord Academy) and Stephen Chambers (PhD 2000, The Winthrop Group), and Neil Safier (John Carter Brown Library), this multi-day workshop addressed issues like navigating the transition out of graduate school, pursuing an academic career, marketing the PhD for a range of jobs, and maintaining our identities as historians beyond the academy.

Taken together, the creation of the position of DGA and the unstintingly generous work of Career Diversity Fellows Juan Betancourt-García (2018–19) and Stacey Murrell (2019–20) have sought to strengthen the department's support of career and professional development for our current graduate students and for our alumni. It is with great confidence, and with great pleasure, that I welcome the incoming DGA, Prof. Faiz Ahmed, who will carry on this important charge in the coming years. ▢



The Choices Program

2019-2020 marks the second year of the affiliation of the [Choices Program](#) with the History Department, and the relationship is flourishing. This year, History faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students provided the expertise and energy to new and revised curriculum units on the Syrian Civil War, the Russian Revolution, racial slavery and the making of the modern world, the French Revolution, South African freedom struggles, and African decolonization.

History faculty have long served as scholarly advisors to Choices, but the new affiliation has provided opportunities for both graduate students and undergraduates that has strengthened the quality and output of the curriculum units. This past year, four graduate students made important intellectual contributions and added to the overall productivity of the writing team. This coming fall, a 20-hour proctorship will allow a graduate student also to learn more about the professional development and the business



side of Choices. Meanwhile, undergraduates have worked as fact-checkers and writers. During the spring semester, three history undergraduates participated in an Independent Study to revise an out-of-date curriculum unit, *A Forgotten History: Slavery and Abolition in New England*. Students conducted research, wrote and revised text, and developed lesson plans. Word about the Choices Program is getting out to students: the program continues to receive numerous inquiries from History students, particularly undergrads, asking about opportunities with Choices.

Choices participated in the Brown community's response to the COVID pandemic. In order to help local

teachers' transition to online learning, Choices provided all of its Digital Editions curriculum for free to all teachers throughout Rhode Island through the end of the school year. The economic value of this contribution is roughly \$85,000 and was featured on the Brown website: "[Choices Program offers Rhode Island teachers access to digital course content.](#)" This was not an insignificant amount for as an independent nonprofit program whose salaries and operating costs completely depend on sales revenue, not the University. Like many small businesses, Choices is now running on an extra tight ship to sail the turbulent waters ahead.

Faculty Director, The Choices Program



BROWN