

HISTORY

Brown University Department of History

Volume 35 / Spring 2021

MATTERS



BROWN



Photo credit: Arquivo Municipal de Lisboa

Cover Image / Gabriel Rocha

The woman in the foreground of our cover image pulls, alongside others, the day's catches from the sea. Her grip on the rope is uneven, tighter in the right hand than the left. In another photograph from the same series, pictured above, a woman on the right copes with more than her part of the endeavor; holding the rope, she also props up a toddler. Part of a series composed in the 1950s by the Portuguese photographer Artur Pastor, these shots taken in the beachside village of Nazaré depict a fishing technique known as the “art of the xávega,” which has been adopted and adapted by coastal communities throughout the western Mediterranean for millennia. Carrying the imprints of diverse maritime traditions in its very name, the term in Portuguese derives from the Arabic shabaka, for “net.” Local lore in Nazaré tells of the introduction of this technique in the nineteenth century by fisherfolk from further south, and behind it, a collectivist principle: in theory at least, the snagged fish are to be evenly divided among the women and men who haul them onto the beach. Many of the fifteenth-century manuscripts I study, in their gnarled handwriting, refer to fisherfolk on Portugal's southern coast who knew and practiced an art and ethos that they, too, called “xávega,” suggesting a historical through line of collectivist mobilization reckoning with the roiling waters of the deep.

Coming across these photographs amidst turbulent times that have drawn so many into sequestered routines, I find myself primed to be captivated by the images' suggestions of a shared struggle, abetted by proximity, towards a concrete and collectively beneficial goal. Yet history, as we know well, can tack in unexpected directions.

Artur Pastor, who chronicled artisanal laborers throughout urban and rural Portugal for decades, worked most of his career in the Ministry of Agriculture under António de Oliveira Salazar's authoritarian Estado Novo government. Although scholars of Pastor note he was not a vocal supporter of the regime, his artfully composed portraits of working-class Portuguese women, men, and children offer images of industrious, proud, and storied people that were embraced and deployed by the fascists in power. Not for nothing, Pastor's photographs of Nazaré were presented by Salazar's dignitaries to Queen Elizabeth II during her state visit to Portugal in 1957. Communal praxis geared towards meeting local needs became refracted, through the lens of Pastor's Rolleiflex and the appropriative force of the powerful, towards an autocratic projection of labor in the service of nation and empire.

Despite these contradictions, the woman on our cover slopes forward, her eyes downcast, her forehead browed: she is, alongside others around her, contending with her present, the fish caught in that net, the grains of sand under her feet, the leaden pull of the mighty ocean's tide. Her labor, subjectivity, and expertise, combined with those of others, reveal not only the thick residue of the past, but how survival is a tenuous and insurmountably collective endeavor mired in the here and now – a meaningful truth evoked by Pastor's photographs in the unforgiving light of 2021, despite how they may have been instrumentalized decades ago. ▢

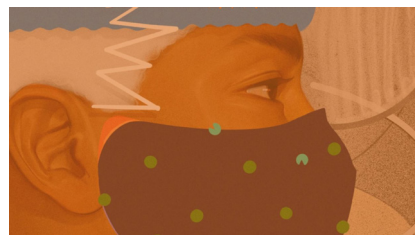
History Matters

Brown University Department of History / Volume 35 / Spring 2021

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Thank you.



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A Word from the Chair


Usually when the chair writes this column to update the community on the accomplishments and developments in the Department of History, the academic year is drawing to a close. This year is different. As I write, we are preparing for a special Summer 2021 semester that was designed to limit density on campus during the pandemic while allowing as many students as possible to have a residential experience. This is just one of many signs of how Brown and the History Department have adjusted to the pandemic.

What a year it has been! Perhaps more than any other year on record we have been reminded in 2020-2021 that our work cannot – and should not – be distilled to our research and publications alone. We also teach, care for our students' overall wellbeing, attend to our communities, and manage the day-to-day tasks that keep our department running and our university vibrant. In that light, the History Department has managed to have a good, if challenging, year.

We adjusted to the rules the university implemented to keep the community safe. We shifted all of our classes to on-line formats, learned to take advantage of new technologies and pedagogical tools, and worked closely with our students to help guide them on paths through the countless personal and academic challenges created and exacerbated by the pandemic. When we first set the curriculum for the academic year, we had roughly 80 courses spread evenly over two semesters. Then, as the pandemic worsened over the summer of 2020, the university decided to add a full-blown summer semester and asked us to adjust our curriculum accordingly. This had all the makings of an arduous, if not almost impossible, task. Instead, I got my first taste as chair of how extraordinary the history community is. The faculty, staff, and graduate students rose to the occasion, altered their schedules, adapted to the needs of the university and of the undergraduates, and almost made it easy to redistribute those 80 courses over three semesters in

a way that provided outstanding content and a range of options for our students. The faculty always value their teaching – this year they dedicated themselves to their courses and their students in ways that were truly inspiring.

The history department community remains, of course, passionately committed to research as well. To get a sense of the breadth of our activities, please see sections in this newsletter with the list of recent faculty books (pages 4-7), the names the five PhDs that were completed this year (page 38), and the list of this year's undergraduate theses (pages 32-33). These accomplishments notwithstanding, the challenges this year have been profound. The coronavirus pandemic brought with it travel restrictions, the closing of archives and libraries, and the cancellation of conferences which in turn stalled many research projects. When we could, we adapted. Sometimes the pandemic became a topic of study. As you can learn on page 11, Postdoc/Assistant Professor Mark Ocegueda and his students saw in the pandemic a duty to record the experiences and perspectives of members of the Latinx community as they live through these extraordinary times. In other cases, we have considered how our work might inform the ways we understand current events. In Professor Kerry Smith's exploration piece on page 13, we are invited to think about the upcoming Olympics in Tokyo in the context of the constant threat of a major earthquake that is a core part



of the city's identity. Finally, the pandemic reminded us again of the importance of thinking about the craft and responsibilities of historical research. On page 12 Professor Françoise Hamlin addresses the ethics of research and the obligations researchers have to the communities and people they study. A similar theme comes through in the Professor Linford Fisher's work with native regional tribes and communities to create a Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas, featured on page 8. In some ways the pandemic has encouraged us to discover layers of meanings in our sources that might not be apparent on first reading. Professor Rocha's description of the images that open this newsletter provides insight into the benefits a deep reading of our materials can provide. As these examples illustrate, despite the pandemic's challenges, our research continues and our community is thriving.

In the annual departmental comings and goings, we welcomed Professors Ocegueda and Rocha to their first – albeit very unusual – year at Brown. We also bid a fond farewell to the postdoctoral fellow Cindy Nguyen, a historian of Vietnam, Southeast Asian print culture, and libraries. Professor Nguyen was also a stalwart citizen in helping in helping the department

adjust to remote learning, sharing her remarkable breadth of knowledge about pedagogy and technology. She will be taking up a postdoctoral fellowship in the UC system before heading to a tenure-track job at the University of Ottawa. We thank her for her contributions these past two years and wish her well in her new positions.

As I bring these reflections to a close let me extend the department's warmest congratulations to Daniel Rodriguez, who was promoted to associate professor with tenure this year.

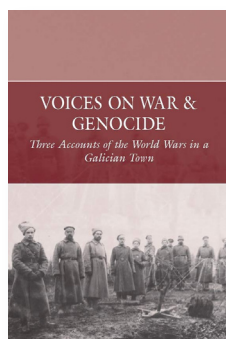
As I hope you will learn from perusing these pages, the pandemic has altered many things, but left our core mission intact. I would go even further – the pandemic has ushered in a renewed commitment to the importance of our teaching and scholarship and further solidified our appreciation for the broader community of alumni and friends from across Brown and the world who help to sustain us.



Ethan Pollock

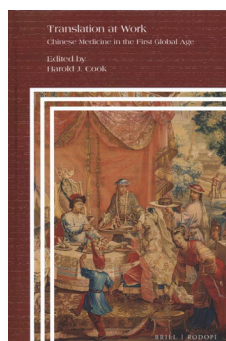
Recent Faculty Books

New Books



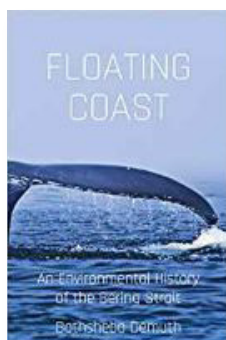
Omer Bartov

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



Harold J. Cook

Translation at Work: Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age, Leiden: Brill (January 2020)



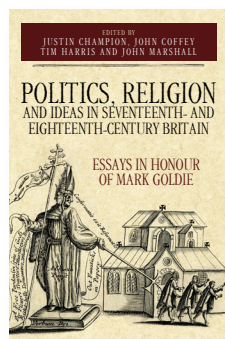
Bathsheba Demuth

Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait, W.W. Norton & Company (August, 2019)



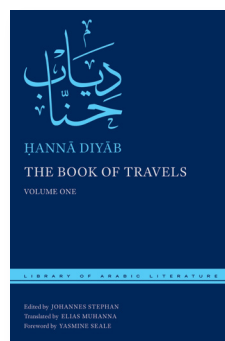
James N. Green, Thomas E. Skidmore

Brazil: Five Centuries of Change, Third Edition, Oxford University Press (June, 2021)



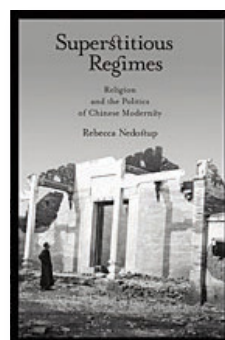
Tim Harris, Justin Champion, John Coffey and John Marshall, eds.

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



Elias Muhanna, Hannā Diyāb, Johannes Stephan, eds.

The Book of Travels: Two-Volume Set, NYU Press, (May, 2021)



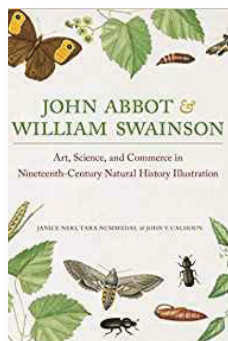
Rebecca Nedostup

Superstitious Regimes: Religion and the Politics of Chinese Modernity, Harvard University Asia Center (April, 2020)

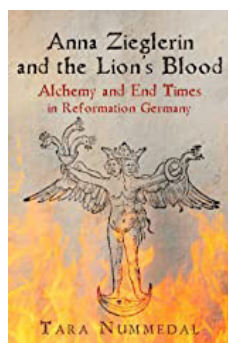


Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak, eds.

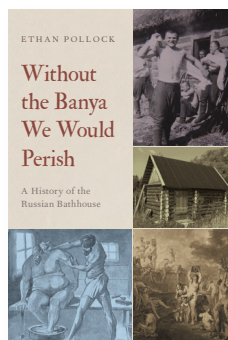
Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens (1618), University of Virginia Press (summer, 2020)



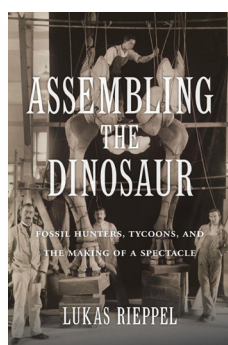
Tara Nummedal, Janice Neri and John V. Calhoun
John Abbot and William Swainson: Art, Science, and Commerce in Nineteenth-Century Natural History Illustration, University of Alabama Press (April, 2019)



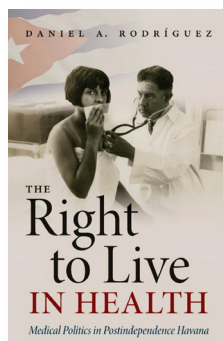
Tara Nummedal
Anna Zieglerin and the Lion's Blood: Alchemy and End Times in Reformation Germany, Haney Foundation Series (March, 2019)



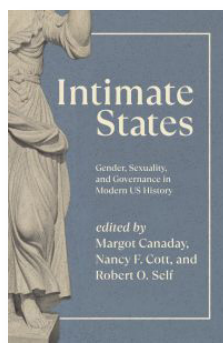
Ethan Pollock
Without the Banya We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse, Oxford University Press (September, 2019)



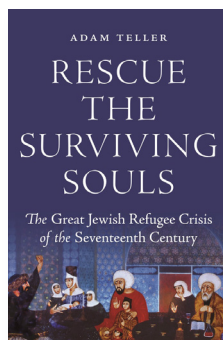
Lukas Rieppel
Assembling the Dinosaur: Fossil Hunters, Tycoons, and the Making of a Spectacle, Harvard University Press (June, 2019)



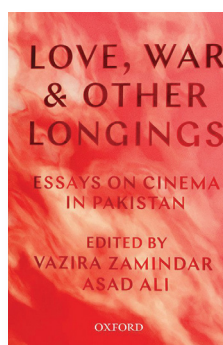
Daniel A. Rodríguez
The Right to Live in Health: Medical Politics in Postindependence Havana, The University of North Carolina Press, (July, 2020)



Robert O. Self, Margot Canaday, Nancy F. Cott
Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History, University of Chicago Press, (August, 2021)



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, eds.
Love, War and Other Longings: Essays on Cinema in Pakistan, Oxford University Press (2020)

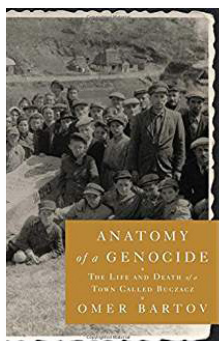
Recent Faculty Books

Reprints, Paperback Editions, and Translations



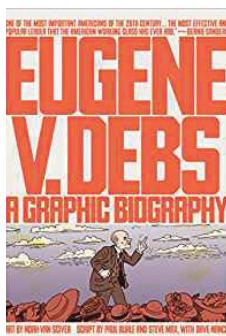
Faiz Ahmed

Afghanistan Rising: Islamic Law and Statecraft between the Ottoman and British Empires, Pashto translation (Kabul: Insan Institute, 2021)



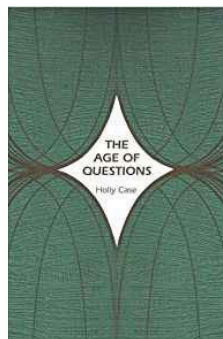
Omer Bartov

Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz, Simon & Schuster; Reprint edition pbk. (January, 2019)



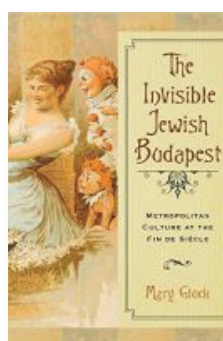
Paul Buhle and Steve Max

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



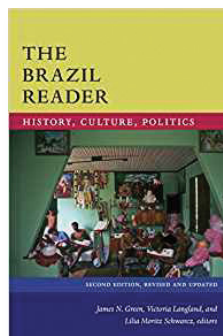
Holly Case

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)



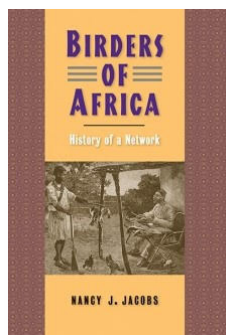
Mary Gluck

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



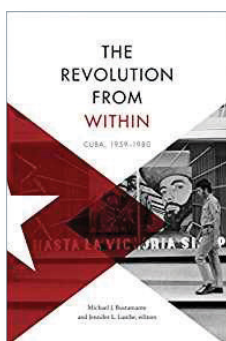
James N. Green, Victoria Langland and Lilia Moritz Schwarcz, eds.

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



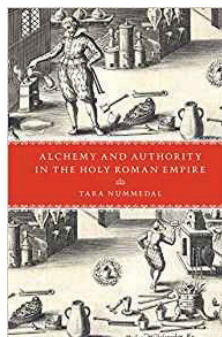
Nancy J. Jacobs

Birders of Africa: History of a Network, University of Cape Town Press pbk. (2019)



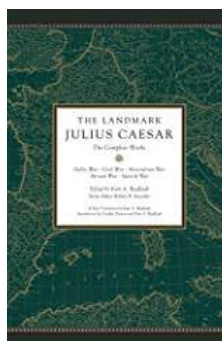
Jennifer L. Lambe and Michael J. Bustamante, eds.

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



Tara Nummedal

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



Kurt A. Raafaub, Robert B. Strassler eds.

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

Exploration

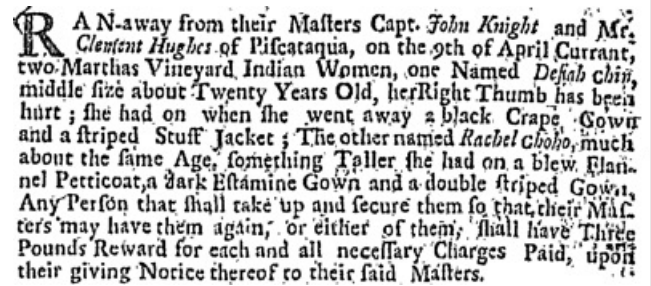
Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas

By Linford Fisher

April 1742, two enslaved women named Desiah Chin and Rachel Choho ran away from their masters in Piscataqua, in what is now the state of Maine. Both women were approximately twenty years old; Desiah had an injured right thumb and was wearing a black gown and a striped jacket; Rachel wore a blue flannel petticoat and two gowns, one dark and one striped. Their masters ran an advertisement in the *Boston News-Letter* and offered a three-pound reward for their return.

Running away or self-emancipating was common in the history of slavery, but a close read of this advertisement reveals an important detail: Desiah and Rachel were Native Americans from Martha's Vineyard, a small island off the coast of Massachusetts 150 miles south of Piscataqua. No details were given about how it was that they were taken from the safety of their island home and sold into slavery, nor are there records about whether they made it back again. Still, this story reveals a small window into the "other slavery," as one scholar has called it – the widespread reality of the colonial enslavement of Native Americans in New England and everywhere else that Europeans landed.

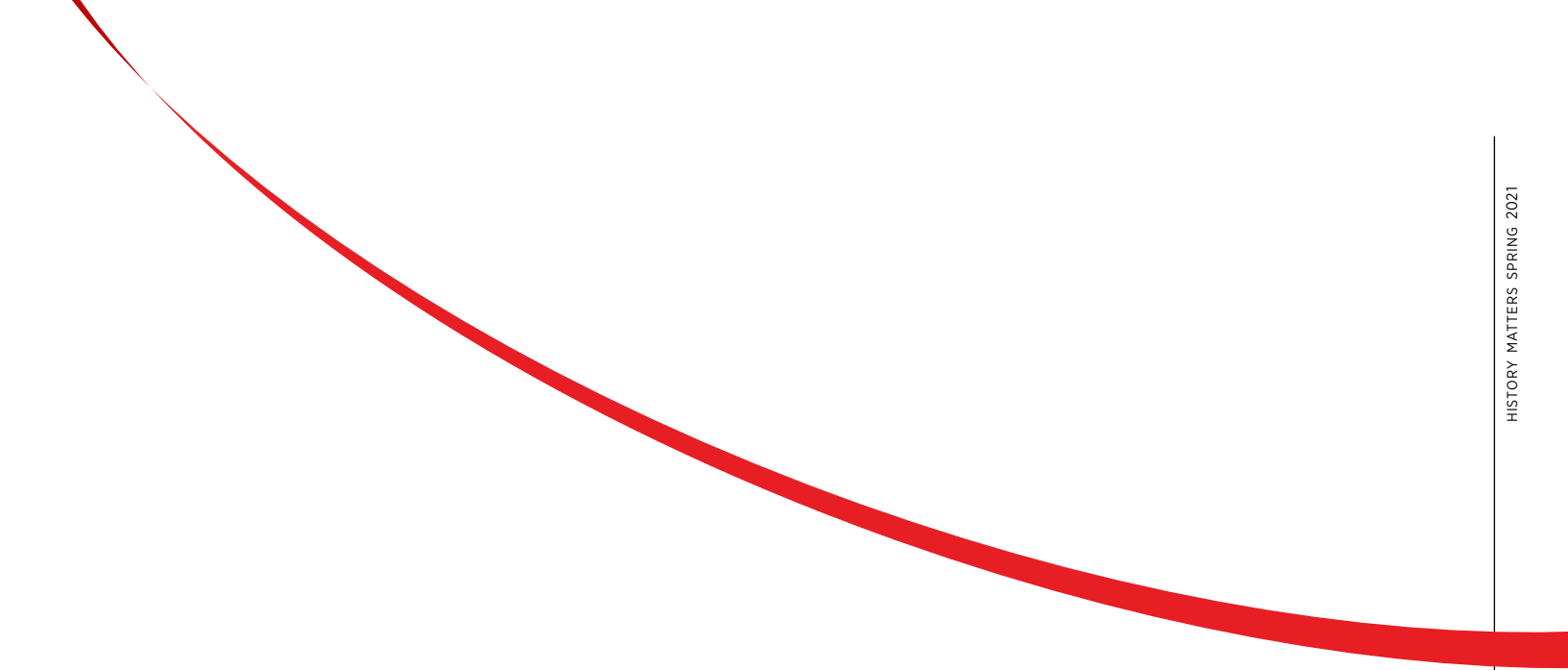
Long overlooked by scholars and almost completely unknown to the wider public, the enslavement of Indigenous peoples was a persistent and destabilizing aspect of settler colonialism that tore apart communities and families and aided settler colonial expansion. The hemispheric study of Native American slavery represents cutting-edge research in multi-lingual and multi-national contexts in the Americas. Scholars now estimate that between 2.5 and 5 million Natives were enslaved in the Americas between 1492 and the late nineteenth century – an astonishing number by any measure (even compared to the approximately 10.5 -12 million Africans who were brought as slaves from Africa in this same time period).



RAN-away from their Masters Capt. John Knight and Mr. Clement Hughes of Piscataqua, on the 9th of April Current, two Martha's Vineyard Indian Women, one Named Desiah chin, middle size about Twenty Years Old, her Right Thumb has been hurt; she had on when she went away a black Crape Gown and a striped Stuff Jacket; The other named Rachel Choho, much about the same Age, something Taller she had on a blew Flannel Petticoat, a dark Estamine Gown and a double striped Gown, Any Person that shall take up and secure them so that their Masters may have them again, or either of them, shall have Three Pounds Reward for each and all necessary Charges Paid, upon their giving Notice thereof to their said Masters.

Boston News-Letter, April 14, 1718

Over the past five years, a group of researchers at Brown have been working on the Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas (DISA; indigenousslavery.org), which is a community-centered project that seeks to document as many instances as possible of Indigenous enslavement in the Americas between 1492 and 1900 (and beyond, where relevant). Led by a team of scholars at the Center for Digital Scholarship and me, this project seeks to recover the stories of individuals as well as educate the public on the reality of these processes. Although the vision for the project is hemispheric in scope, we are focused primarily on New England for now, and are working in close partnership with approximately thirteen regional tribes, nations, and communities.



One of the most rewarding aspects of this project has been the relationships and partnerships that have developed over time with regional Native tribes and communities. Through regular larger group meetings, smaller subcommittee meetings, and individual consultations, tribal input has been essential for placing these events in larger Native contexts; understanding the legacies and historical trauma caused by enslavement, dispossession, and settler colonialism; and discussing how to decolonize the documents on which this information is drawn by paying attention to language, wording, and the assumptions that are latent in colonial sources.

Over the past year approximately 15 different researchers have worked on the project, including undergraduate and graduate research assistants, proctors, and interns from Brown but also from the University of Utrecht and the Free University of Berlin. Approximately the same number of official tribal representatives have also been involved in conversations, meetings, and deliberations over the past year as well, ensuring that as researchers continue to find and enter information, we are carefully handling this sensitive historical information and preparing it for eventual public

access in ways that are legible to and respectful of tribal histories and people.

While this project seeks to bring greater understanding to the past, it is important to recognize that these Indigenous nations are still here, in New England and all across the Americas, and have vibrant communities and cultural traditions. They, too, have oral histories regarding settler colonialism, displacement, indigenous enslavement, and ongoing survival into the present that need to inform our understanding of the past; archival materials alone are insufficient. In combination with tribal input, DISA will allow the slow centralization of biographical information related to enslaved indigenous people like Desiah and Rachel from Martha's Vineyard and place it online where historians, researchers, students, tribal members, and families can use the information to reconstruct histories, chart networks, and make connections in ways that have never before been possible. These are hard realities and difficult histories, but they need to be told fully so we can start to be more honest about the history of this country and think more clearly about how to make amends moving forward.▫



THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT COLLABORATES WITH THE VOCES OF A PANDEMIC ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

By Mark Ocegueda

This past year, I have partnered with the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas, Austin to help support their initiative to document how the Latinx community is confronting and experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic. In Spring 2021, students in my Introduction to Latinx History course participated in conducting oral history interviews with individuals that included educators, street vendors, nurses, immigrants, community organizers, students, grocery store workers, and fast food workers. Prior to conducting their interviews, students received training in oral history methodology

and learned how to remotely conduct oral history interviews via Zoom. Though a challenging assignment given that students conducted the interviews remotely, they appreciated having the opportunity to participate in the history-making process through documenting the testimony of people living through these extraordinary times. The Latinx community is disproportionately being impacted by the pandemic. It is both overrepresented among essential workers and underrepresented among those with access to healthcare. These oral history interviews are part of a larger effort to better understand how Latinx people are navigating life

during the pandemic. This project, known as Voces of a Pandemic, is a part of the leading oral history collection of Latinx people in the United States and has already archived over 200 interviews. Students in my course contributed over a dozen interviews to the project and they will be archived at the Brown University Digital Repository and the Nettie Lee Benson Library at the University of Texas, Austin. The Voces Oral History Center is also allowing the public to view the interviews on their YouTube channel.◻

Voces of a Pandemic Website:
voces.lib.utexas.edu/voces-pandemic

Voces Oral History Center YouTube Channel:
youtube.com/channel/UCU_W9jThezjbd1yIAIWUsKA

Exploration

Moral Integrity in Research

By Françoise N. Hamlin

My current book about young people, activism, and trauma has forced me to dig deep into the ethics of research and the idea of “knowledge for the sake of knowledge.” Last year the American Historical Review published my essay “Historians and Ethics: Finding Anne Moody” which I wrote to begin a field-wide conversation about the ethics of finding someone who did not want to be found and negotiating research with personal moral integrity.

Anne Moody is best known for her 1968 autobiography, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, that documented her first twenty-two years growing up in the Magnolia State, and her activism as part of the mass movement for civil rights before she escaped racial terror and fled the South. While the book became an instant hit, assigned for decades in schools, colleges, and universities, we know little about Anne Moody’s life afterwards. A few legally obtained boxes containing sensitive personal information that highlighted trauma and mental illness became available at a university archive. After I read through the archive, I contacted the family to report what I had found, and connected them with the archivists. Months later I found out that the library had returned the boxes which one family member summarily burned. These papers no longer exist. Given that I seemed to be the only researcher with any knowledge of

the contents of the archive, I wrote about my own struggle with what to do next, raising some of the ethical issues historians must navigate as they follow research leads that land them in grey areas. This, of course, becomes amplified when considering race, power, class, consent, and privacy. Ultimately, I underscored the importance of personal and professional integrity in the methods and products historians utilize and create.

The article, published in April 2020, received the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Article Prize from the Association of Black Women Historians but I am most grateful for the conversations it has prompted. In the past year many scholars around the country have reached out to express how the subject resonated with them in one way or another. Some wrote sorrowfully, mourning the fate of Anne Moody who they had encountered through the autobiography, while others pondered on the complexities of teaching method and ethics in the field. The more I teach and research the more interested I have become in method and what I call the “ethics of care;” particularly as I move through circles dominated by lipservice to issues of justice, fairness, while knowledge extraction without social investment continues to reap rewards. We have to reflect the change we want to see in the world and this is my journey. ▢

Disasters That Haven't Happened Yet: Tokyo in 1964 and 2021

By Kerry Smith

Assuming that the pandemic-delayed Summer Olympics opens as planned in Tokyo in July, we can count on both Japanese and foreign media coverage to be full of comparisons between the city as it is now and how it was in 1964, the first time it hosted the Games. Parts of it certainly look very different. The 17-story Hotel New Otani was Tokyo's tallest building in 1964; it's still open for business but now barely registers against a horizon filled with scores of towering skyscrapers. The capital's crowded subways and trains, its bustling stores and elevated expressways impressed first-time visitors and television viewers abroad in 1964, and although some of the novelty will have worn off, it won't be hard to show those watching from afar how much more there is of everything in 2021; more people, more technology, more wealth.

An important but less legible quality of the city's history between the two Olympics has to do with how it has been shadowed by earthquake disasters that haven't happened (yet), but that experts have long warned were an all but inevitable part of Tokyo's future. The first warning came just a few months before the opening ceremonies in 1964. The seismologist who issued it was a leader in the field in Japan, and when he announced that another earthquake on the same scale as the one that had destroyed large parts of the capital district in 1923 was increasingly likely, people took him at his word. That same seismologist's descriptions of a post-earthquake Tokyo engulfed in "seas of fire" convinced policy makers to mandate disaster preparedness plans and to attempt to create safe evacuation zones for the city's residents. Tokyo's present-day anti-earthquake-disaster measures, such as they are, owe a lot to those early interventions.

The earthquake that Tokyoites worry most about these days is not the one they were warned about in 1964. The disaster in 1923 was the result of slippage at plate boundaries along the Sagami Trough, offshore. Scientists have thought since the 1980s that the greatest short-term threat to the city will come instead from a shallow, intraplate earthquake originating more or less directly beneath the capital, not unlike the one that devastated the city in 1855. There is a 70 percent probability of such an event occurring over the next 30 years, according to government estimates.



Portal to a disaster shelter complex in Sumida Ward, Tokyo.

The apparent precision of the methods used to calculate the causes and probability of Tokyo's next earthquake disasters (and the damage they will do) has played an important role in reassuring the nation since 1964 that the risks to the city were largely understood and therefore manageable, and that more growth was safe. The idea that the same mastery of engineering, science and technology that helped make Tokyo into one of the wealthiest cities on the planet is also what will protect it from its worst possible futures has an enticing symmetry to it, one that was regularly reinforced during a long period without direct, proximate evidence to the contrary.

The bargain that the city struck with itself back in 1964 to think about earthquake risks in ways that wouldn't unduly disrupt the economy need not be permanent, and disasters like the ones of March 11, 2011 certainly suggest that it ought not to be. There is still time, one hopes, for the emergence of ways of living with risk that burden the future less than we are doing now. ▢

Exploration

New Faculty Profile

Gabriel Rocha

Gabriel Rocha recently joined the Brown History Department as Vasco da Gama Assistant Professor of Early Modern Portuguese History. He received his PhD from New York University and, before coming to Brown, taught at Drexel University in Philadelphia. His work centers on the social, environmental, and maritime history of colonialism and slavery in the early modern Atlantic world, with a focus on the linkages between Atlantic Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean, and Iberia.

Your work places Portuguese history into a broader Atlantic context, making connections between the Iberian peninsula, Africa, and the Americas. Why is it so important that we look beyond Europe to understand the global impact of Portuguese history?

Rather than telling the story of empire as a project that originated in Europe and expanded outward through conquest and trade, I try as much as I can to recover multiple perspectives rooted in various places and regions that are integral to understanding the who, what, where, and why of colonial struggle. Situating Portugal in the early modern world becomes, in this respect, more than crafting a narrative around a single imperial or national history. I'm more concerned with examining how diverse peoples and groups moved through the Atlantic and beyond, entering into arrangements and conflicts with others in ways that changed the social, political, economic, and environmental landscape for themselves and those who came after. It makes for a messier story than seeing an empire in isolation, but hopefully offers us a more accurate basis for reckoning with the past and its aftermath.

Much of your teaching and research brings colonial history into dialogue with environmental history. Why must historians attend to the natural world in order to understand the history of colonialism in the early modern period?

Being imaginative with the archives that we have, and employing interdisciplinary insights where possible, environmental historians are in a position to track changes



in nature in material terms, to consider shifts in popular and elite perceptions of the environment, and to weigh how economic and political formations came about to justify, enact, or subvert sweeping transformations that were detrimental to many and beneficial to few. When we better understand the changing iterations of plunder waged against people and the planet across different historical periods, it becomes easier to grasp how present forms of race- and gender-based discrimination, anthropocentrism, and other structures of inequality are not, as we recognize them today, perennial aspects of the global order. These toxic forces have historical beginnings – and, sooner than later if we act accordingly – an end.

You are currently writing a book about the Atlantic Acceleration in the long fifteenth century. Can you explain what this “acceleration” was and how you became interested in this topic?

It’s often said that Portuguese and Spanish mariners inaugurated contact across the Atlantic. But if we think in broader temporal, spatial, and ecological terms, it becomes clear that a great number of species and materials regularly cycled through the vast expanses between Africa, the Americas, and Europe long before the so-called Age of Discoveries. From coming across many unexpected references in Iberian sources to sardines and other migratory fish, I became interested in what happens to our assumptions about power (in relation to people and nature) when we write these perennial non-human oceanic movements back into the rise of empires in the Atlantic world, rather than treating them as a historical background noise. The story becomes more about how, in the centuries after 1492, the maritime space between Africa, the Americas and Europe became humanized in a way that it hadn’t previously. With this infusion of people – the great majority of whom experienced involuntary exile from Africa to the Americas – the pace by which material and social connections linked the societies surrounding the Atlantic basin accelerated dramatically. To refer to this historical sea-change as an acceleration helps to convey a process that was rife with deepening forms of violence and dispossession.

What is your favorite history book?

I’ll answer this impossibly difficult question by expressing my appreciation for a colonial Brazilian history book that has been recently translated into English: the late John Manuel Monteiro’s *Negros da terra [Blacks of the Land]*. It’s a work of remarkable scholarship on seventeenth-century Brazil that traces confrontations between sovereign Indigenous peoples of eastern South America and Portuguese colonizers of what became São Paulo, and how patterns of enslavement and the rise of provisioning economies in the region helped underpin the plantation regime in northeastern Brazil. In reading it as a graduate student in an Atlantic History program, I remember being struck by how Monteiro’s analysis of regional integration in colonial Brazil mirrors the connections that scholars working on Native American slavery and plantation economies have uncovered in recent years between North America and the Caribbean. It’s a reminder of how the Atlantic history paradigm at its best pushes us to productively read across different historiographies.

Exploration

New Faculty Profile

Mark Ocegueda

Latinx History is a relatively new subfield within US History. What is distinctive about this field, and why is it so important for Brown to offer courses about the Latinx experience to its students?

You are right in that Latinx History is still a relatively new subfield within US History. It is so inspiring to witness the continuing growth of Latinx History. I am constantly in deep admiration of the scholars that engage in this field. I think Latinx History is distinctive in that this field is so wide-ranging along the lines of race, ethnic identity, culture, geography, politics, gender, sexuality, and class. It should go without saying that there is really no singular Latinx community or singular historical experience for Latinx people in the United States. I think that it is extremely important that Brown and every university across the country offer courses about the Latinx experience to students because our history is profoundly complex, still relatively unknown to the general public, and, in the words of Vicki L. Ruiz, Latinx history is the history of the United States.

Much of your teaching and research brings Latinx history into dialogue with labor history. Why is it so crucial for historians to attend to the ways that economic class intersects with ethnic identity?

This is a great question and one that is difficult to answer in a few sentences. By now, most historians know that labor history necessitates a close examination of race and ethnicity. Latinx people consist of a wide range of racial and ethnic backgrounds and often these factors have helped shaped their identities as workers. Hence, placing race and ethnicity at the center of our analyses when doing labor history makes possible a better understanding of how class formation takes place among Latinx people. This is something that I have found to be important in my research and teaching.



You are currently writing a book about Southern California's Inland Empire, focusing especially on the City of San Bernardino's Mexican American community. What initially brought you to this topic, and what is the most interesting thing you have learned while researching your book?

My interest in studying the history of this region stemmed from a personal curiosity given that I was raised in the City of San Bernardino. So much of Southern California history when considering ethnic Mexicans is still primarily focused in on places like Los Angeles, especially East Los Angeles, and places like the Inland Empire are understudied.

In many ways, I was frustrated with the historiography and wanted to understand how this region fit into the narrative by asking questions surrounding issues of race, ethnicity, labor, culture, civil rights, and politics. Ultimately, I want to see what the answers to those questions can afford us in terms of how we understand California history, ethnic Mexicans and Latinx people, the U.S. West, and the American historical narrative. Perhaps the most interesting thing that I have learned while researching this project is just how important the people of this region have been toward understanding U.S. history.

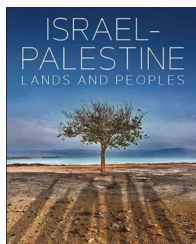
You also worked on a fascinating exhibit about the history of US Latino baseball called ¡Pleibol! Can you tell us more about this wonderful project?

I was fortunate to have participated in the development of this exhibition at the National Museum of American history through my public history work with the Latino Baseball History Project (LBHP) at California State University, San Bernardino. Over the years, I have conducted oral history interviews and collaborated with Latinx communities to document the history of baseball and softball teams in barrios throughout Southern California. That work eventually led to a collaboration with the Smithsonian where we contributed some of that research to the *¡Pleibol!* exhibition. This important exhibition will tell the story of how Latinas and Latinos have contributed to the long history of America's pastime. The opening of the exhibition was delayed due to the pandemic but hopefully it will open to the public this summer. Here is a link for those that want to know more about the exhibition: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/latinos-and-baseball/pleibol-exhibit>

What is your favorite history book?

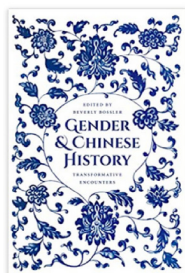
I am going to cheat on this question because it is impossible to just name one book. I think the books that first introduced me to Latinx history are perhaps still some of my favorite books because I remember reading them so vividly and they still inform my scholarship. They also introduced me to a history that was never presented to me in my k-12 education. Some of these books are Vicki L. Ruíz's *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America*, Matt García's *A World of Its Own: Race, Labor, and Citrus in the Making of Greater Los Angeles*, and George J. Sánchez's *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles*. These are classic works in the field and they allowed me to envision where my own communities fit into the larger U.S. historical narrative. For a more recent work of history, I think Johanna Fernández's *The Young Lords: A Radical History* was an amazing book to read since it reshapes how we understand Latinx social movements in the 20th century. Quite simply, it is social history at its finest. ▢

Faculty Activities



In this year like no other **Omer Bartov** made the most of the lockdown to complete some projects and begin new ones. His 540-page edited volume *Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples*, is now scheduled for publication in September 2021. This is a collection of twenty-one innovative essays on the

attachment to the land of Jews and Palestinians, which provides readers with a comprehensive view of the state of the field. Bartov dedicated the summer to writing a new book, based on two decades of research and reading, scheduled for publication in the coming year by Yale University Press, under the title *Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Past*. It was more fun to write than his previous book, *Anatomy of a Genocide* (which has recently been published in French and German translations) because rather than tracing the roots of mass murder, it tells the myths and legends, stories and biographies of the men and women who lived in the borderlands, asking where did they come from, how were they transformed there, and where did they go. The book ends with an account of the transition of Bartov's own family from Galicia to Palestine in the 1930s. Bartov has now begun preparing his next project, currently titled "Remaking the Past: Israel, a Personal Political History," which will tell the story of his own generation's transformation in the early decades following the establishment of the state of Israel. Finally, despite being confined to Zoom, Bartov greatly enjoyed teaching this year, engaging in issues that were both historical and contemporary, scholarly and personal, on such topics as the Holocaust and the Nakba, first person history, and war, tyranny, and peace in modern Europe, with several scores of wonderfully bright and curious undergraduates and graduates.



Beverly Bossler is honored to join the History department as an affiliated faculty member, having just become a member of the Brown faculty as Chair of East Asian studies in July 2021. A historian of "mid-imperial" China (roughly 9th to 14th centuries), she is currently engaged in research on the workings of patronage and its

relationship to gender relations and social and emotional life. Although the combination of COVID, a cross-country move, and her new position as Chair did not leave a lot of time for research this year, she enjoyed presenting the Wallace Johnson lecture for University of Kansas in October, speaking on "The Language of Love: Romance and Affection in Song Dynasty China," as well as presenting work-in-progress to the Cornell Classical Chinese Colloquium and the Columbia-Princeton Tang-Song Workshop (April).



In the 2020-21 academic year a cancelled research leave and limited access to library resources slowed progress on **Cynthia Brokaw's** book manuscript on the daily-use encyclopedias of early modern China. But she was able to complete certain other projects: an article on concepts of intellectual property in pre-modern China, an essay on color printing in early modern Chinese social history, and guest-editing of an issue of the online journal *Lingua franca* on Chinese encyclopedias in East Asia. Zoom, for all its limitations, did allow Brokaw to attend, virtually, a wide range of seminars and conferences and to deliver a keynote lecture for a graduate book history workshop at the University of California, Berkeley. Both of the courses she taught in the spring, "Women and Gender Relations in China" and "Urban Culture in Early Modern China," were hybrid and thus presented interesting new teaching challenges, which Brokaw was able to meet only because of the patience and flexibility of her students. Finally, she was very fortunate to be advisor to an outstanding honors student this year; it was a great pleasure to see her honors project grow from an inchoate series of questions and ideas into an analytically sophisticated and beautifully argued thesis.



This past year **Holly Case** started a three-year term as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the History Department. This also entailed overseeing the honors program and working with the History DUG on various matters, even as many regular processes and procedures were upended by the pandemic, online teaching, and the trimester schedule. In this capacity she got some

glimpses into the large and small impacts recent events have had on students and faculty alike. We will be living with these for a long time to come. Some standout positive moments included the “walking consultations” and various outdoor meetings and sessions she had with students over the year. At times these were the only way to meet in person, and even when it was snowing or growing dark early, the students were energetic, sharing their many ideas and posing important questions. In the spring she taught a new course on the History of Artificial Intelligence, in the context of which students had so many original thoughts during discussion that it was almost like old times. In addition to teaching the three honors workshop series courses (twice) and History of AI, she gave several virtual talks (at Cambridge and Princeton, among others) and wrote and published essays in *Current History* and *The Jewish Quarterly*.



Moderata Fonte (1555-92) challenged the misogynist ideas employed to legitimate the abuse and murder of women.

Since Covid-19 halted archival research in Italy, she has designed a new course, “Women, Gender, and Feminism in Early Modern Italy,” and drafted an article on the unexpected approaches to legal reform in the eighteenth-century runaway bestseller *On Crimes and Punishments* by Cesare Beccaria.



Caroline Castiglione continues her research in the political thought of the Venetian author Moderata Fonte in a recently published article, “Why Political Theory is Women’s Work: How Moderata Fonte Reclaimed Liberty for Women inside and outside Marriage,” in *Challenging Women’s Agency and Activism in Early Modernity*, ed. Merry Wiesner-Hanks (Amsterdam, 2021).

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how rivals for control of amateur sports in America and their powerful, headstrong leaders stymied the efforts of three U.S. presidents, an attorney general, the U.S. Congress, a war hero,

and a famous labor lawyer to arbitrate their turf battle, ending in passage of The Amateur Sports Act of 1978. This legislation restructured the U.S. Olympic Committee, reducing the power of the AAU, and enabling the NCAA to emerge as the most powerful organization in American amateur athletics.



This year, **Jonathan Conant’s** research focused primarily on his second book, *The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire*, c. 795–840. He continues to hold out hope that work on this project will bring him back to France and Germany in Summer 2021, but so far, Conant is still sheltering in place and pondering from afar early medieval conceptions of space, missionary activity, and other encounters and interactions between eighth- and ninth-century Franks and their neighbors. Conant has also been working on a number of smaller projects, including one on warfare and trauma in early medieval Europe and another on languages and communities in late antique North Africa. His teaching this year dealt with the body in late antiquity, illicit enslavement, and new directions in the scholarship on the middle ages. Teaching on Zoom proved to be an interesting challenge. Among the many things that he learned were the facts that “Your Internet is Unstable” and “You’re muted!” But he was impressed and inspired by the enthusiasm with which his students and TAs threw themselves into the task of teaching and learning online. In Fall 2020, Conant rounded out his term as president of the New England Medieval Consortium, and in Spring 2021, took part in the American Historical Association’s faculty institute on Career Diversity for Historians. Much as he loves his garden and all the time that he has been able to spend in it, he very much looks forward to being post-pandemic 2021-22.



Harold (Hal) Cook has, like so many colleagues at Brown, invested much of his time and energy in completely revising his courses for “hybrid” teaching during the covid crisis. On the plus side, enrollments in his history of medicine courses are up, since

Etching by J. Gillray (1802) of Edward Jenner vaccinating patients against the smallpox, resulting in their showing signs of turning into cows.

written and delivered a lecture for College Board European History AP online instruction, managed to submit and revise a refereed article and see another to publication, to make considerable progress on a major new project about how Jesuit missionaries shaped European views of “Chinese medicine,” and attended innumerable online events, conferences, and committees.



Batsheba Demuth returned from sabbatical and learned to teach on Zoom during the fall semester, with an amazing group of undergraduates in a course on the Anthropocene, and a Cogut Collaborative Humanities seminar on the environmental humanities, co-taught with Lukas

Rieppel. She kept busy during the home-bound year working on several academic articles and public-facing pieces in *Hakai Magazine*, *Emergence Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and other outlets. Demuth enjoyed continuing to speak (remotely) to academic and community audiences about her book *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait*, which won a half dozen prizes over the last year. In May 2020, Demuth received an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship to support work on her second book project, an environmental history of the Yukon River watershed. Particularly exciting are the trips this grant will fund to Alaska and Yukon as soon travel is fully safe again. Demuth will be teaching during Brown’s COVID-year summer semester, and is looking forward to welcoming first-year students to campus for a sunny, hopefully virus-free term. Mostly, the 2020-2021 academic year has left her feeling tremendously thankful for her colleagues and students, who have helped make a strange and challenging year full of connection despite the physical distance we’ve had to keep.



The most pleasant surprise for **Beshara Doumani** over the past year is how wonderful the teaching experience has been even though it was online. In the fall, Doumani taught a joint Brown-Harvard graduate course on Forced Displacement and the Making

of the Modern World. A large and very diverse class of extraordinary students took the lead in designing the class and building a terrific fifty-page strong syllabus. Doumani also taught a theory and methodology course for upper-class students on the modern Middle East. Not least, he was fortunate to be recruited by the Decolonization at Brown student group to teach a course on the politics of knowledge production. For the Spring semester, Doumani introduced a new lecture course, on history of the Palestinians. The terrific quality of the students, most of whom were freshmen experiencing their first semester at Brown, reinforced his optimism about the future, even during these very difficult times.

As co-editor of the *Jerusalem Quarterly*, Doumani curated two special issues on the theme of house and home, which examined both material history of houses and the intimacies of homelife. The papers originated in a workshop at Brown organized by Doumani and Alex Winder for the New Directions in Palestinian Studies program that Doumani founded in 2012. Doumani continued to serve as the editor of a book series on Palestinians studies with the University of California Press and chaired a search committee that successfully recruited a post-doctoral research fellow in this field for the next two years. Doumani also published an essay, “The Limits of Knowledge Production as a Subversive Practice: The “Early Modern” in Ottoman Studies.” In the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*.

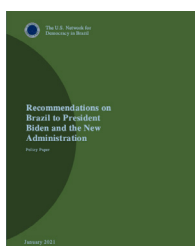
Starting the 2021-2022 academic year, Doumani will go on extended leave from Brown University in order to take up the position of President of Birzeit University, the leading Palestinian institution of higher education. Doumani is very grateful to the History Department, the Center for Middle East Studies, and the Brown University administration for supporting a range of measures that will keep Palestinian studies on the front burner at Brown University during his absence.



This year, as his second year as the Director of Graduate Studies, was mostly spent supporting graduate students and making continual tweaks to the graduate program in response to the global

pandemic. Along the way, **Linford Fisher** enjoyed teaching undergrads and working with graduate student TAs, including in his fall lecture course on Religion, Politics, and Culture in America. Although all travel was restricted due to COVID, he found it enjoyable to take part in a number of remote Zoom conferences and colloquia, including for the

Society for US Intellectual History and the Early American History Seminar at Columbia University, among others. His work on the Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas also continued in modified format, as the ten research assistants he had working with him simply shifted online and worked remotely. Fisher also enjoyed spending more time with his family this year and was grateful that one of his hobbies, sailing, seemed especially adaptable to the new normal of social distancing and outdoor activities. He looks forward to getting back to writing his book this summer, titled *America Enslaved: The Rise and Fall of Indian Slavery in the English Atlantic and the United States*.



Although the Covid-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of a sabbatical semester at the American Academy in Berlin and a broken tibia limited mobility in the fall, **James N. Green** remained active as the National Co-coordinator of the U.S. Network for Democracy in Brazil, which opened the

Washington Brazil Office to educate the U.S. public and government officials about the current situation in Brazil. Among the activities related to that effort was initiating the production a thirty-one-page policy paper on Brazil sent to the Biden administration. It was a collective effort with the collaboration of 25 Brazilian and U.S. scholars and the endorsement of an additional 125 specialist working on Brazil at universities across the United States. In addition, Green penned prefaces to three books coming out this year in Brazil and published two articles in Portuguese for edited collections: “Democracy, Human Rights, and the Legacies of the Past,” for a Brazilian historical journal, and “A Non-Jewish Jew (who is also gay): Negotiating ‘Closets,’” for a volume on anti-Semitism in Brazil. He also participated in several dozen Zoom programs, interviews, and debates on U.S. policy toward Brazil, the 2020 U.S. elections, and the currently political situation under the far-Right government of Jair Bolsonaro.



Françoise Hamlin continues to serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Africana Studies and remains co-chair of the Faculty of Color Working Group that she co-founded in 2015. The past academic year tested and honed whatever technological skill she had to transform large lecture

classes into meaningful online experiences; and she spent a lot of time teaching, advising, and mentoring students struggling to adapt and thrive during this pandemic which

proved personally rewarding and fulfilling. During the year she managed to have three essays published, secure a contract to republish and annotate an autobiography by a now-deceased civil rights activist, and successfully apply for fellowships to take a full year sabbatical next year to work on her monograph. This trying year, with all the challenges and losses on so many registers, has brought many blessings (including the adoption of Luna Celeste, an active husky/shepherd) and has really highlighted what is important.



Tim Harris has travelled extensively this past academic year to give lectures and undertake research – from the ground floor of his house to his attic. (Helpful iCal reminders reported on the traffic – typically ‘light’ – to help ensure punctuality.) Some of his favourite virtual backdrops included

locations in the UK, Ireland, France and Greece. He gave online talks about his work on ‘Empire, Liberty and Slavery in Restoration England: The Case of John Wilmore, Whig activist and Jamaica Planter’ to the British History Seminar in Montreal (Canada); the Topics in Early Modern Studies Seminar run between the University of Sheffield (UK) and the University of São Paulo (Brazil); and the Seventeenth-Century History Seminar at the Institute of Historical Research London (UK). His ‘Anti-Catholicism and Anti-Popery in Seventeenth-Century England’, appeared in Evan Haefeli, ed., *Against Popery: Britain, Empire, and Anti-Catholicism* (University of Virginia Press) in late 2020. He has articles on ‘State Trials and the Rule of Law under the Later Stuarts’, ‘Religious and National Stereotyping and Prejudice in Seventeenth-Century England’, and ‘Scotophobia in Later Stuart England’ currently in press. His book series ‘Studies in Early Modern Cultural, Political and Social History’ with Boydell Press continues to thrive. In his spare time he is writing a book about *Britain’s Century of Revolutions* for Oxford University Press.



Much of **Benjamin Hein**’s time this past year was spent revising his book manuscript and getting it ready for publication. That process prompted all sorts of unexpected discoveries and arguments, some of which he was able to test out at virtual conferences and a workshop at the German Historical

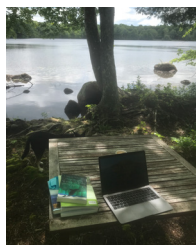
Institute in Washington, D.C. The highlight of the year was teaching the department’s introductory survey History of Capitalism with Lukas Rieppel. The team-teaching was good fun, and the course’s global scope made for an

excellent excuse to read all sorts of fascinating histories, from the fabulous riches of the ancient Empire of Ghana to antisemitism in medieval Spain, capitalism in twentieth-century China, and cryptocurrency around the world today.

During the pandemic year, and with attention at home and abroad riveted on police violence, the Black Lives Matter movement, and anti-Asian American hate crimes, **Evelyn Hu-DeHart** has been speaking virtually to a broad range of audiences across the country and the world on issues related to Asians in the Americas, anti-Asian violence, race and racism. Among Hu-DeHart audiences have been museums, universities, high schools, and large US and multinational corporations: the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles, the San Antonio Museum of Arts (Texas), Arizona State University, Florida International University, the University of Barcelona (Spain), the University of Cologne (Germany), Governors Academy (prep school in Massachusetts), IBM and BNP Paribas (France)."

Her lecture at the San Antonio Museum of Art can be accessed here: youtube.com/watch?v=7_j9JyogwJA

She also did a virtual tour of Havana Chinatown for Brown, Tufts and Harvard alum associations travel offices. You can see it on this link: youtube.com/watch?v=CkZJrUjWUns



Good news: the South African COVID-19 diaries **Nancy Jacobs** wrote about last year are now deposited with the [Pandemic Journaling Project](#), a durable archive of individual experiences. In the spring she returned to Zoomed classrooms, which actually became spaces of real social and intellectual interaction. Other good news: because of social distancing, Jacobs spent more time in the Rhode Island woods—listening, watching, being—than ever before. Sometimes she also worked on the global history of African Grey Parrots. The difficult news we all shared. She won't list it here. Jacobs looks forward to coming out of seclusion and reconnecting for good times and good causes. But she'll still be walking in the woods with her dog. If anyone wants to come along, be in touch.



Jennifer Johnson was on leave during the 2020-2021 academic year. Although she was grounded in Providence for the year, she managed to read and write in her office. She presented research in a number of workshops, conferences, and invited talks, all on Zoom of course, and in the spring semester she was a faculty fellow at the Cogut Institute for the Humanities. She greatly appreciated the camaraderie and stimulating intellectual environment of the weekly seminar. The journal *Humanity* published an article, "The Contradictions of Sovereignty: Development, Family Planning and the Struggle for Population Control in Postcolonial Morocco," drawn from her current book project. While travel was not possible this year, the silver-lining was spending precious time with her two-year old son who makes her laugh and smile every day.



Jenny Lambe spent the 2020-21 academic year on sabbatical, though largely stationary due to the pandemic. She devoted most of her time to a new book manuscript on the Cuban Revolution, which she focused on during her Spring 2021 fellowship at the Cogut Institute, as well as articles related to the multiple birth "epidemic" and Christine Jorgensen in Cuba. This year also saw the publication of Lambe's article on public television and the Cuban Revolution in the *Journal of American History*. She is looking forward to a return to (hopefully less virtual) research and teaching in Fall 2021.

In the summer of 2020 **Jane Lancaster** was in lockdown in Beverley, a small market town in Yorkshire, England and while rummaging through a closet found a folder dated 1984. In it were notes and photocopies of a study of Victorian theater in the town that she'd started then abandoned some three years before moving to the United States with her husband and family, and nine years before she enrolled in the doctoral program in Brown's history department. Helped now by the internet (and her training as a historian) Lancaster was able to build on that work, and when the local archives reopened could complete it. She has since done two Zoom presentations, (one to a UK audience, one to an American audience) on "The Mystery of the Window Ledge in the Wall" which gets its title from the only visible remains of the theater. She is talking to other historians who have also worked on theater in Beverley, to see if they could produce an edited volume tracing its origins in Medieval mystery plays, through the very active Georgian theater scene in the

town and to the twenty first century revival of live theater. Lancaster has done two other Zoom talks; one on Rhode Island's women's history, and one on scientific management, asking "Was There Only One Best Way?" She contributed an essay on (the first) lockdown in Beverley to the East Riding Archives and it was featured on the local BBC news in March 2021. She has published two pieces on the Rhode Island website "Small State Big History." One is on an enslaved man and his experiences after the Revolutionary War, and the other examines the persistence of slavery at Brown, asking "Were There Slaves Living on College Hill for Twenty Years?" Lancaster has been continuing research on a proposed microhistory book project, examining the lives of former American slaves in the Atlantic world, via the life of Arthur Bowler, who was enslaved in Newport and subsequently journeyed to New York and Nova Scotia before returning to Africa.



Brian Lander received an Early Career Fellowship from the Henry Luce Foundation and ACLS Program in China Studies to spend the year in Taiwan, but since there was a pandemic he stayed home. In the fall he submitted his book manuscript to Yale University Press. Entitled *The King's Harvest: A*

Political Ecology of China From the First Farmers to the First Empire, it is the first English language monograph on the environmental history of early China. The book uses newly available Chinese archaeological data to show how the growth of states in ancient China was based on their ability to mobilize the resources and labor produced by the population, all of which was powered by photosynthesis. It argues that the formation of political organizations was a key event in global environmental history because states and empires vastly increased the ability of human societies to transform the earth's ecosystems. It will be published in the fall of 2021. He spent the rest of the year beginning research on his second book which will analyze the environmental transformation of the wetlands of the Yangzi River system. In particular, he used this year to study the ecology of rivers and the historical sources available on Yangzi River fisheries in order to reconstruct the ecology of the river and its associated wetlands before they were thoroughly transformed by human activity. It turns out that there's a lot going on under the water.



The pandemic year was a year for focusing on local projects.

Steven Lubar is co-curating an exhibition on the agricultural history of Little Compton for the Little Compton Historical Society. A wide range of

research, from statistical work using census data to material culture to oral history. And rather more hands-on than most exhibits he's worked on; Lubar is getting good use out of his new miter saw. Opening in July, and all are invited to come and visit.



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

Sreemati Mitter is grateful that she and her colleagues and students have all, thus far, survived the pandemic. She was thrilled to be able to return to the physical classroom to teach three courses (online and in-person) this year, and was grateful for her students' energy and enthusiasm, which seeped through layers of masks and shields and kept her going through this difficult, lonely year.

She is grateful, too, for the patient help offered by Brown's media services' classroom support team, who, she's sure, would be glad not to hear from her again. She was astonished by the commitment shown by her students; had she been in their place, she is certain that she would never have left her bed all year. Though hybrid teaching, mask wearing, hand sanitizing, and compulsive googling took most of her time and energy, Mitter was glad to have had two essays accepted for publication this year: the first a historiographic essay on writings on capitalism in the field of Palestine studies; the second a contribution to a roundtable on the social history of Palestine; both will appear soon in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*. She also completed an article, "A Liquidation: an account of the transition from Ottoman to British rule in Palestine," which she hopes will be accepted for publication soon. She made progress, though not as much as she would have liked, on the completion of her book. She longs to see all (well, maybe not *all*) her family, friends, colleagues, and students again soon, not in their little zoom boxes, but in actual real flesh and blood, and she can't wait to fight over the last available chair in a crowded History department meeting.



Last April **Rebecca More** assumed that, with the suspension of on-campus education at Brown, there would not be any presentations of the 2020 History Department

Honors Theses. However,

she underestimated the determination and skill of Naoko Shibusawa in not only shepherding the 2020 cohort through the thesis process via Zoom, but in also arranging for their presentation as well. More was able to work with a number of the 2020 cohort over Zoom and felt that the format worked effectively in helping the students identify their presentation goals and achieve them. The presentations were skillful and the Q & A opportunities that followed were, perhaps, richer than in the past because faculty, students and family who might have missed the sessions due to physical or scheduling conflicts could be “present” thanks to Zoom. This year sixteen students presented their thesis and, thanks to the organizational and mentoring skills of Holly Case, she was again able to work with the cohort over Zoom and witness yet another extraordinary year of superb work. The students continue to address historical issues with skill, honesty and a concern for the world in which they are taking their place. Based on their research and ability to orally present a written thesis, they will each make a substantive contribution in the future. More continues to work on several research projects and lectures. Her lecture on the legal issues involving a map of the White Mountains, scheduled to be part of a major 2020 exhibition on mapmaking (Wayfinding) at the Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth State University, was rescheduled to this summer 2021. During the winter 2020-2021, she researched and gave an online lecture on “Tamar,” a woman innkeeper in the White Mountains region during the Civil War as part of their “Mountain Voices” lecture series (<https://www.plymouth.edu/mwm/mountain-voices/>). She is also working on an article for the NH Historical Society on the circumstances behind the Naming of the White Mountains’ Presidential Range in 1820.



Elias Muhanna was pleased to join the History department this year as an affiliated faculty member. He spent the 2020-21 academic year on sabbatical, working on a new book about the history of Arabic’s transformation from a humble vernacular into a cosmopolitan language. In May 2021, he published a two-volume translation and edition of Hanna Diyab’s *Book of*

Travels for the Library of Arabic Literature (NYU Press, 2021; co-authored with Johannes Stephan). This Arabic-language memoir presents the fascinating tale of a young Syrian man’s journey from Aleppo to Paris in the early 18th century. In the course of his voyage Diyab visited Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Corsica, Italy, France, and Turkey, and his memoir recounts the experience of being captured by pirates, going to the opera, and enduring the Great Frost of 1709. In addition to Diyab’s memoir, Muhanna’s published work this year has included a chapter on the history of information in the medieval Islamic world, and an essay for the *London Review of Books*. He’s looking forward to returning to teaching in the fall.



Jeremy Mumford received an advance contract from Duke University Press for his second book, “The Marriage of Beatriz Coya,” and a fellowship for 2021-2022 from the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study. Most importantly, his and Sohini Ramachandran’s son, Arjuna, was born on April 26!

Rebecca Nedostup organized the series “Asian Studies (and beyond) in the Pandemic Age”, hosting fall webinars on employment precarity and research problem solving to assist students and scholars whose research and careers have been upended by Covid-19. In the spring, program funding supported a rapid-response event organized by Elena Shih on the Atlanta murders and the criminalization of Asian massage work; and two professional development webinars for graduate students, organized by Baoli Yang and Richard Shih on behalf of the new interdisciplinary Graduate Student Association for Asian Studies. Otherwise, she found sustenance in the energy and creativity students showed in producing history (from various times and places) in active dialogue with the multiple pressing demands of our present.



During her second year as Postdoctoral Fellow in International Humanities in History and the Cogut, **Cindy Nguyen** taught a fully remote course on colonial Indochina to students based in five timezones

around the world. During summer and fall 2020 she was a facilitator for the Sheridan Anchor Institute to prepare faculty for remote and hybrid digital teaching. In fall she organized a weekend of Southeast Asia events: “Archiving Power: Vietnamese Refugee Studies and the Politics of Memory” sponsored by CSREA and “Past as Power: Radical

Storytelling with Artist Susan Lieu” cosponsored by History and the Cogut Institute. She was invited to speak on panels on Asian diasporas at Yale University, history of colonial Vietnam at Duke Kunshan University, and community events organized through the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and the Vietnamese Boat People Podcast. She has a forthcoming publication on the decolonization of the Saigon library in an edited volume on Republican Vietnam published by the University of Hawaii Press. She was recently awarded the Phyllis Dain Library History Best Dissertation Award from the American Library Association. With bittersweet gratitude for her time in the Brown history department, she will be moving on to University of California, San Diego as a President’s/Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow for 2021-2022 where she will work on publishing her book manuscript “Misreading: The Social Life of Libraries and Colonial Control in Indochina, 1865-1958” and a digital humanities publication on hybrid visual texts. Afterwards, she will begin a position as assistant professor in Digital Public History at University of Ottawa. As she begins a new chapter, she is accompanied by a new family addition: baby Seneca Thiên Anh Hanul 한울 Kim born February 2021. She extends a profound appreciation to the history department for generously supporting her research, teaching, and community work over the course of two very meaningful years.



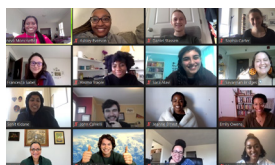
This was a challenging year, as we all learned how to teach, learn, sustain, and entertain ourselves from home, often under uncertain and unfathomably difficult circumstances. Brown students demonstrated limitless creativity, resilience, and commitment as we all moved to Zoom and found new ways to create learning and mentoring communities. Archival research on new projects, too, slowed, but **Tara Nummedal** managed to bring two projects to completion this year. Nummedal’s book with Donna Bilak, *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618)*, with Scholarly Commentary, was published in the summer of 2020 with the University of Virginia Press series Studies in Early Modern German History (take a look at furnaceandfugue.org). When the book was first conceived, no one could have anticipated that a global pandemic would force us to rethink how we do research and teach. Yet the publication of *Furnace and Fugue* as an open-access digital publication proved to be timely, offering a free resource for students, scholars, and interested readers to explore early modern music, visual and print culture, and science. A virtual book launch hosted by UVA Press, an “Alchemical

Happy Hour” at the Science History Institute, and a podcast interview on the New Books Network were wonderful opportunities to share *Furnace and Fugue* with new audiences. Nummedal was also scheduled to present at a March 2020 workshop at Leiden University on “Women and Alchemy in Early Modern Europe,” which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Fortunately, the organizer, Dr. Sajed Chowdury reconceived of the workshop as a special forum for *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. Nummedal’s essay on alchemical bodies, alongside several others on women and alchemy, appeared in the Spring 2021 issue.



Mark Ocegueda joined the history department in July 2020. Prior to Brown, he taught as an assistant professor of Mexican American history at California State University, Sacramento from 2017-2019 and was a César Chávez fellow at Dartmouth College from 2019-2020. He spent his first year at Brown working on an article and his book manuscript. He also gave a lecture at UCLA in December that focused in on civil rights in the Inland Empire region of Southern California. Last fall, he wrapped up his work with the National Museum of American History, where he helped in the development of an exhibition entitled *¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues / En los barrios y las grandes ligas*. This Smithsonian exhibition focuses in on the contributions of Latinx people to the history of baseball and softball in the United States. The exhibition’s opening was delayed due to the pandemic; however, the public will finally get a chance to see the exhibition this summer when it opens at the National Museum of American History. Ocegueda also contributed a short essay in the dual-language (Spanish and English) *¡Pleibol!* exhibition book.

In Spring 2021, Ocegueda taught Introduction to Latinx History, which was his first course at Brown. Despite the difficulty of teaching during a pandemic, he was pleased to have great students in his course that made his first teaching experience at Brown memorable. One exciting aspect of the course was the community-engaged oral history interviews that students conducted for the *Voces of a Pandemic* project. These interviews have allowed Brown students to play a role in documenting how Latinx people are experiencing and living through the pandemic. He looks forward to getting to know Rhode Island better this summer with his spouse, Monse, and their dog, Chloe.



Emily Owens spent academic year 20-21, frequently shorthanded as “our pandemic year,” balancing research in digital archives, public responses to the simultaneous crises of

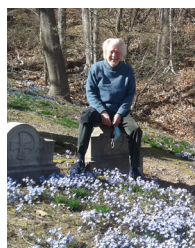
racism, misogyny, and COVID-19, Zoom meetings, and toddler antics (sometimes in those very same Zoom meetings!). With Professor Juliet Hooker (Political Science), she taught a Cogut Collaborative Humanities Seminar titled “Loss: Political Activism and Public Feelings” in Fall 2020, which provided a timely forum for thinking through the history of the present. While a year at home has presented meaningful challenges, she is grateful to have witnessed the remarkable resilience and ingenuity of her students, the outstanding research and writing of her thesis advisee, and the good humor of departmental colleagues. Above all, she has cherished the extra time with her hilarious son, Jonah. She looks forward to a year of sabbatical next year, thanks to the support of the Institute of Citizens and Scholars (formerly Woodrow Wilson Foundation) and the Cogut Institute for the Humanities at Brown.



Ethan Pollock had a busy first year as History Department chair. Whenever he could, he channeled (read: copied) the words and approaches of his illustrious predecessors, based on the idea that “if it aint broke, don’t fix it.” But he found that that did not work so well when it came to a series of ad hoc

questions that arose because of Covid. How can we limit access to our buildings to keep people safe? How do you run a department meeting on Zoom? And how do we hold a commencement remotely? In those unprecedented situations (and in countless others), he telephoned (which is sort of like Zooming without the video) his distinguished colleagues and asked them what to do. Collectively and generously, the department’s faculty and staff helped guide Pollock through his first year as chair. Meanwhile, his book on the Russian bathhouse was translated into Russian (see image), which was a bit odd since so much of it was originally in Russian. He can only hope that it will read better in Finnish (should someone choose to translate it) than it does in either English or Russian.

Kurt Raaflaub continues work on a couple of projects that have occupied him for a long time. One is an edited volume for a five-volume series, *The Cambridge History of War*. The first volume will cover the ancient world from a global perspective, with chapters on 24 ancient (or structurally related later) societies, dealing to the extent



As you can see, I am in the spring of life, not with one foot in my grave! Just to avoid misunderstandings.

possible with the same set of issues in order to facilitate cross-cultural comparison. This project is approaching completion. The other is a volume with the collected essays and contributions of Walter Eder, Professor at the University of Bochum, who died prematurely in 2009. He shared his office with Raaflaub during the six years he taught at the Free University in Berlin at the beginning of his academic career, and they became very close friends. Raaflaub hopes to complete this project next year. On the side, he completed two articles, one (aimed not least at Latin teachers) on “Caesar and Genocide: Confronting the Dark Side of the Gallic War” that will appear in May in the *New England Classical Journal* (open access), the other on “The Emergence of Participatory Communities in Early Greece.” One of the few advantages of the COVID crisis is that it has made it easier to focus on research projects (there was little else to do), but like everyone else, he is looking forward to a time when we can indulge again in personal contacts with family, friends, and colleagues abroad.



The long months since Covid-19 erupted into the human world have given **Amy G. Remensnyder** a new and visceral understanding of the infamous and far more deadly medieval pandemic: the plague caused by *Yersinia pestis* in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

When she explored this subject this year in her course on the high middle ages, students found much resonance between the ways that medieval people responded to the plague and the ways we are coping with Covid-19. Though Remensnyder’s plans for time in the Sicilian archives were upended by the virus, she kept in touch with her research on islands, piracy and maritime culture by presenting some of her work virtually to the Medieval History Research Seminar at the University of Cambridge. Colleague Lin Fisher also offered her some hands-on-maritime experience by letting her take the helm of his sailboat one afternoon on Narragansett Bay. Remensnyder continued her advocacy for higher education behind bars when she spoke at the “Race and Punishment in America” symposium sponsored this spring by the Brown’s Office of the Provost and the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. She and the other faculty who teach in the Brown History Education Prison Project are eager to resume their courses at the prison, which have been on hold since March.

In an effort to cope with the boredom and isolation of the pandemic, **Lukas Rieppel** spent much of the year acquiring new hobbies and skills. Besides learning more than



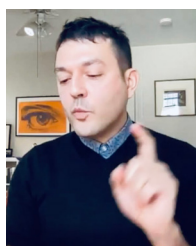
he ever wanted to know about Zoom and other online teaching tools, he developed an unreasonable passion for restoring vintage HiFi audio equipment to its former glory. He also passed much of the year in his kitchen, trying to coax a good result from his new sourdough starter. And he is working his way

through the recent update of Fuchsia Dunlop's classic "The Food of Sichuan." All of this had some unfortunate consequences, so now he is committed to spending more time on a bicycle.



Seth Rockman spent the pandemic year immersed in teaching, doing his best to support students working under difficult circumstances, and in turn drawing sustenance from their energy and enthusiasm for studying the past. The fall's undergraduate seminar on "The Problem of Class in Early America"

engaged many of the contemporary political debates around race and economic inequality, whereas the spring's lecture course on "The Early Republic US" was perilously close to being undone by the January 6 insurrection. A highlight of the year was seeing Ann Daly and Simeon Simeonov both finish their doctoral dissertations. Congratulations to both of them for doing such great work and allowing me to beam with pride as an advisor.



In what has been the strangest academic year in memory, with our students, colleagues, families, and communities experiencing so much suffering and illness, it seems strange, if not a little distasteful, to single out moments of good fortune. But this past year has been a momentous one

for **Daniel Rodríguez**. His first book, *The Right to Live in Health: Medical Politics in Postindependence Havana*, was published in the late summer of 2020 by UNC Press; he and his family bought their first home in the lovely Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Providence (where you can buy delicious *pupusas*, excellent tamales, and yummy Italian pastries); and he was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Beyond that, a faculty fellowship with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America gave him much-needed time to begin work on his second book project, and

he got an article accepted in the *Journal of Social History*. Teaching in the pandemic was an ever-present struggle, but the good will of his students and support of great colleagues and family made it less painful than it would otherwise have been. Finally, a year of lockdown has meant a lot of much-needed family togetherness with his wife Susan, eight-year-old daughter Lourdes, and rescue beagle mutt Iggy Pup.

During this Covid year, **Ken Sacks** was effectively locked out of the archives, and consequently work on *Emerson's Civil War* slowed appreciably. He was invited to contribute the article on Emerson for *The Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy* and there will be a Turkish translation of his *The Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* for *The Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought*. He continues to teach a mix of courses on Classical history, American Transcendentalism, and historiography.



After more than seven years as Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, **Neil Safier** will return full-time to the Department of History in the fall of 2021, and is looking forward to developing new courses, finishing long-delayed writing projects,

and communing – in person! – with colleagues in the department. Following a grueling year of pandemic library leadership, he got back to work this year on his second book manuscript – tentatively entitled *Dom Rodrigo's Colonial Encyclopedia and Other Bookish Tales from Lisbon's Literary Underground* – which he hopes to complete during a planned sabbatical in the spring of 2022. He is particularly excited to offer new classes on the history of Amazonia, the history of the book, and a seminar on the Enlightenment in Europe and the Americas (and beyond), as well as graduate courses with colleagues in the history of science and the Atlantic world.



On sabbatical in 2020-2021, **Robert Self** worked primarily on his current book project, entitled *Driven: The Making and Unmaking of the Hydrocarbon Middle Class*. The book examines the 20th-century history of houses, cars, and children, as the organizing features of American middle-

class family life and the structuring of the hydrocarbon economy and its infrastructural and racial landscape. He also developed a new graduate course based on his co-authored book, *Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History* (Chicago, 2021), which he will offer this coming fall.



What a terrible year. **Naoko Shibusawa** is on leave for the calendar year 2021. The work continues: scholarship, mentoring, protest, and organizing.



Kerry Smith continues work on his current book project, which explores earthquake prediction and disasters in 20th century Japan, and finished final edits on chapters in two forthcoming volumes. The first focuses on how scientists, the public and policy makers in the 1970s became convinced that

the greatest earthquake risk facing Japan in the near-term came from a single segment of a major subduction zone off the Pacific Coast, along the Nankai Trough, and the steps they took to prepare the country for the disaster they feared was coming (but hasn't, yet). It appears in *Critical Disaster Studies*, edited by Jacob A.C. Remes and Andy Horowitz, which is scheduled for publication later this year by the University of Pennsylvania Press. A second piece is part of a volume on the history of insects in East Asia, edited by David A. Bello and Daniel Burton-Rose, which will hopefully also be out soon with the University of Washington Press. That chapter looks at the rhetoric and practices that accompanied efforts to eradicate mosquitoes and flies in Japan after the war, and how pesticides and other new technologies were enlisted as part of a broader embrace of

Notable Lectures

The 41st annual William F. Church Memorial Lecture
"Revisiting Mosquito Empires in the time of COVID-19"

Professor John R. McNeill
Georgetown University

October 13, 2020

It was, of course, given over zoom.

science in the 1950s and 1960s. On other fronts, his term as Director of Undergraduates Studies in East Asian Studies concludes this spring, and he hopes to be on research sabbatical in 2021-2022. He also hopes that by then the strict restrictions on travel to Japan will have been lifted, and it will once again be possible to do research there.



Tracy Steffes spent most of the last year enmeshed in her work as Chair of the Education Department. She supported the continued implementation of significant changes in all three of the department's degree programs and the development of a new Department DIAP plan. Although she was not able to dedicate as much time to research as she wanted, she made progress on her book manuscript, *Shifting Fortunes: City Schools and Suburban Schools in Metropolitan Chicago, 1945-2000* about the relationship between education, metropolitan development, and social inequality. She looks forward to being able to dedicate her full attention to the project next year during her sabbatical. Steffes also supported manuscripts in the book series she co-edits, *Histories of American Education* at Cornell University Press.



Michael Steinberg was able to spend a part of sabbatical year 2020-21 as a returning fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) of Berlin, from where he participated in a number of events in preparation for the 2022 exhibition on Richard Wagner at the German Historical Museum, for which he serves as guest curator. These included lectures at the University of Leipzig, the German-Israel Society of the University of Bonn, and a keynote address to a conference on Wagner and Karl Marx, hosted by the museum. Via Zoom he also took part in a graduate symposium on Aby Warburg at Princeton University, a book launch at University College London, and the faculty seminar in Brown's Program in Judaic Studies.



Undoubtedly the most exciting thing to happen for **Adam Teller** this year was his new book being named a finalist for the *National Jewish Book Award* in the field of history. He also gave a number of book talks. These were held by The Graduate Center at the City University of New York, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and here at Brown in the Center for

the Study of the Early Modern World, as well as on a number of podcasts, *New Books in History*, *Jewish History Matters*, and *Seforim Chatter*. Two of his papers were published this year, one in the journal, *Jewish History*, on the transregional aspects of the Sabbathean movement, the other - a short review essay on the study of Hasidism - appeared in the journal, *Eastern European Jewish Affairs*.

He delivered a paper on transregional Jewish trade in a workshop entitled, *Transregional Contacts and Connections in the Early Modern Jewish World*, held in co-operation between Brown and the Charles University of Prague. He is one of the organizers of the project. In addition, he spoke on two roundtables dealing with new trends in research, one at the annual meeting of the *Economic History Association of Israel*, the other at the *Association for Jewish Studies* annual conference. A lecture for students on Jewish settlement in early modern Poland-Lithuania at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany and a popular talk (with a colleague) on the Jew's involvement in the liquor trade in Poland and Lithuania at the *Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland*, in Warsaw, rounded out his speaking engagements, all done via zoom. Finally, due to the exigencies of the pandemic, he experimented this year with teaching using a "flipped classroom," a method he plans to pursue in the future.



While finishing a draft of his book on the multiple endings of the American Civil War, **Michael Vorenberg** worked on two side projects at varying stages of completion: one on a tragic, heretofore undiscovered mass drowning of African American soldiers in 1864; and one on incarcerated African Americans in U.S.

military prisons. Although sequestered for most of this pandemic year in his basement office, he did manage a few escapes to some northern New England mountain tops.



Gordon Wood spent most of the year in lockdown, but did manage a few telephone podcasts. He also was able to write a short book on constitutionalism in the American Revolution to be published by Oxford University Press in September, 2021.



Vazira Zamindar was on sabbatical and leave during the academic year as a visiting research fellow at the Collaborative Research Center for Affective Societies, Freie Universität Berlin. However, with her mother unwell in Karachi, she divided her time on leave between Berlin and Karachi, holding a

month-long research residency at the Vasl Artists Association in Karachi Pakistan in the Fall of 2020. While pulling back from most online requests for talks etc., she did participate in a few online conversations specifically for South Asian publics, for the Jaipur Literature Festival and for T2F, a vital citizen's forum in Karachi. The Brown-RISD conference, 'Postcolonialism, Art History and the Global Turn,' of which she was one of the organizers had been postponed in the Spring of 2020 but was then held in the Fall as four online events. Papers from the conference are scheduled to be published in *Art Margins*. The book, *Love, War and Other Longings: Essays on Cinema in Pakistan* (Oxford University Press, 2020), based on the Harvard-Brown Pakistani Film Festivals of 2014 and 2015, began to be discussed in online book clubs and literary festivals in Pakistan, and has received some noteworthy reviews, including this one: [hyperallergic.com/582734/love-war-other-longings-pakistani-cinema.](https://hyperallergic.com/582734/love-war-other-longings-pakistani-cinema/)

Undergraduate Program

Historians are no better than others at predicting the future. So don't ask a student of history, What's going to happen next? The background slogan of our time might be more of a question, something along the lines of, Who would have thought? I'm reminded of a spoof video from early 2020, wherein a comedian staged an encounter between herself in January 2020 and herself in April 2020. Her April self had a very hard time relating to her January self, who was convinced that the wildfires in Australia would mark the most significant and momentous event of that year.

As Joseph Stalin once wrote, "Xa Xa" [Ha ha].

Never before in the history of the world have so many people been drawn into simultaneous experience—and been aware that their experience was common around the globe—than with the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet ironically, the main feature of that common experience was that we became more isolated, the world over. Together in isolation. Of course, the historian of today is already looking at that recent past critically—were we/are we really so together? Or so alone? How truly in-common have experiences of the pandemic been? What is happening in the here and now, and what makes it like the past, and what constitutes a break from both experience and history?

Despite all that's happened, I can think of no other group of people that I would want to go through such a time with, with whom to try to make sense of it, to turn it over in my mind with, than our students. They are smart, yes, and that's wonderful. But they are also such unafraid and original thinkers, for whom thought is so tied up with being, that interacting with them often feels like the most intense and meaningful way to be in the world. Without knowing just how much, they have seen me through a lot this year. I can only thinly hope that it has been reciprocal because I know that our students and my colleagues have been through unspeakable ordeals this past year, more than any one of us can grasp or imagine. Loss of family; of dear friends; of livelihoods and possibilities; of health. Isolation has often made these experiences doubly hard, which is why the small events of coming together, of sincere and direct conversation and exchange, have meant so much.

This past year all sixteen of the students who set out in the fall to complete honors theses did so, and that in spite of archives and libraries becoming inaccessible, an intense [euphemism] trimester schedule that required them to submit their theses a full two weeks earlier than in previous years, and many individual and personal tribulations produced or compounded by the pandemic, including family issues, travel challenges, illness, and loss. Not only did all of them submit their theses on

time, but each one of them was recommended by both readers for honors, which they duly received.

The DUG, though it was hamstrung by restrictions on in-person gatherings, similarly continued its work, advising on a range of issues from the departmental DIAP to ideas for our Zoom graduation and welcoming new concentrators to the History fold. Special thanks go to DUG leader Shreya Das and other DUG officers for their leadership, energy, and persistent good humor throughout what has been a very difficult year.

So many have done more than an average amount of "invisible" work this year trying to keep the department and the university as close to normal and the college experience as intense and meaningful as possible. There were many—often comical—failures. But there were also many wonderful surprises. The one that stands out most in my mind is the minute or so at the end of our Zoom graduation ceremony when families of students from across the country and around the world shouted their congratulations to the History class of 2021, and as they did, images of living rooms and faces flashed briefly on the screen with clearly spontaneous outbursts of pride and joy. I'll never forget how it felt to see that. A sincere thanks to all those who made it possible.



Students in HIST 1992 congratulate the History graduates of the class of 2021

Holly Case
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Undergraduate Program

The History Department Undergraduate Group

By Shreya Das '21 and Melanie Pincus '21

The History DUG spent the year meeting over Zoom and shifting some of our usual activities to the virtual environment. New members of the general body joined the DUG in September and provided fresh perspectives and ideas for an unusual year. Many DUG members found themselves bonding over the challenge of writing a thesis and/or thesis prospectus in the midst of the pandemic.

We started off the year by experimenting with a Zoom event where Professor Joel Revill and one of our DUG leaders baked gougères (similar to cheese puffs) while discussing French history with the group. We also participated in the university Concentration Fair, where we hoped to advise students in the process of declaring a history concentration or engaging with the department more in general. We realized, upon reflection, that it is quite challenging to engage the student body in yet another online event, and instead shifted focus to advising in smaller virtual settings.

We also moved our advising activities online. Members of the general body hosted group advising sessions to mentor interested undergraduates. Realizing the difficulties potential history concentrators face in their first years at Brown, the DUG organized a series of advising hours on Zoom for underclassmen to ask questions and meet the DUG leaders. We discussed a variety of topics with students that attended,

including opportunities to get further involved in the department through initiatives like the Choices Program, the Brown Journal of History, and undergraduate research.

We were also able to unite in-person for an outdoor event this spring when we celebrated newly declared concentrators. Stationed on the Quiet Green outside Manning Hall with Professor Case, members of the DUG protected our supply of candy and stickers from strong winds and distributed them to new concentrators. We chatted with passersby about fields of focus, course selection, and our favorite professors.

The DUG also helped recognize the achievements and hard work of the seniors in the history concentration. To do so, the coordinators partnered with the History Department to design and order commemorative pins for the graduating class, in the hopes that they would wear the pins on their graduation regalia while walking through the Van Wickle Gates. On a personal note, we are grateful to the department for all of the work it has done to recognize the class of 2021 and support the honors program. As Brown plans for more in-person instruction in the fall, we hope that new concentrators will have the opportunity to explore the elegantly renovated Peter Green and Sharpe Houses as they engage with the department. ▢

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.

Ilana C. Brandes-Krug

The Making of America's Judeo-Christian Myth: From Puritans to Post-War Politics

Advisor: Michael Vorenberg

Gemma L. Sack

Selling Mrs. Procreator: Eugenics, Homemaking, and American Nationalism in Women's Magazines, 1929-39

Advisor: Deborah Weinstein

Francesca Sabel

paper from HIST 1502 on agricultural reform periodicals and their work in constructing new ideas about masculinity and progress in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Professor: Seth Rockman

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

Karis Ryu

Rainbow Chen

Pell Medal Award for excellence in United States history.

Melanie Pincus

The Christian Yegen Thesis Prize for an outstanding thesis.

Caleigh K. Aviv

Stigma, Sexuality and Sobriety: Marty Mann and the Politics of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1935-1980

Advisor: Lukas Rieppel

Savannah J. Bridges

"A Place of Padlocks and Chamber Pots:" Life and Death at the Canton Asylum for Insane Indians

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

Jeanne R. Ernest

A Snapshot of the "Radical Middle": On the Life and Labels of Extremist-Watcher Gordon D. Hall, 1946-1969

Advisor: Jenny Lambe

Sophie D. Culpepper

The Role of Student Journalists in the Sixties: How The Brown Daily Herald's Journalistic Identity, Priorities, and Values Endured and Evolved 1960-69

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Zoë E. Mermelstein

"Frenchmen from Algeria": The 1943 Campaign to Restore the Crémieux Decree and its Limits

Advisor: Jennifer Johnson

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

Nicole Wei Yow

Unreading the Literary: The Hikayat Anggun Cik Tunggal and Malay Historical Tradition in an Age of Print

Advisor: Cynthia Brokaw

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.

Alexander Smolar

"My Involvement in These Events Is Not a Happy Memory:" Operation Igloo White and George Kistiakowsky's Failed Effort to De-Escalate the Vietnam War"

Advisor: Kerry Smith

Melanie A. Pincus

"To promote and elevate the standards of journalism in the United States": Professionalization, Education, and Harvard University's Nieman Foundation for Journalism, 1936-1939

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Alexa M. Howard

"One Bad Hombre.": Roberto Durán and the Construction of a Latino Hero in the United States

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Lyle Cherneff

The Ties that Bind: Incest and Family-Making in the Postbellum South

Advisor: Emily Owens

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

Nesya Nelkin

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

Jamie Solomon

An Approximate Forest: Land, Knowledge Production and Racial Politics in the History of the Cuban Forest Administration

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

Karina A. Chavarria

Mobilizing to Define Motherhood: Developing Conceptions of Maternalism through Childcare Centers and Contraceptive Policy in 1980s Sandinista Nicaragua

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

R. Douglas Cope Memorial Award in History awarded annually to that student having a demonstrated commitment to the ideals that motivated Professor Cope's scholarship and teaching, his legacy of service to the History department, and his scholarly and personal investment in centering the political, social, and cultural lives of non-elite actors.

Mohamed Ali

Honors Recipients

Caleigh K. Aviv

Stigma, Sexuality and Sobriety: Marty Mann and the Politics of Alcoholics Anonymous, 1935-1980

Advisor: Lukas Rieppel

Ilana C. Brandes-Krug

The Making of America's Judeo-Christian Myth: From Puritans to Post-War Politics

Advisor: Michael Vorenberg

Savannah J. Bridges

"A Place of Padlocks and Chamber Pots:" Life and Death at the Canton Asylum for Insane Indians

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

Karina A. Chavarria

Mobilizing to Define Motherhood: Developing Conceptions of Maternalism through Childcare Centers and Contraceptive Policy in 1980s Sandinista Nicaragua

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

Sophie D. Culpepper

The Role of Student Journalists in the Sixties: How The Brown Daily Herald's Journalistic Identity, Priorities, and Values Endured and Evolved 1960-69

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Shreya Das

Nation Building Post-Occupation in Singapore: How the Country Used Museums and Oral Histories to Shape Their National Identity

Advisor: Kerry Smith

Jeanne R. Ernest

A Snapshot of the "Radical Middle": On the Life and Labels of Extremist-Watcher Gordon D. Hall, 1946-1969

Advisor: Jenny Lambe

Alexa M. Howard

"One Bad Hombre.": Roberto Durán and the Construction of a Latino Hero in the United States

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Zoë E. Mermelstein

"Frenchmen from Algeria": The 1943 Campaign to Restore the Crémieux Decree and its Limits

Advisor: Jennifer Johnson

Melanie A. Pincus

"To promote and elevate the standards of journalism in the United States": Professionalization, Education, and Harvard University's Nieman Foundation for Journalism, 1936-1939

Advisor: Howard Chudacoff

Karis H. Ryu

A New Park, a Lost Town: Defining the Legacy of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan

Advisor: Kerry Smith

Gemma L. Sack

Selling Mrs. Procreator: Eugenics, Homemaking, and American Nationalism in Women's Magazines, 1929-39

Advisor: Deborah Weinstein

Jamie Solomon

An Approximate Forest: Land, Knowledge Production and Racial Politics in the History of the Cuban Forest Administration

Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez

Alexander Smolar

"My Involvement in These Events Is Not a Happy Memory:" Operation Igloo White and George Kistiakowsky's Failed Effort to De-Escalate the Vietnam War

Advisor: Kerry Smith

Edward R. Uong

Numbers Do Lie: Economic Research and the Family Assistance Plan

Advisor: Lukas Rieppel

Nicole Wei Yow

Unreading the Literary: The Hikayat Anggun Cik Tunggal and Malay Historical Tradition in an Age of Print

Advisor: Cynthia Brokaw

Filippo Zinni

Cesare Beccaria in America: the Shrinking Meaning of Legal Equality

Advisor: Michael Vorenberg



Outdoor reception for honors students and their advisors, April 24, 2021.

Front from left: Gemma Sack and Savannah Bridges; second row from left - Shreya Das, Zoë Mermelstein, Jamie Solomon, Caleigh Aviv, Jeanne Ernest; back row from left - Karis Ryu, Nicole Yow Wei, Prof. Cynthia Brokaw, Dr. Rebecca More, Sophie Culpepper, Melanie Pincus, Prof. Daniel Rodriguez, Alex Smolar

Graduate Program

Just over a year ago, COVID-19 sent our graduate program into scramble mode as classes shifted to Zoom, travel was halted, and libraries and archives closed down globally. As the realization slowly settled in that the pandemic was with us for the foreseeable future, we as a program and individual graduate students all had to make various adjustments. Things looked pretty bleak at the start of the summer, to be honest. PhD students already in their dissertation research and writing phase found themselves recalled from research locations around the world. Those who were launching into their research year were suddenly faced with the reality of strict travel restrictions and closed archives in their research destinations, even if they should be able to travel to them. Students gearing up for preliminary exams found it impossible to secure the needed dozens and hundreds of books required for proper preparation as libraries on campus and around the country closed their doors and halted inter-library loan services. The university, too, hunkered down, freezing spending, hiring, access to campus, and even pausing graduate admissions. How in the world were graduate students supposed to function and make progress in their carefully orchestrated, time-limited program?

Through working with the university and the graduate school, we were able to make what accommodations and adjustments we could, including offering a semester of TA relief through the department, the promise of an extra year in the program through the graduate school, and extra flexibility and accommodations all around regarding program benchmarks, including the timing of preliminary exams. All of this helped, but it didn't alter the isolation of lockdown and social distancing or the immense hardship of moving every last shred of human interaction to Zoom. Still, in the face of it all, students dug in and found ways to support each other, stay connected, and continue to take incremental steps forward. In the fall, we all adjusted to a new (but temporary) trimester system that would be mostly online (especially for graduate classes), with faculty and students given the choice about whether they wanted to teach remotely via Zoom or in a hybrid, in person environment. Semesters were slightly compressed to make room for a new summer session that

started in May 2021. Once again, graduate students rose to the challenge, shining in a virtual environment that in most cases came much more easily to them than to faculty.

Thankfully, things are looking much more hopeful than they did a year ago. Vaccinations that are readily available for all ages in Rhode Island will soon allow domestic and international travel to resume. Archives are slowly opening, and library services will return to normal by the end of the summer. Graduate students will continue to feel the setback for a few more years, there is no doubt, and it may take time for the job market to recover. Still, we as a department are committed to fully supporting our students as they walk through these next years and into whatever careers await them.

I was grateful to partner with our Director of Graduate Advising (DGA), Professor Faiz Ahmed, in the running and supporting of the graduate program (with many

thanks to Professor Jonathan Conant, who served in this inaugural position for two years in 2018-2020). Faiz quickly became a valued and respected resource for and mentor to our graduate students, offering extended office hours and emotional support during this difficult year, as well as running the What History Looks Like workshop and managing TA assignments, among other things, all while continuing to broaden our departmental support and options regarding career diversity. Our new department chair, Professor Ethan Pollock, was also instrumental in supporting our graduate program, as were our indispensable staff members, Cherrie, Julissa, and Mary Beth.

In sum, this has been an incredibly taxing year for everyone involved. And yet, I am unspeakably proud of our graduate students and their ingenuity, resourcefulness, and resolve in the face of such hardship. They still took classes; sat for and passed preliminary exams; wrote and defended prospectuses; conducted summer research projects; adapted their dissertation research to new online possibilities; and

applied for jobs, post-doctoral fellowships, and other post-doctoral opportunities. We had five PhD students finish this year, with a handful more who plan to do so this summer. They head off into tenure track jobs, postdocs, and other career opportunities. All of this is a reason to celebrate, and is a sure sign of ongoing strength of our students, and of this program.



Linford D. Fisher
Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate Program

Accomplishments of Graduate Students in 2020-21

Osama Ahmad

Received 2021-2022 Cogut Collaborative Humanities Fellowship.

Thamyris Almeida

Received History Advanced Teaching (HAT) Fellowship from the department 2021-2022 (Declined).

Received Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellowship at Kenyon College 2021-2022.

Received Mellon University Press Diversity Fellowship at MIT Press 2021-2022 (Declined).

Received an Honorable Mention for the 2021 Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

Anil Askin

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown/History Department) for the 2021-2022 academic year

Presented a paper "Humps, Curls, and Fumes" in a panel on "New Approaches to Political Ecology" at American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), 4/26/2021

Presented a paper "Herding the Economy by Crossbreeding Sheep in the Mid-Nineteenth Century Bursa", Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 54th Annual Meeting, October 10-13, 2020"

Presented a paper "'They Are Not Worth Eating': Breed, Logistics, and Infrastructure of Merino Sheep in the Ottoman Empire, 1800-1850," New Perspectives in Environmental History 2020, Yale University, 4/18/2020 (postponed to 2021)

René Cordero

Earned the Citizens and Scholars MMUF dissertation writing fellowship, 2021-2022

Earned the Humanities without Walls Fellowship that offers a three-week paid workshop on developing skills that are useful outside of the academy

Ebru Erginbas

Presented a paper entitled "Empowering Women Through Healing: Women Missionaries in the Medical Field in the late Ottoman Empire" at MESA Annual Conference (October 8, 2020).

George Elliott

Received History Advanced Teaching (HAT) Fellowship from the department to support teaching of a sophomore seminar on "The History of the Laboratory."

Began Interdisciplinary Opportunities Fellowship with the Center for Digital Scholarship in the fall of 2020 and worked on the Sensory Monastery Project as well as a 3-D reconstruction of the Gershom Bulkeley household

Luiz Paulo Ferraz

Received Graduate Program in Development (GPD) Fellowship 2021-2022 from the Dean of the Faculty and the Watson Institute.

Norman Frazier

Received 2021-2022 Cogut Collaborative Humanities Fellowship

Julia Gettle

Presented a paper on "The Arab Nationalist Grassroots: Popular Political Organizing in Palestinian Refugee Camps, 1950-1970" at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting (October 8, 2020).

Leland Grigoli

2021 Birgit Baldwin Fellow in French History, Medieval Academy of America

2021-2022 Deans' Faculty Fellow, Brown University

Publication: "Memories of the Medieval in the Age of White Supremacy", in *21st Century Medievalisms*, ed. Karl Alvestad (forthcoming)

Ji Soo Hong

Received Joseph Bradley and Christine Ruane Dissertation Research Grant in Russian Studies, ASEES, 2020

Mayer Juni

Presented a paper on "Reward and Punishment: Converso Biography in the Spanish Atlantic" at the Atlantic Jewish Worlds, 1500-1900 Conference hosted by University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (April 7-8, 2021).

Appointed as a Postdoctoral Associate at Cornell University's Department of History for Spring 2022 and will transition to Assistant Professor of History and Bruce Slovin Assistant Professor of American Jewish Studies in Fall 2022.

Joe Leidy

Presented a paper on “The Village Welfare Service and the Politics of Youth in Lebanon and Syria, 1930–40” at MESA Annual Conference (October 8, 2020).

Co-authored an introduction to the Presbyterian Historical Society for scholars of the Middle East for Hazine. (hazine.info/the-presbyterian-historical-society)

Rebecca Marisseau

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department) for the 2020–21 academic year.

Received an Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellowship with the Joukowsky Institute for the 2021–22 academic year.

Stacey E. Murrell

Invited speaker at Race Before Race: Politics Conference hosted by Brandeis University and the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (May 7, 2021) - talk entitled “Black in Iberia: On Concubinage, Race, and Belonging”

Presented paper “Black/Feminist/Medieval” at 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 15, 2021).

Publication: “Concubinage in New Contexts: Interfaith Borrowings and the Rulers of Castile-León in the High Middle Ages,” in *Authorship, Worldview, and Identity in Medieval Europe*, ed. Christian Raffensperger (forthcoming)

Emily Julia Roche

Received 2020 ASEEES Dissertation Research Grant

Received 2020–1 Polish Studies Association Dissertation Research Award

Received 2021–2 Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Presented paper “The Uncultivated Garden: Architecture, Architects, and the State in Interwar Poland,” at University of Illinois REEC-VORL Brown Bag Series (February 9, 2021)

Published translation of “What I Read to the Dead” by Władysław Szlengel (Polish-English) and introduction in Jewish Currents (January 19, 2021)

Yu-Cheng (Richard) Shih

Appointed as Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department) for the 2020–21 academic year

Appointed as a visiting scholar in the Centre of China Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong for the 2020 fall semester

Co-founded the Graduate Student Association for Asian Studies (GSAAS) at Brown University

Received 2020 IBES (Institute at Brown for Environment and Society) Graduate Research Award

Received 2020–2 Governmental Scholarship from the Ministry of Education in Taiwan

Simeon Andonov Simeonov

Published “Miranda in the Balkans: decadent despotism, consulship, and the making of a south-eastern revolutionary in the Age of Revolution,” *Journal of Global History*, 27 September 2020, doi:10.1017/S1740022820000352

Published “‘Insurgentes, Self-Styled Patriots’: Consuls, Privateers, Slavers, and Mariners in the Making of the Privateering Archipelago,” *Journal of Global Slavery* 5:3 (2020): 291–321

Published “‘With What Right Are They Sending a Consul’: Unauthorized Consulship, U.S. Expansion, and the Transformation of the Spanish American Empire, 1795–1808,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 40:1 (Spring 2020): 19–44

Forthcoming “Jacksonian Consular Reform and the Forging of America’s First Global Bureaucracy” (*Journal of Policy History* 33:4, Fall 2021)

Forthcoming “Consular Recognition, Partial Neutrality, and the Making of Modern Atlantic Diplomacy (1776–1825)” (*Diplomatic History*)

Presented a paper “A Laboratory for Abolition: British Consulates in Haiti in the Age of Atlantic Revolution (1824–1848).” *Empire, Sovereignty, and Labor in the Age of Global Abolition*. University of Pennsylvania/McNeil Center for Early American Studies Conference, 2021

Presented a panel “Citizens Without Borders: Extraterritoriality, Citizenship, and the Origins of the Global American State, 1815–1860.” *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Conference*, 2020

Deans’ Faculty Fellowship, Brown University, 2021–2022

Jenny Lhamo Tsundu

Received a Title VIII grant and Virtual Open Research Laboratory Associateship at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Centre at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for Spring 2021 (co-hosted by the Slavic Reference Service).

Wrote a review of *A Wild Bird and a Cultured Man. The Common Eider and Homo Sapiens: Fourteen Centuries Together*, by Alexandra Goryashko, forthcoming in *Environment and History*, 2021.

Suvaidd Yaseen

Received the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2021.

Graduate Program

Doctor of Philosophy, 2020-21

Ann Daly

Minting America: The Politics, Technology, and Culture of Money in the Early United States

Director: Seth Rockman

Leland Renato Grigoli

Technologies of Control: Cistercian Colonialism in Northern France, Occitania, and Catalonia, 1115-1314

Director: Amy Remensnyder

Daniel McDonald

Peripheral Citizenship: The Right to the City in Twentieth-Century São Paulo

Director: James Green

Simeon Andonov Simeonov

Empire of Consuls: Consulship, Sovereignty, and Empire in the Revolutionary Atlantic (1778-1848)

Director: Seth Rockman

Judith Smith

Brokers of Humanity: Ethnic Identity, Humanitarian Law, and Mass Violence In Southeast Europe and the Near East, 1864 to 1925

Director: Omer Bartov

Master of Arts, 2020-21

Osama Ahmad

Augusta D. De Oliveira

Elizabeth Nielsen

Juan J. Bettancourt-Garcia

Michael E. Dorney

Luiz Paulo Pontes Ferraz

Imen Boussayoud

Taaja El-Shabazz

Jorge R. Rosario Rosario

Kimonee M. Burke

Ebru Erginbas

Aaron J. Stark

Sarah F. Christensen

Norman L. Frazier

Qizhen Xie

Kate E. Creasey

Alexandra A. Morehead

Justin Yoon

Director of Graduate Advising

By Faiz Ahmed

Two daunting realities loomed as I stepped into the History Department's Director of Graduate Advising (DGA) role on July 1, 2020. The first, of course, was the impact of the pandemic—specifically, a realization I was going to have to serve our graduate students in this role without the benefit of meeting them in person. The second challenge was no less formidable, and that was following in the shoes of my predecessor Jonathan Conant. Professor Conant completed his term as the History Department's inaugural DGA in June 2020, leaving a sterling example but also a tough act to follow.

Zoom fog and the steepness of my learning curve notwithstanding, it has been an absolute honor and privilege getting to know our department's graduate students across so many geographic and thematic fields of expertise, each bringing diverse backgrounds, rich life stories, unique personalities. By far, meeting Brown History graduate students on an individual level and working with HGSA leaders on a range of issues impacting student experiences in the program has been the greatest reward of my "Covid-era" career and first year in the DGA role.

As with my predecessor, the lioness's share of DGA responsibilities this year included advising graduate students on a range of career and professional development issues—drafting cover letters and staging mock interviews or job talks; submitting conference abstracts or grant applications; planning out summer sojourns or archival trips abroad. Complementing our DGS's attention to academic and administrative affairs, the DGA's work is also a humble attempt to support our students through the rigors and angst of graduate student life in general.

Towards that end several highlights from this extraordinary year come to mind. Combined with teaching the Professionalization Graduate Seminar, it was a pleasure working with colleagues at Brown and universities as far and wide as Yale, Georgetown, Auburn, City University of New York, and California State University Fullerton (as well as Andover Academy and Woodberry Forest high schools) in support of our department's continuing What History Looks Like series. Established in 2016 by prior DGS Rebecca Nedostup, DGA Jonathan Conant, and Chair Robert Self, and supported by a competitive grant they secured from the Mellon Foundation and American Historical Association, What History Looks Like continued for its fifth consecutive year with the same enduring purpose: to foster a space where History Department faculty, students, and historians in other departments can share the versatility of their skills and experiences, and learn more about

the diverse settings where historical work takes place. This year our department teamed up with Center for Digital Scholarship at Brown and the Cogut Institute's 21st Century PhD Series to host seven virtual events, including: a three-part forum on Digital History Research, Teaching, and Publishing in the Age of Covid-19; History PhDs in High School Teaching; History PhDs in Tenure-Track Careers at Public Universities; and History and Humanities PhDs in Academic Administration.

Something new to the DGA role this year was administering the department's Teaching Assistantships, a critical part of our graduate students' professional training. In this unusual three-semester year, our department supported no less than 45 TAships. As a notable highlight, I would like to recognize TAs Juan Bettancourt-García and Fernando Norat, who not only took on the highest number of undergraduate students in their sections for Professor Rodríguez's popular HIST 0234 Modern Latin America course, but each offered bilingual sections, giving students the option of holding discussions in English or Spanish.

As in years prior, the DGA also administers our department's proctorships with goal of providing graduate students with practical, real-world experience in a wide range of public history settings and to increase their competitiveness in a variety of job markets. This year the department supported five proctorships, including three working in high school curriculum development with the Choices Program (Dillon Webster, Christopher Lasasso, and Joseph Leidy); a Public History Proctor with the Rhode Island Historical Society (Michael Simpson); and a History Career Diversity Fellow (Elizabeth Nielsen). In addition to diversifying their own professional skills, all of our proctors helped build bridges between the Brown History Department and a wider realm of communities invested in the importance and power of history.

Finally, this year also witnessed a continuation of the department's ongoing career diversity initiatives. In the Spring our department successfully applied to and completed the American Historical Association's Career Diversity Institute. Together with colleagues Ethan Pollock (Chair), Linford Fisher (DGS), and Tara Nummedal (Diversity and Inclusion Plan Officer), over the course of four Friday afternoon workshops with over forty other History departments across North America we learned about latest trends and new directions in career pathways for historians, a theme that appears to be with us for the foreseeable future.◻



The Choices Program

We are now at the end of the three-year pilot partnership between the History Department and the [Choices Program](#). I'm happy to report that the pilot has been a rousing success and that we are now in the process of renewing the partnership for another five years.

I'm also happy to report that the Choices Program successfully made the necessary adjustments to our Covid-19 reality and continued to produce important, timely social studies curricula. A highlight is the release of a brand new curriculum, [*Racial Slavery in the Americas: Resistance, Freedom and Legacies*](#). Created in collaboration with the CSSJ and funded through a generous donor to the CSSJ, it was available free of charge to all teachers across the nation (digital edition only) and in Rhode Island (both print and digital editions) during this academic year. As of April 2021, approximately 4,200 teachers now have access to this curriculum. We also released updates to two units, [Climate](#)

[Change and the Questions of Justice](#) and [History, Revolution, and Reform: New Direction for Cuba](#).

Four "Teaching with the News" lessons were created and available for free on our website for any teacher to use. As the titles show, these lessons were particularly timely and fit the social justice objectives of our curricula.

- [Black Lives Matter, the Killing of George Floyd, and the Long Fight for Racial Justice](#)
- [Oral History and September 11](#)
- [When the Games Stop: Athletes Unite in Historic Sports Shutdown](#)
- [Voting in 2020: Values and Policies during a Pandemic](#)
- [From Washington to Biden: Comparing Inaugural Addresses](#)

RACIAL SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAS

Resistance, Freedom, and Legacies



- [“This is Not Who We Are.” Or Is It? Historians Contextualize the Capitol Riot](#)
- [“Never Again is Now”: Incarceration Histories and Solidarity](#)
- [The Costs of War](#)

What has been particularly successful in the Choices-History partnership is the collaboration with History faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. This past year, Choices worked with Jenny Lambe, Rebecca Nedostup, Daniel Rodriguez, Kerry Smith, Heather Sanford PhD '20, PhD candidate Dillon Webster, PhD candidate Joe Leidy, PhD student Michael Dorney, Melanie Pincus '21, Noam Bizan '22, and Aidan Wang '22. Looking ahead is a new unit on U.S. imperialism with Choices writer Kevin Hoskins, PhD 2012 as lead author. Kevin was also the lead

author of a successful NEH grant to run a summer institute on “American Soldiers and American War: History and Memory” in summer 2022. Françoise Hamlin and I will participate, along with other specialists.

It has been my honor to serve as the inaugural faculty director for the Choices Program. The new faculty director will be Rebecca Nedostup, and I thank her for stepping up to the task. The Choices Program’s partnership with the department will continue to thrive under her leadership.

Naoko Shibusawa

Naoko Shibusawa



BROWN